



Project:	South Central Regional Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities		
Location:	Doña Ana County, New Mexico	Certification Date:	June 20, 2001
Type:	Wastewater	Operation Startup:	September 22, 2006
Population Benefitted:	9,140	Closeout Date:	May 2021

Pre-project Conditions

Steady, unplanned growth in rural areas of southcentral Doña Ana County (DAC) resulted in many residences not having access to centralized wastewater treatment. Prior to the project's construction, development in the area was unregulated, and DAC had zoning restrictions. The communities of Vado, Del Cerro, La Mesa, San Miguel, Berino, and Chamberino were designated as *colonias*.¹ Wastewater from these communities was disposed of in septic tanks and cesspools. In some cases, multiple dwellings were connected to a single on-site system. Inadequate and failing on-site systems led to health and environmental risks from potential contact with untreated wastewater and from infiltration of wastewater to the aquifer.

Project Objective

Eliminate exposure to untreated wastewater discharges and prevent contamination of the aquifer by providing wastewater collection and treatment services to first-time users, thereby helping reduce the risk of waterborne diseases and pollution.

Project Scope

Construction of a wastewater collection system consisting of approximately 379,100 linear feet (lf) of sewer lines for six communities (109,000 lf in Vado/Del Cerro; 174,100 lf in La Mesa/San Miguel; 50,000 in Berino; and 46,000 in Chamberino), 20 lift stations and 2,200 residential hookups; decommissioning of on-site disposal systems; and construction of the South-Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with an initial capacity to treat 1.05 million gallons per day (mgd).



¹ Colonias are communities on the U.S. side of the international border with Mexico that have been formally designated as lacking critical infrastructure, such as paved roads, domestic water supply, sewer systems, flood protection and/or public facilities.

Project Results

Outputs	Indicator	Target in 2001 (at certification)	Actual (2007)
Wastewater collection lines	Linear feet	379,100	379,100
New lift stations	Number built	20	20
Residential connections	Number installed	2,200	2,200
On-site wastewater disposal systems	Number decommissioned	2,200	2,200
Wastewater treatment plant	Gallons per day (gpd)	1,050,000	1,050,000

Outcomes	Indicator	Target in 2001 (at certification)	Actual (2007)
Increased access to wastewater services	Number of new connections	2,200	2,200
Wastewater collected and treated	Gallons per day	600,000	600,000
Institutional capacity strengthened	Compliance with applicable norms and regulations	100%	100%

Project Financing (USD)

Sources of Funding	Estimated at certification	Actual Amount
NADB BEIF construction assistance grant*	\$ 11,219,900	\$ 12,243,625
NADB BEIF transition assistance grant**	838,544	838,544
Other sources***	16,989,700	10,989,897
Total	\$ 29,048,144	\$ 24,072,066

* Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by NADB. Certification estimate above includes 10% contingency funding.

** 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 include a loan from the New Mexico State Revolving Fund and a grant from the EPA Colonia Funding Program (CFP).