



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) Wastewater Treatment System Improvements for the City of Naco, Sonora, Mexico

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 Naco, Sonora, Mexico (the "City") for improvements to its wastewater treatment system. The City is located 2,000 feet (610 meters) south of the international boundary.

The City's existing wastewater treatment system periodically releases untreated wastewater across the international border into Naco, Arizona. This problem is exacerbated during the rainy season. The proposed project would prevent untreated wastewater overflows into Naco, Arizona by replacing the current wastewater discharge infrastructure and installing approximately 3,770 feet (1,150 meters) of force main pipeline. The new pipe would be installed below ground, similar to current conditions. The treated wastewater would be conveyed to an existing reservoir that has a capacity of approximately 883,000 cubic feet (25,000 cubic meters), which stores rainwater for agricultural reuse. Solar-powered pumps would be used to meet about half of the energy needed for conveyance.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to address the environmental and public health risks associated with insufficient discharge infrastructure. The proposed action will prevent untreated wastewater from being released into the U.S. during rain events. The project will also provide treated wastewater for potential reuse for irrigation purposes.

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.

PUBLIC REVIEW

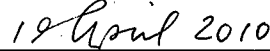
The EA was circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

FINDING

After review of the EA, EPA has determined that the proposed wastewater treatment improvements for the City of Naco, Sonora will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.



Alexis Strauss, Director
Water Division



Date