



**NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
FACT SHEET
THE TEXAS PLAN**

- Project:** State of Texas Colonias Water and Wastewater Hookup Project (The Texas Plan)
- Cost:** US\$6,529,524
- Sponsor:** State of Texas
- Location:** Seven communities within three counties are the project beneficiaries:
- Cameron County: Combes, Primera and San Benito
 - Hidalgo County: Donna, Mercedes and San Juan
 - Val Verde County: Del Rio
- Background:** None of the *colonia* areas benefiting from this project has ever been served by a centralized sewage treatment facility. Residents had to find other ways to dispose of wastewater on their own property. For the most part, the installation of individual sewage disposal sites in these areas went unregulated. The result is a collection of mostly improperly constructed, poorly maintained systems.
- Similarly, most residents have relied on wells to receive their water. Having been constructed in a largely unregulated environment, the water in those wells is subject to contamination from a number of sources, not the least of which is the on-site septic systems.
- Each community has a separate project funded by other sources to expand and improve their water and/or wastewater services, which all together are estimated to cost \$77.5 million.
- Description:** The Texas Plan is an undertaking of the State of Texas to secure funding for residential water and wastewater hookups in areas that have, or will soon have, access to a centralized water and wastewater system, but where residents are unable to afford connections on their own. The larger Texas Plan covers a number of communities spanning the state's entire border with Mexico.
- The certified project consists of new wastewater hookups for an estimated 6,383 households and new or replacement water hookups for an estimated 1,914 homes in the seven communities listed above. These new connections are expected to provide first-time water and/or wastewater services to a total of 23,155 persons. The project also

includes an outreach program in each community for the purpose of identifying eligible residents and assisting them in filling out application forms and agreements for service.

Approximate Number of Connections by Community & Type

- Combes: 728 wastewater connections; 35 water connections
- Del Rio: 1,242 wastewater connections; 400 water connections
- Donna: 726 wastewater connections; 1,276 water connections
- Mercedes: 752 wastewater connections; 53 water connections
- Primera: 879 wastewater connections
- San Benito: 150 wastewater connections; 150 water connections
- San Juan: 1,356 wastewater connections

BECC Certification: December 2, 1999

NADB Funding: Funding has been approved for the seven communities as follows.

Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF):

Construction Grant Assistance for hookups

- Combes: US\$ 818,680
- Del Rio: US\$ 938,801
- Donna: US\$1,469,568
- Mercedes: US\$ 755,537
- Primera: US\$1,031,161
- San Benito: US\$ 238,545
- San Juan: US\$1,277,232
- Total** US\$6,529,524

Institutional Development Cooperation Program (IDP):

The Bank provided financing for the development of an ombudsman program for the Texas Department of State office, including training for six members of its staff, who will act as liaisons with the communities.

Other Funding Sources:

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has provided both grants and loans through its Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) to be applied towards the larger infrastructure improvement projects in each of the six communities.

Benefits:

At the completion of this project, all of the communities will have 100 percent of their service areas covered by water and wastewater service, and more importantly, 100 percent of those who have service available will be connected to that service.

For more information, contact Juan Antonio Flores,
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