



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 2 1997

OFFICE OF
WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Program Requirements for Mexican Border Area Projects Funded under the Authority of this Agency's FY 1995, 1996 and 1997 Appropriations Acts

FROM: *for* Michael B. Cook, Director
Office of Wastewater Management

TO: William B. Hathaway, Director
Water Quality Protection Division
Region VI

Alexis Strauss, Acting Director
Water Management Division
Region IX

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish consistent requirements for Mexican Border Area projects funded under the authority of this Agency's FY 1995, FY 1996, and FY 1997 Appropriations Acts.

BACKGROUND

Over the past three fiscal years the Office of Wastewater Management has issued the following memorandums concerning program requirements for Mexican Border Area projects:

- 10/20/94 - initial guidance memorandum on how the Agency will award and administer grants authorized by this Agency's FY 1995 Appropriations Act. (Did not include a separate section for Mexican Border Area projects.)
- 3/21/95 - a waiver to the match requirement that allowed the Region to vary the cost sharing arrangements, on a project by project basis, for facility planning and design projects funded under the authority of the FY 1995 Appropriations Act.

- 7/19/96 - guidance memorandum on how the Agency will award and administer grants authorized by this Agency's FY 1996 Appropriations Act (included a separate section for Mexican Border Area projects.)
- 9/13/96 - additional specific guidance on Mexican Border Area projects funded under the Authority of the FY 1996 Appropriations Act.
- 1/6/97 - guidance memorandum on how the Agency will award and administer grants authorized by this Agency's FY 1997 Appropriations Act (included a separate section for Mexican Border Area projects.)

The inclusion of guidance in five separate memoranda, with each memorandum covering a single fiscal year, has caused unnecessary complexity within the Mexican Border Area Program. The intent of this memorandum is to correct that problem.

GUIDANCE

Effective immediately, the attached 9/13/96 and 1/6/97 memoranda are the applicable guidance documents for new awards in the Mexican Border Area Program funded under the authority of any of the following Appropriations Acts: FY 1995, FY 1996 or FY 1997. However, the appropriate Appropriations Act must be cited as the statutory authority for awarding the grant.

I would also like to confirm the fact that the 1/6/97 memorandum allows the award of grants in the Mexican Border Area Program without any match requirement, if the circumstances warrant.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, you can contact me or have your staff contact Steve Allbee, Chief, Municipal Assistance Branch, Municipal Support Division, at (202) 260-5856.

Attachments