



## Border 2012 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program

# Improving Water Quality in California-Baja California

August 2008

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS INFORMATION BULLETIN** is to provide residents of the California-Baja California border region with news and updates on the Border 2012 U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program. This edition focuses on projects of the Tijuana Watershed Task Force which is part of the California-Baja California Regional Workgroup. Activities under this workgroup strive to accomplish Border 2012's mission of protecting the environment and public health in the U.S.-Mexico border region, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. For more information on the Border 2012 Program please visit [www.epa.gov/Border2012](http://www.epa.gov/Border2012).

## Border 2012 helps fund construction of wetlands to restore Tecate River

**TECATE:** The State Commission for Public Services in Tecate (CESPTE), La Puerta Foundation (FLP), and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) have signed a collaborative agreement to construct "Wetlands for the Restoration of Tecate River" with a total investment of more than 146,885 dollars (equivalent to 1,512,000 pesos).

These constructed wetlands will be used to cleanse the river's water, create areas for groundwater recharge, help reduce floods, and provide refuge and food for resident and migratory birds. When completed, the project will cover 5.2 acres (2.1 hectares) of land adjacent to the river with plant species that help improve the quality of the water, most of which comes from the Tecate wastewater treatment plant and the brewery.

Local, state, and federal representatives from both sides of the border attended a groundbreaking ceremony at the Tecate site on May 13, 2008. At the ceremony, the Mayor of Tecate, Donaldo Peñalosa, stated, "we must continue to implement sustainable development projects such as this one, which provides a better use for the wastewater." He concluded by expressing his appreciation to FLP, the Border 2012 program, and the State Government of Baja California. The Secretary of the Environment for Baja, Socrates Bastida also stressed the importance of the project for sustainable development. He told the audience, "I believe that this important step will soon lead to a restored river in Tecate."

The Border 2012 Program is investing 49,429 dollars (508,810 pesos). FLP is contributing 40,799 dollars (419,972 pesos), and the remaining 56,653 dollars (583,170 pesos) is being provided



Treated wastewater flows into the river from the Tecate wastewater treatment plant. The quality of this wastewater should significantly improve as it flows through the wetland.



Director of Fundación La Puerta, Laura Silvan Nogain, speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony held in Tecate on May 13, 2008. Also pictured, from left to right: a) Federal Assemblyman, Francisco Paredes Rodríguez, b) Secretary of Environmental Protection for the State of Baja (SPA), Sócrates Bastida Hernández, c) Mayor of Tecate, Donaldo E. Peñalosa Ávila, d) Director of the State Water Commission for Tecate (CESPTE), Patricia Ramírez Pineda, e) a representative of the Committee of Environmental Conscientiousness, María Dolores Ruíz Ortiz, f) Federico Jimenez, the representative for the Governor of Baja California.

by CESPTE. Lori Carpenter, of Huffman and Carpenter, Inc. in Reno, Nevada donated her services to help design the wetlands.

Construction of the project is well underway and over 80 abandoned cars have already been removed from the river. Construction is expected to be completed this year. This project represents only about one-tenth of all the constructed wetlands that FLP and CESPTE envision for the Tecate River. ■

## EPA Funding for U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Projects: Current and Future

### FY07-08 BEIF/PDAP Prioritization Process Results

**THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)**, in coordination with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) announces the results of the Fiscal Years (FY) 07-08 Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)/Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) Prioritization Process for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Some 143 eligible projects were evaluated with an estimated financial need of nearly \$600 million. Although each project addresses important environmental needs and merits further development, available EPA U.S.-Mexico Border Facilities Construction Program funding was not sufficient to support all of these infrastructure project needs.

Based on available FY07-08 funds, candidates for BEIF and PDAP assistance were identified from the Final FY07-08 BEIF/PDAP Prioritization List. A total of thirty-one (31) projects have been identified as candidates for FY07-08 BEIF. These 31 projects are also candidates to receive PDAP technical assistance funds for project development activities. The list of candidates

selected for FY07-08 BEIF and PDAP funding can be viewed at [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org).

Actual BEIF participation will be considered on a project-by-project basis and will be determined according to funding availability and based on an affordability analysis to be conducted by the NADB during project development. BEIF will be made available to the identified projects with completed final design, financing approval and certification by the joint BECC/NADB Board. Projects identified for FY07-08 BEIF are expected to be completed within a five-and-a-half year project life cycle including no more than two years for project development and three years for construction.

In addition to the 31 project candidates for BEIF, ten (10) projects have been selected to receive PDAP technical assistance funds for project development activities leading to certification. These additional 10 projects identified for PDAP technical assistance will have two years to complete the project development process. If future program funding is available or FY07-08 BEIF resources exceed the needs of the 31 BEIF candidate projects, BEIF assistance may be extended to those projects selected for only PDAP assistance. A list of projects identified to receive only PDAP assistance is also posted on the [www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org) site.

### Next Prioritization Cycle

In August 2008, EPA and BECC plan to announce a solicitation for proposals (RFP) for drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects for the FY09-10 funding cycle. We encourage all potential project sponsors and other interested parties to look for the RFP release. ■

## Contacts

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## Websites

### U.S. EPA Border 2012 Program

[www.epa.gov/Border2012](http://www.epa.gov/Border2012)

### California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL/EPA)

[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov)

### Secretariat For Environment And Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)

[www.semarnat.gob.mx](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx)

### Commission Of Ecology And Sustainable Development (CEDES)

[www.cedes.gob.mx](http://www.cedes.gob.mx)

### Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)

[www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org)

### North American Development Bank (NADB)

[www.nadbank.org](http://www.nadbank.org)