



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Improvements to the Potable Water Distribution System for the City of Naco, Sonora, Mexico

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 intends to authorize the award of funds to the City of Naco, Sonora, Mexico (City of Naco) in accordance with the requirements of the Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund. EPA Region 9's authorization of funds is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§43321-4370(f). In accordance with NEPA; Council of Environmental Quality Regulations, 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28; and EPA NEPA regulations 40 CFR Part 6, EPA Region 9 has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) describing the potential transboundary environmental impacts to the United States from the proposed project in Mexico. Based upon the analysis in the EA, EPA has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which documents EPA Region 9's decision that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Project Location and Description

The City of Naco is in the northeastern area of the Mexican state of Sonora. It is adjacent to the international border and directly south of the City of Naco, Arizona in the U.S. The proposed project is located within the City of Naco in the communities of Colonia Colosio and Colonia Ejidal. In 2009, the population estimate for Colonia Colosio was 1,831 and for colonia Ejidal the estimate was 203.

Currently, the potable water distribution system for the City of Naco, Sonora is supplied by five deep drinking water wells. The pumped drinking water is conveyed through a network of pipelines to three storage tanks. The existing storage capacity is deficient such that residents and businesses within Colonias Ejidal and Colosio are unable to receive water from 4 to 8 hours per day. Storage Tank #3, located in the west portion of Colonia Ejidal, is in imminent danger of collapse and poses a safety risk to nearby residents and structures.

The proposed project is the construction of a new water storage tank and supporting infrastructure adjacent to Well #5 which is located south of Colonia Colosio. The new tank will

assist in regulating water pressure and flow, thus improving potable water service to the community. Storage Tank #3 would be dismantled and removed.

The Organismo Operador Municipal de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado (OOMAPAS) is the municipal agency charged with construction, operation, and maintenance of water distribution, wastewater collection, and water treatment service throughout the municipality of Naco, Sonora. They have determined that potable water infrastructure improvements within the communities of Colonias Ejidal and Colosio are required to improve potable water service, human health and safety in the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences and Conditions

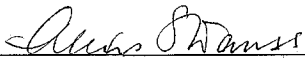
After carefully considering the regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors as described in the EA, EPA Region 9 has not identified any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed project.

Public Review

EPA Region 9 made the EA and unsigned FONSI available for public review at <http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/infrastructure/index.html#az> and at the offices of EPA Region 9 (75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California, 94105-3901). Notice of the public comment period was published in the Bisbee Observer on August 19, 2010. EPA did not receive any comments on the EA and unsigned FONSI prior to the close of the public comment period on September 17, 2010.

Finding

Based on the information contained in the EA, and after opportunity for public comment, EPA has determined the proposed project will not result in significant impacts to the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This FONSI is final upon signature. EPA will not recirculate this FONSI for public review, but will make it available to any individual upon request.



Alexis Strauss
Director, Water Division

12 October 2010
Date