



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
FACT SHEET  
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION OF DOÑA ANA COUNTY,  
NEW MEXICO**

- Project:** South Central Regional Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities for Vado/Del Cerro, La Mesa/San Miguel, Berino and Chamberino Communities
- Cost:** US\$29,796,317
- First phase: US\$27,896,117
  - Second phase: US\$ 1,900,200 (estimated)
- Sponsor:** Doña Ana County, NM
- Location:** The six south central communities of Vado, Del Cerro, La Mesa, San Miguel, Berino and Chamberino) are located approximately 13 to 18 miles south-southeast of Las Cruces and 27 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. The project area begins 12 miles south of Las Cruces along Highway 128 and extends about 10 miles south.
- Background:** Approximately 90 percent of the population in the south central area is connected to one of the several community water systems, known as Mutual Domestic Water Consumer Associations. The rest of the community obtains drinking water from privately-owned wells. There are, however, no community wastewater systems. Residents and businesses use on-site systems such as septic tanks or cesspools for wastewater treatment.
- It is suspected that because of the shallow groundwater table, a large source of groundwater contamination results from agricultural and on-site liquid waste disposal systems. Furthermore, the high density of homes combined with a prominent layer of poorly draining soil causes frequent surfacing of contaminated water and is an immediate threat to public health.
- Description:** This regional project consists of two phases: 1) construction of individual sewer systems and residential hook-ups for the six Doña Ana County communities listed above, as well as construction of a wastewater treatment plant to serve all six communities; and 2) expansion of the treatment plant in 2010.
- Phase I (2002-2003):
- Construction of approximately 379,100 linear feet of gravity sewers

and 78,100 linear feet of force main

- Installation of an estimated 2,200 residential hookups and decommissioning of on-site disposal systems
- Construction of a sequencing batch reactor type treatment facility using ultraviolet disinfection to treat up to 1.05 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd). Plant effluent will be discharged into the Rio Grande, and sludge will be dewatered by mechanical equipment and disposed of in a landfill.

Phase II project (2010):

It is anticipated that plant capacity will need to be increased to treat an average flow of 2.1 mgd. within the next five to seven years.

**BECC Certification:** June 20, 2001

**NADB Funding:** Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF):  
Construction Grant Assistance: US\$12,243,625  
Transition Grant Assistance: US\$ 838,544  
Total: US\$13,082,169

Of the construction grant assistance, \$8,943,625 will be applied towards the costs of the wastewater collection and treatment systems and \$3,300,000 is earmarked for residential hook-ups.

**Other Funding Sources:** Other funding for construction of this project includes a grant from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) through the EPA Colonias Fund Program and a loan provided by the NMED through its State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) also provided grant funds for final design of the project.

**Benefits:** This regional project addresses the existing threat to public health by eliminating the use of on-site septic tanks and cesspools and constructing the necessary infrastructure to provide first-time wastewater collection and treatment services to the residents in the above mentioned communities in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,  
North American Development Bank, 210-231-8000.