

5 Accomplishments

The EPA role in the funding of water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the U.S. - Mexico Border for communities was initially in cooperation with the IBWC and more recently with the NADBank. In addition, EPA has funded an infrastructure Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP), the development of programs by the George E. Brown U.S.-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC), as well as assistance to border tribal governments in order for them to accomplish the same result as the communities. The EPA financial commitments to date for these needs are shown in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1. Current EPA Participation in U.S.-Mexico Border Infrastructure Needs

Basins	Total Project Value (In \$ Millions)	EPA Share (In \$ Millions)
Pacific Coastal Basin *	190	86
New River Basin	113	58
Gulf of California Coastal Basin	0	None
Colorado River Basin	60	20
Northwest Chihuahua Basin	0	None
Rio Grande Basin	445	120
Gulf of Mexico Coastal Basin	7	7
PDAP FUMEC Tribal	37	37
Total	852	328

* Does not include IWTP prior to Fiscal Year 1995.

5.1 BEIF

EPA currently places its grant funds into the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) account at the NADBank for assistance in making jointly-funded projects viable and affordable for border communities. The Bank administers grant resources provided by EPA as its share of construction costs directly as capital cost contributions, as transition payments, or both. It should be noted that EPA funding eligibility criteria require the requesting community to seek out available funding from all other sources before a contribution is made from the BEIF account. In addition, the EPA share of BEIF-funded projects in Mexico require an equal match of Mexican grant funds.

5.2 PDAP

PDAP funding is used for providing grants for preliminary engineering and design studies by many communities which would not otherwise be able to prepare these for the detailed application for BECC certification. Activities include project-specific capacity building to address certification criteria, preliminary engineering studies, environmental assessments, technical and economical feasibility studies, project management studies, preliminary design, and development of operation and maintenance plans.

5.3 FUMEC

The FUMEC has begun its pilot programs for inventorying available human resources and developing training programs in areas where the human resource inventories show that there is a need.

5.4 Border Tribal Assistance

Border tribal governments for recognized U.S. tribes with lands in the border area receive infrastructure funding directly or through the Indian Health Service.