



## NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

### PROJECT CLOSEOUT FACT SHEET

Project:	Wastewater Collection and Treatment System		
Location:	La Union, New Mexico	Certification Date:	December 6, 2001
Type:	Wastewater	Operation Startup:	November 2006
Population Benefitted:	770	Closeout Date:	November 11, 2021

#### Pre-project Conditions

In 2001, the community received drinking water services, but did not have access to a sanitary sewer system. Most residents and businesses used on-site systems to manage their wastewater, including septic tanks with leach fields or cesspools. However, many of those on-site systems were failing due to maintenance issues, inadequate sizing, deteriorated tanks, etc., and, in some cases, wastewater was directly discharged to the ground, which posed a risk for groundwater contamination and waterborne diseases. To remedy this situation, Doña Ana County proposed building a wastewater collection system to convey the wastewater nine miles to the West Mesa Santa Teresa Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) (now the West Mesa WWTP).

#### Project Objective

Provide first-time wastewater collection and treatment services to the La Union area to reduce public health and environmental risks.

#### Project Scope

The project was divided into two phases: 1) the construction of a new wastewater collection and conveyance system for the community of La Union; and 2) the future expansion of the West Mesa WWTP. The components of the wastewater collection and conveyance system included installation of 42,000 linear feet of 8" gravity lines, 46,100 linear feet of force mains of varying diameters, as well as construction of five lift stations. The proposed treatment components included construction of a fourth sequence batch reactor (SBR) train with the capacity for 150,000 gallons per day, improvements to laboratory facilities, an effluent pond that would discharge to an irrigated field and an additional sludge drying bed.



## Project Results

Outputs	Indicator	Target in 2001 (at certification)	Actual (2006)
Wastewater collection system lines	miles	16.7	13.5
Wastewater connections	number	267	220
New or improved wastewater lift stations	number	5	3
New or improved wastewater treatment system	number	1	-
On-site wastewater disposal systems decommissioned	number	267	289

Outcomes	Indicator	Target in 2001 (at certification)	Actual (2006)
Increased access to wastewater collection	connections	267	220
Population benefitted	number	1,003	770

Although there were variations in the length and diameter of the sewer pipelines installed, the project met its primary objective of providing wastewater services to the community of La Union and eliminating the failing on-site systems. No improvements were made to the West Mesa WWTP as part of this project. After the wastewater collection system was completed, a lift station was reconfigured to send the wastewater collected in La Union to the North WWTP in Sunland Park. In 2012, both the West Mesa and the North WWTP were transferred to the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) and in 2018 the North plant was completely replaced as part of a larger and more comprehensive project to address several of CRRUA's treatment needs. Wastewater from La Union continues to be treated at the North WWTP.

While the entire population of the area of La Union benefits from proper wastewater collection and disposal (1,003 people in 2001), the population directly benefitted is an estimated 770 residents, based on 220 connections installed and an average of 3.5 persons per household using 2010 census data.

## Project Financing (USD)

Sources of Funding	Estimated at certification	Actual Amount
NADBank BEIF construction assistance grant*	\$ 4,463,242	\$ 3,933,030
NADBank BEIF transition assistance grant**	306,202	306,202
Other sources***	2,395,808	897,017
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,165,252</b>	<b>\$ 5,136,249</b>

\* Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by NADBank.

\*\* BEIF transition assistance is used to help pay system debt associated with the project, so that user fees can be raised gradually to the level required to make the system self-sustaining.

\*\*\* Other sources includes a loan through the New Mexico State Revolving Fund.

The original cost estimate included the WWTP component, which was not carried out under the project.