



## Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Opportunity Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) and Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)

Established by the US and Mexican governments in 1994, the **Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)** and **North American Development Bank (NADB)** have cooperatively worked to certify and finance environmental infrastructure projects with the intent of improving the environmental and human health conditions in the US-Mexico border region. At year-end 2009, BECC had certified 167 projects (81 US/86 Mexico) representing nearly \$3.64 billion in environmental infrastructure investment and directly benefiting 12.8 million border residents. NADB has contracted to provide more than \$1 billion in financing (\$456M in loans and \$621.5M in grants) to 132 of those projects, resulting in a leveraging ration for certified projects of approximately \$3.00 of other sources for every \$1.00 of construction financing provided by NADB.

### Program Accomplishments – PDAP and BEIF

Since 1997, the **US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program**, funded by Congress through EPA, has awarded grants to water and wastewater systems in the border region through the **Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP)** for project development and design and the **Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)** for construction, administered by BECC and NADB, respectively. Eight-eight (88) projects have been supported by BEIF grants, significantly improving the affordability of infrastructure investment to local residents and supporting important human health and environmental impacts in and beyond the region. The following are a few of the notable accomplishments supported by these resources:

- **Every project, whether located in the US or Mexico, has provided an environmental and human health benefit for the U.S.**
- **More than \$32 million in PDAP technical assistance grants provided to more than 150 communities for the development of projects.**

<b>PDAP/BEIF Investments Water Infrastructure Projects</b>			
	Total <sup>1</sup>	US	Mexico
Water Treatment Plants	17	14	3
Water Distribution Systems	26	16	10
Wastewater Treatment Plants	47	21	26
Wastewater Collection Systems	57	27	30

<sup>1</sup>A certified project may include more than one infrastructure type, thus, the sum of quantities for each infrastructure type exceeds the number of total projects funded by BEIF.

- **\$556.2 million in BEIF funds committed to the implementation of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects valued at \$1.68 billion and directly benefiting 8.37 million border residents, many of whom live in rural or underserved communities.**
- **A leveraging strength of more than \$2.00 of other sources to every \$1.00 BEIF reflects the program’s ability as a catalyst for motivating other stakeholder participation**

**in projects.**

- **A capacity to eliminate more than 350 million gallons per day of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges has been achieved, equivalent to the discharge of 1.86 million households.**





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## **Accessing Program Resources – FY2011/2012 Prioritization Process Application Cycle**

EPA and the BECC, in coordination with other partner agencies, continuously work to identify populations that are exposed to dangerous environmental and human health conditions caused by inadequate drinking water or wastewater infrastructure. To meet these important needs, a prioritization process has been created for selecting projects to receive PDAP and BEIF resources. The objective of the process is to ascertain which drinking water and wastewater projects will address the most severe public health and environmental conditions identified in communities within the US-Mexico border region, defined as 100 km (62 miles) north and south of the border. To be considered eligible for funding, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects shall:

- **Propose to address existing conditions for existing populations that if improved will have a positive impact to the health and environment**, such as projects designed to address a community's most basic needs, such as access to safe drinking water and adequate wastewater services.
- Be prepared to **complete project development activities** including planning, environmental clearance, and final design and must satisfy the requirements for certification **within 2 years**.
- **Demonstrate appropriate cost effectiveness and sustainable building principles** in project planning.

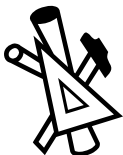
**The application cycle is anticipated to be announced in early September 2010.** The EPA and BECC are committed to assisting project sponsors with the preparation and submittal of project applications for the prioritization process. Below are some important tips to help you be better prepared.



**TIP 1: Attend a Workshop** - In an effort to provide direct guidance, workshops on the prioritization process will be conducted along the U.S.-Mexico border for project sponsors and other interested parties. Plan to attend and receive important process information and direct responses to your questions.

**TIP 2: Document Problem or Conditions to be addressed by Project** –

It is critical for the project applicant to gather all documentation available to demonstrate the inadequate infrastructure conditions to be addressed by the project. Examples include mapping identifying un-served areas, laboratory results, daily maintenance logs, compliance findings, technical diagnostics, etc. Applications must be submitted with recent aerial imagery based project map, such as Google Earth or similar. Begin this effort as soon as possible.



**TIP 3: Advance Project Development Activities** - Important for two reasons - the accuracy of the data collected for each project is highly dependent on the level of development and projects that are further developed are more likely to meet the project development schedule requirements.

**TIP 4: Define Cost** - Cost estimates must be attached to the application and qualified by appropriate support documentation such as an estimate stamped by a professional engineer, an engineering report, technical diagnostic, historical cost experience, regional cost indices or approval by another participating state or federal agency. Many times organizations such as Rural Water Associations and Rural Community Assistance Corporation can assist you in the development and/or evaluation of costs.



Once announced, the prioritization criteria, Project Application and Instruction Booklet will be available on the BECC website, [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org). Please look for correspondence related to the process in the upcoming months, check the BECC website frequently and/or contact Temis Alvarez, [talvarez@cocef.org](mailto:talvarez@cocef.org), or Joel Mora, [jmora@cocef.org](mailto:jmora@cocef.org), or by phone at 877-277-1703 for more information.





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