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Project:	Water and Wastewater Improvement Project				
Location:		Santa Rosa, Texas	Certification Date:	September 25, 2002	
Type:		Water and wastewater	Operation Startup:	December 31, 2008	
Population Benefitted:		2,900	Closeout Date:	August 2, 2022	

Pre-project Conditions

Santa Rosa experienced immense population growth between 1980 and 2000, mostly in the form of 16 *colonias* on the outskirts of the town.¹ With no access to centralized water and wastewater systems, *colonia* residents installed on-site sanitary disposal systems, which in many cases did not meet minimum regulatory standards and thus posed serious environmental and health risks. Between 1992 and 2002, Santa Rosa extended water distribution lines to three of those *colonias* and wastewater collection lines to one *colonia*. The North Alamo Water Supply Corporation was planning to supply water to eight *colonias*, so the City was looking to provide water service to the remaining five *colonias* and wastewater services to 15 *colonias*. Moreover, this increased demand was affecting the quality of the services. The water supply system was unable to provide adequate service to current customers or meet minimum quality standards because of insufficient capacity and old, undersized lines. The small wastewater treatment plant was also working at full capacity servicing existing customers. To add new customers, additional capacity was needed.

Project Objective

Expand and improve the water system to provide safe and reliable drinking water to residents. Eliminate exposure to untreated wastewater discharges and prevent contamination of the aquifer by providing wastewater collection and treatment services to unserved areas.

Project Scope

Water improvements included increasing the capacity of the water treatment plant by 307,000 gallons per day (gdp)to a total of 1 million gallons a day (mgd), construction of 19,000 linear feet of waterlines, and installation of 86 new water hookups. Wastewater improvements included increasing treatment capacity by 291,000 gpd to a total of 681,000 gpd, construction of 87,800 linear feet of sewer lines and five lift stations, installation of 373 sewer connections and the decommission of the existing septic tanks.



¹ *Colonias* are unregulated residential developments on the U.S. side of the international border with Mexico that lack critical infrastructure, such as paved roads, water distribution lines, sewer systems, flood protection or other public facilities.

Project Results

Outputs	Indicator	Target in 2002 (at certification)	Actual (2009)	
Drinking water system				
New and improved treatment system capacity	gpd	307,000	500,000	
Drinking water distribution lines	miles	3.60	0	
New residential hookups	number	86	86	
Wastewater System				
The project was downsized due to insufficient funding. No wastewater systems components were carried out.				

A new module with the capacity to treat 500,000 gpd of water was built, and the existing plant was retrofitted for a total capacity of 1 mgd.

Outcomes	Indicator	Target in2002 (at certification)	Actual (2009)
Population benefitted	number	4,400	2,900
Additional water treated	gpd	307,000	500,000
Increased access to drinking water	connections	86	86
Increased access to wastewater collection	connections	373	0
Additional treated wastewater	gpd	291,00	0

In addition to providing first-time service to 86 households, water service was improved for the entire Santa Rosa population.

Project Financing

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Sources of Funding		Estimated at certification	Actual Amount
NADBank BEIF construction assistance grant*	\$	2,545,805	\$ 1,313,130
NADBank BEIF transition assistance grant**		1,429,454	650,612
Other sources***		7,160,900	2,321,083
Total	\$	11,136,159	\$ 4,284,825

* 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 include a grant & loan through the Texas Water Development Board.