

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Expansion of the Wastewater Collection System for the Tijuana River Basin Area Tijuana, Mexico

Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), the local utility for the city of Tijuana. The grant would be for the construction of household connections to wastewater collection lines to serve existing communities in Tijuana that lack adequate wastewater disposal. Tijuana, a municipality comprised of about 1.5 million people, is located adjacent to the U.S.-Mexico border on the Pacific coast south of the City of San Diego, California.

EPA expanded the City's wastewater collection system in three sectors: Maclovio Rojas; Ojo de Agua; and Lomas del Valle, in an initial project completed in 2010. Currently, some households in these three sectors have not connected to the City's wastewater collection system and are using latrines and cesspools, which are a potential source for impacts to human health and groundwater contamination. Under the proposed project, EPA is estimating that 600 homes will be connected within these three sectors.

On November 18, 2008, EPA finalized an *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Expansion of Wastewater Collection System for Tijuana River Basin Area* and the associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The 2008 EA and FONSI included the three sectors for expansion of the wastewater collection system. Although the collection system was installed, not all of the household connections were completed. EPA is now considering authorizing the award of a grant to connect the remaining households in these three sectors to the City's wastewater collection system. Since no changes have occurred on the project's design since the 2008 EA and FONSI, EPA is reaffirming that no significant impacts to the environment would result from the implementation of these household connections.

The original EA and FONSI are on file and available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 Office, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. In addition, the EA will be posted on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/epa-generated/tijuana-ww/> and <http://www.epa.gov/region9/newsevents/> as well as the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) website at <http://www.becc.org>.

Comments on the EA may be submitted to the EPA until September 15, 2014 and can be sent via letter, fax or email to:

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EPA will take no administrative action on this project during the comment period.