

Preliminary
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)
Expansion of the Drinking Water Distribution System to Unserved Areas
Southern Sector of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico

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PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the City of Agua Prieta, Sonora, MX for the expansion of the drinking water distribution system to serve existing residents in the southern sector of the community that currently lack adequate potable water service. Agua Prieta, a municipality comprised of more than 75,000 people, is located in the northeastern part of the State of Sonora, Mexico, on the U.S./Mexico border, adjacent to the town of Douglas, Arizona.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to address the environmental and public health risks associated with inadequate potable water services. The proposed actions will protect public health by providing appropriate potable water service to approximately 2,860 residents that currently rely on water hauled by trucks and stored in public tanks for drinking and washing water. The proposed actions consist of extending the water distribution system network to parts of southern Agua Prieta that currently lack access to these services. The projects consist of installing about 27,000 linear meters of new potable water lines to serve about 737 new connections. The proposed project will reduce or eliminate the amount of water that is being transported via water trucks to this section of the city. The new water distribution system would lower the potential for inhabitants to be infected by the water-borne and water-washed pathogens that they are exposed to under the current system.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed action. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed wastewater collection system improvements.

The Secretairia de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT) has determined that the proposed action is exempt from Mexico's substantive environmental review process. However, the EA also documents the environmental consequences of this action in Mexico and supports a determination that the proposed infrastructure project will not have a significant adverse impact on human health and the environment in Mexico.

PUBLIC REVIEW

[The Environmental Assessment PDF](#) (44 pp, 800K, [About PDF](#))

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. A copy of the EA is also available for public review at the office of the Douglas City Clerk, 425 10th Street, Douglas, AZ 85607, ph. 520-417-7303.

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 by September 30, 2009 (30 calendar days from the day this document is issued.) No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration date of this comment period. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Thomas Konner at the address listed below:

Thomas Konner (WTR-4)
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Telephone (415) 972-3408
Fax (415) 947-3537
Email konner.thomas@epa.gov

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA responses, and this FNSI will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If this FNSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.