CERTIFICATION PROPOSAL

WASTEWATER GRAVITY MAIN (OUTFALL) REPLACEMENT AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM EXPANSION HOLTVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Revised: May 5, 2013

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INDEX

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WASTEWATER GRAVITY MAIN (OUTFALL) REPLACEMENT AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM EXPANSION IN HOLTVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Projects: The two Projects consist of (1) the construction of a wastewater outfall pipeline and (2) extending the residential wastewater collection system in the city of Holtville, CA (the "Projects").

Project Objective: The purpose of these Projects is to eliminate exposure to untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges by replacing a deteriorated pipeline which conveys 100% of the wastewater collected to the existing wastewater treatment facility, and expanding the wastewater collection system to an unserved area within the city, contributing to the reduction of pollution and the risk of waterborne diseases.

Expected Project Outcomes: The Projects are expected to generate environmental and human health outcomes related to the following:

- Wastewater collection system expansion for 23 new residential connections or an estimated 81 persons, eliminating approximately 8,100 gpd of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges and
- Improved wastewater conveyance service for 100% of the wastewater collected including 1,276 benefited residential connections.

Population Benefited: 6,079 residents of Holtville, CA [1]

Sponsor: City of Holtville, CA

Project Cost: US$5,734,287

[1] Source: 2010 U.S. Census for Holtville, CA, as well as the population represented by 40 residential connections located outside of the incorporated area calculated at 3.5 persons per household or approximately 140 persons.

Uses & Sources of Funds:

Uses	Amount	%
Construction, contingencies, and supervision	$5,734,287	100
TOTAL	**$5,734,287**	**100**
Sources	**Amount**	**%**
Rural Development (Loan)	$2,746,400	48
Rural Development (Grant)	1,628,000	28
NADB-BEIF Grant – Gravity Main	1,196,701	21
NADB-BEIF Grant – Residential WWCS	163,186	3
TOTAL	**$5,734,287**	**100**

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1. ELIGIBILITY

Project Type

The Projects falls within the eligible category of wastewater.

Project Location

The Projects are located in the city of Holtville in Imperial County, California, and in the adjacent areas of Imperial County, approximately 12 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. The Projects are in the border region defined as within 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) of the U.S.-Mexico International border.

Project Sponsor and Legal Authority

The public-sector Project sponsor is the City of Holtville, CA (the "Sponsor"). Pursuant to the California Government Code, Title 4, Division 3, Part 2, Chapter 11, Section 38900, Holtville has legal authority to operate and maintain their wastewater system. The City of Holtville is authorized to provide utility services to the community and is responsible for developing infrastructure improvement projects.

2. CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

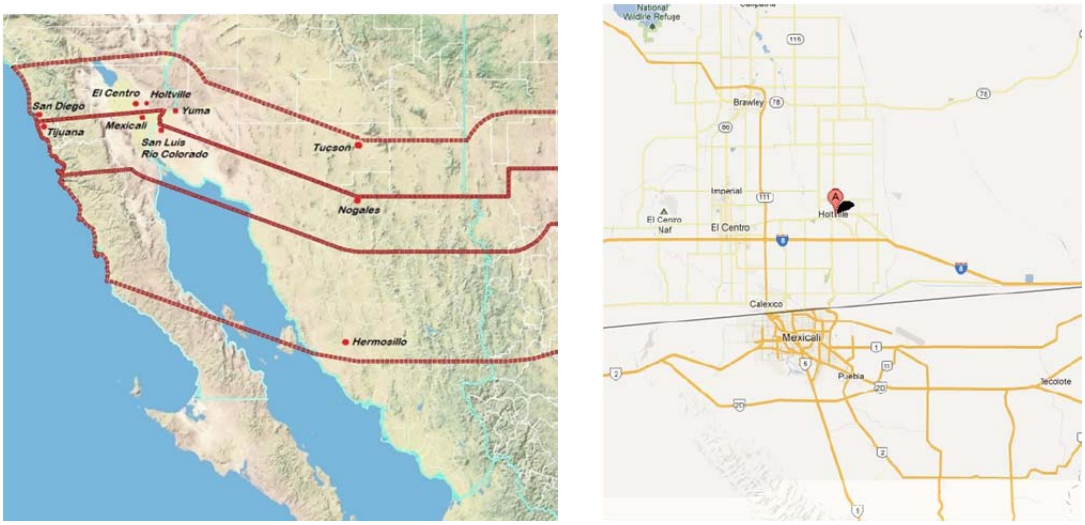
2.1 TECHNICAL CRITERIA

2.1.1. Project Description

Geographic Location

The City of Holtville is located in the southern portion of the Imperial Valley in the arid Sonoran Desert of Southeastern California. The city is roughly bounded by Towland Road and Grape Avenue to the east; the Alamo River to the south; Melon and Tamarack Avenues to the west and Ninth and Tenth Streets to the north. The incorporated area is approximately 1.5 square miles. The City is located approximately 53 miles west of the Colorado River/Arizona border and 127 miles east of San Diego, California. Figure 1 shows the location of the community.

Figure 1
PROJECT VICINITY MAP



General Community Profile

According to U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, the city of Holtville had a population of 5,939 residents. Known as the Carrot Capitol of the World, the community's major employer and primary driving economic force is agriculture with 30% of the workforce employed in this sector. Retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and construction make up the next highest employment sectors at 8% each.

The status of public services in the Holtville service area is described in Table 1.

Table 1
BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Water System	
Service coverage:	100%
Water supply source:	Surface water
Number of hookups:	1,486 (1,296 residential/190 commercial)
Wastewater Collection System	
Service coverage:	98.4%
Number of connections:	1,369 (1,276 residential/93 commercial)
Wastewater Treatment	
Service coverage:	100%
Treatment facilities:	0.85 MGD plant with a Modified Ludzack-Ettinger (MLE) treatment system
Solid Waste	
Solid waste collection:	100%
Final disposal:	Landfill
Street Paving	
Coverage:	100%

Source: City of Holtville, March 2013.

Project Scope

The two Projects consist of (1) the replacement of the wastewater outfall pipeline and (2) expansion of the residential wastewater collection system to serve 23 homes within the city of Holtville service area.

The existing sanitary sewer outfall pipeline conveys wastewater from the city along Olive Avenue, Thiesen Road, State Highway 115 and Kamm Road for a for a distance of 3.2 miles to the Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plant. The wastewater is treated and discharged into the Alamo River in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Number CA0104361 issued to the City of Holtville by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region. The utility has received a Cease and Desist Order requiring improvements to be made to the gravity outfall main (Order number R7-2011-0020 issued on May 19, 2011).

The existing sanitary sewer outfall main is approximately 84 years old and is in extremely poor condition. The majority of the 49 manholes along the length of the outfall pipeline are extremely deteriorated and unsalvageable. Manhole collapses frequently occur. These manholes are susceptible to collapse and are a potential public health and safety hazard. The existing 15-inch and 18-inch outfall pipeline sections are constructed of 3 foot lengths of Vitrified Clay Pipe (VCP). The short pipe segments resulted in numerous pipe joints that were mortared. Openings in the aged pipe joints allow water infiltration from nearby canals and agricultural fields. The numerous pipe joints also result in a substantial number of offsets along the length of the

pipeline from settlement and seismic activity. The offsets impede wastewater flow and contribute to anaerobic conditions resulting in a corrosive environment which has resulted in the deterioration of the outfall pipeline manholes. The slopes of the pipeline segments are also inconsistent. A portion of the slopes are relatively steep, while other pipeline segment slopes are flat. The flat sloped pipeline segments result in inadequate flow velocities resulting in solids build-up and corrosive anaerobic conditions.

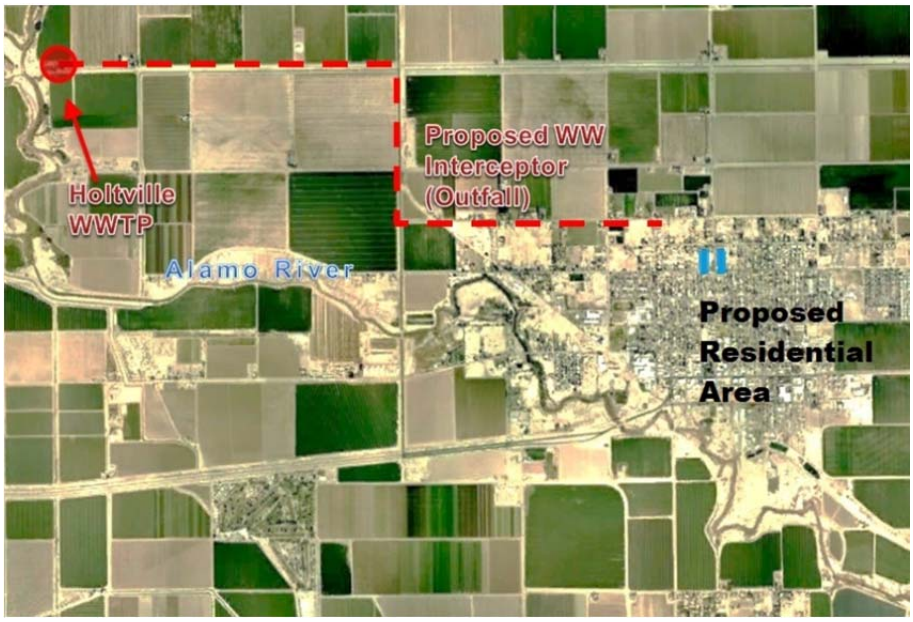
The aging and failing wastewater outfall main as well as deteriorating and collapsing manholes result in an immediate threat to residents and vehicular traffic on the affected roadways along the outfall route, a potential exposure to untreated discharges and an environment risk from infiltration in the existing groundwater resources and nearby canals, conditions which meet Category 2 project conditions for the selection of projects for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure funding provided by EPA and administered by BECC and NADB. The new conveyance line will be approximately 18,100 lineal feet of 18-inch diameter pipe, which is further described in the technical criteria below.

In a second project, the sponsor proposes to extend new wastewater collection service to 23 homes within two neighborhood blocks. This project will replace undersized and unreliable sanitary sewer collection lines and house connections as well as failing on-site treatment systems, eliminating wastewater overflows that have been reported in the project area. These conditions are compatible with Category 1 conditions for the selection of projects for funding under the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure program. The project will include the installation of two (2) 600 linear foot, 8-inch diameter sewer collection lines, house connections and will also include abandonment of existing septic systems in the area.

Current flows into the 0.85 MGD plant are averaging 0.65 MGD and there is sufficient capacity to accept the additional wastewater flows generated by the Project by expanding wastewater collection to a neighborhood of 23 homes. Additionally, the city is currently developing a separate project, in coordination with BECC, NADB and EPA, to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility to improve the discharge quality.

Figure 2 below reflects the general layout of the infrastructure proposed to be installed with the wastewater outfall and residential collection projects.

Figure 2
WASTEWATER OUTFALL and RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION SYSTEM PROJECTS



The final design has been completed on both Projects, therefore, it is estimated that once procurement is completed and the notice to proceed is given, it will take approximately 12 months to complete construction. The main construction milestones include earthworks, installation of wastewater gravity outfall and manholes, collections lines and house connections, as well as decommissioning of septic systems.

Table 2
PROJECT SCHEDULE

Key Milestones	Status
Procurement	Anticipated: 2nd & 3rd Quarter of 2013
Construction period	15 months from Notice to Proceed (NTP)

2.1.2. Technical Feasibility

Design Criteria

The City of Holtville adopted a comprehensive set of Standard Details and Specifications which were adopted by the Holtville City Council per Resolution Number 05-22 on June 13, 2005. The City of Holtville Standard Details and Specifications contain Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Design Guidelines, General Conditions, Submittal Requirements, Geotechnical Testing Requirements and Sanitary Sewer Improvement Standard Details. Additionally, the design considers the codes and regulations of the State of California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications (latest edition); Standard Specification for Public Works Construction (Green Book latest

edition); and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. If agency requirements conflict, the most stringent shall apply.

Selected Technology

Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) were prepared for each of the Projects in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Bulletin 1780-3 to allow for partial funding of the construction improvements through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD). Technical alternatives were evaluated based on the following factors:

- Constructability
- Capital Cost
- O & M Cost
- Material Reliability and Trench Water Infiltration
- Rights of way and easement requirements
- Pavement removal and replacement
- Environmental Impacts
- Technology and sustainable practices

For the wastewater outfall pipeline replacement, the PER offered four (4) technical alternatives. Alternatives 1 and 2 proposed alternate routes for the construction of the new outfall pipeline and abandoning the existing outfall pipeline in-place. Alternative 3 proposed replacing the new outfall pipeline in the same location as the existing outfall pipeline. Alternative 4 proposed leaving the existing outfall pipeline in place. The PER recommended that Alternative 1 be selected as the preferred alternative for the replacement of the wastewater outfall pipeline along an alternate route and abandoning the existing pipeline in place.

For the residential wastewater collection system, four (4) alternatives were also considered. Alternative Number 1 included the installation of an 8-inch diameter ductile iron pipe (DIP) gravity sewer main by means of open trench construction. Alternative Number 2 included the installation of an 8-inch diameter DIP gravity sewer main by means of bored construction. Alternative 3 included the installation of an 8-inch diameter PVC (SDR-35) gravity sewer main by means of open trench construction. Alternative 4 included the installation of an 8-inch diameter PVC (SDR-35) gravity sewer main by means of bored construction. The PER recommended the installation of the residential gravity sewer pipelines as the preferred alternative.

Pipe diameters were calculated using slopes and velocities accordingly to avoid silt (septic conditions) and at the same time avoid over excavation and/or the use of lift stations that might increase costs. Projected flows and maximum flow rates and in the project areas were also considered for pipe diameter requirements in order to avoid oversized pipelines. The analysis also considered the use of pipe materials in compliance with norms and current regulations. In order to reduce costs and make the best use of the project area topography, the shortest routes were considered for pipe alignments. Crossings through paved avenues were also minimized as well as crossing with water lines, canals, and telephone lines.

Although efforts were made to minimize crossing points for the pipe alignment, the final design for the Projects do require crossings related to infrastructure including canals and drains owned and operated by Imperial County, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS). The Project designs are developed in conformance with the relevant agency encroachment permit requirements.

2.1.3. Land Acquisition and Right-of-way Requirements

The proposed Projects are being developed within the City of Holtville and Imperial County. All right-of-way requirements have been met, including the following:

- Acquisition of fifteen (15) private property right-of-way easements,
- County of Imperial Encroachment Permit review and approval,
- IID Encroachment Permit review and approval, and
- CALTRANS Encroachment Permit review and approval.

Final encroachment permits will be issued to the construction contractor after award of the Projects. The acquisition process of such easements was documented and validated by the City Attorney as well as with a formal USDA-RD Right of Way Certificate and Opinion of Counsel. There are no pending land acquisition or right-of-way requirements.

2.1.4. Management and Operations

The Public Works Department is one of the largest departments in the City's organizational structure with 12 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee. The department has a municipal services division and an engineering division that provides several services including operation and maintenance of the wastewater system. The City is supported by a contracted City Engineer and Planning staff from The Holt Group.

The City has operation and maintenance manuals and procedures in place that include the essential tasks necessary to ensure the proper operation and maintenance of the system. The City operates and maintains the sanitary sewer collection system, sanitary sewer outfall pipeline and Holtville Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant. Operation and maintenance activities include semi-annual inspection of the manholes and pipelines. Cleaning and a camera inspection of the pipelines may be occasionally required.

A review of the impacts to the operation and maintenance resources with the implementation of the new Projects was conducted. There is no new energy cost associated with the Projects and the maintenance requirements for the new infrastructure should relieve demands on operational resources. To support the financial sustainability of the investment, repair and replacement reserves will be required. The sponsor will demonstrate the appropriate funding and structure of accounts as a condition of receiving grant funds.

In accordance with funding program requirements, the sponsor is responsible for demonstrating the regular application of a pretreatment program. The City of Holtville established its program by Ordinance 370, Regulating Sewer Use, Sewer Construction and Industrial Wastewater Discharges, that was adopted by the City on July 13, 1981. The City implements its existing pretreatment under the approval and oversight of the State of California Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

The purpose of the Projects is to eliminate exposure to untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges by expanding the wastewater collection system an unserved area within the city and replacing a deteriorated pipeline which conveys 100% of the wastewater collected to the existing wastewater treatment facility, contributing to the reduction of pollution and the risk of waterborne diseases. Currently, the aging and failing wastewater conveyance line as well as deteriorating manholes results in a potential exposure to untreated discharges and an environmental risk from infiltration in the existing groundwater resources and nearby canals. Additionally, the Projects will replace undersized and unreliable sanitary sewer mains and services as well as failing on-site treatment systems in a neighborhood, eliminating wastewater overflows that have been reported in that project area.

2.2.1. Compliance with Applicable Environmental Laws and Regulations

Applicable Laws and Regulations

The Projects are subject to the following formal environmental clearance processes:

- *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*: In considering funding from the US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program, the Projects were reviewed in accordance with the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f. In accordance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations found at Title 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28, and EPA NEPA regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 6, EPA Region 9 prepared an environmental assessment (EA) describing the potential environmental impacts associated with, and the alternatives to, the proposed Projects.

- *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*: The CEQA was adopted in 1970 and incorporated into the Public Resources Code §§21000-21177. Its purpose is to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potentially significant environmental effects of proposed activities; require changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when feasible; and disclose to the public the reasons why a project was approved if significant environmental effects are involved. CEQA applies to projects undertaken, funded or requiring an issuance of a permit by a public agency.

Environmental Studies and Compliance Activities

The Projects are subject to regulations under NEPA; therefore an Environmental Information Document (EID) was prepared for the Projects. The EID discloses the environmental impacts that would result from the implementation of the proposed action. The document presents an assessment of the Project alternatives related to the following areas for environmental consequences:

- Air quality, odors, and greenhouse gas emissions
- Noise impacts
- Water quality, hydrology and floodplain impacts
- Biological resources and wetland impacts
- Cultural and historic resource impacts
- Geology and soils impacts
- Municipal and public service impacts
- Public health, hazards and waste management
- Socioeconomic conditions
- Land use and planning
- Transportation and circulation
- Utilities and service systems, and
- Environmental justice

Based on the findings and conclusions of the EID, EPA Region 9 prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which was published for public comment in November 2010. The EPA signed the FONSI on January 19, 2011 determining that implementation of the proposed projects will not result in significant impacts to the environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. Although the EA concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the environment, mitigation measures were established in the EA to address temporary, minor adverse impacts during construction and are enforceable under the FONSI. These measures are provided in summary in Section 2.2.2., below, and available for detailed review in the official FONSI document.

Because the Projects are located in the State of California they are further subject to CEQA. An Initial Study was developed separately for both the residential wastewater collection system expansion project and the wastewater gravity main (outfall) project. For the collection system project, the Final Initial Study determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and the Negative Declaration was approved by the Holtville City Council on July 26, 2010.

As provided by CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) may be prepared for a proposed project when the Initial Environmental Study has identified potentially significant effects on the environment. Based on the finding of the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist that was prepared for the outfall line, the City determined that the preparation of an MND is the appropriate method by which to obtain compliance with CEQA. The city of Holtville approved

the Final MND for the Sanitary Sewer Outfall Main Pipeline Replacement Project and the Notice of Determination was filed September 3, 2010.

Pending Environmental Tasks and Authorizations

There are no formal environmental authorizations pending.

Compliance Documentation

The following formal authorizations have been obtained for the Project:

- FONSI signed January 19, 2011 for Wastewater Outfall Replacement and Residential Wastewater Collection System Expansion
- MND for Sanitary Sewer Outfall Main filed September 3, 2010.
- Negative Declaration for the Residential Wastewater Collection System approved on July 26, 2010.

2.2.2. Environmental Effects/Impacts

Existing Conditions and Project Impact-Environmental

The aged and deteriorated wastewater conveyance infrastructure causes an environmental risk for groundwater and surface water contamination. Additionally, the undersized and unreliable sanitary sewer mains and services as well as failing on-site treatment systems have created wastewater overflows in the project area. Both of which provide the potential for human contact with raw wastewater. The following are the expected Project environmental benefits:

- Wastewater collection system expansion for 23 new residential connections or an estimated 81 persons, eliminating approximately 8,100 gpd of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges and
- Improved wastewater conveyance service for 100% of the wastewater collected including 1,276 benefited residential connections.

Mitigation of Risks

Although implementation of the Projects will have no significant adverse impacts on the environment, mitigation measures were established to address temporary, minor adverse impacts during construction. Potential impacts during construction include the following:

- The local air basin will be temporarily impacted by emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions due to vehicles and equipment used during construction.
- Noise levels may be elevated during construction activities. This impact is short in duration and concentrated to the work area and will include temporary roadway blockages; as well as presence of workers in the area.
- Groundwater and the subsurface will be positively impacted by reducing the potential infiltration of contaminants to reach the water table; however, the specific location of a

natural artesian well appears to be located in the vicinity of the new outfall infrastructure alignment and will require a safe distance between the well and pipe installation.

- Threatened and endangered species may be disturbed if construction is conducted during the nesting season of the burrowing owl or in areas where there are foraging fields suitable for mountain plover.
- The construction will be located within the vicinity of three former leaking underground fuel tank sites, which have been remediated and closed; however, there is a potential for disturbing these closed sites with construction activities.

In summary, the mitigation measures include the following:

- Best Management Practices (BMP) and compliance with local ordinances to reduce the temporary impacts of construction.
- Avoidance of construction during the nesting period of the burrowing owl (February – August). A survey will need to be conducted 30 days prior to construction activities for any segment of the installation of new infrastructure. If an active burrow is found, it will be passively relocated according to the appropriate guidelines. Prior to relocation, two artificial burrows per active burrow to be closed will be installed in the vicinity of the wastewater treatment facility. If construction is planned during the nesting period, a nesting bird survey must be conducted 7 days prior to construction of any segment.
- Burrowing owl and mountain plover training will be given to construction workers prior to the start of work by a qualified biologist.
- Alfalfa and Bermuda fields shall be mapped prior to constructions so that workers can be aware of potential disturbance to mountain plover. Work must stop if mountain plover are forging in the area and work can resume when the birds leave the area.
- Native mesquite trees should be avoided or relocated.
- The location of the artesian well was identified in the Geotechnical Report, Section 3.7, prepared by Landmark Consultants dated February 21, 2012. The report recommends a minimum of 10-feet of horizontal distance between the outfall pipeline and the artesian well. The plans are designed as recommended.
- Documentation of the previous contamination sites in the vicinity of the project area were reviewed in final design and appropriate measures were specified in the construction specifications.

Natural Resources Conservation

The Projects contribute to natural resource conservation by reducing environmental deterioration and risks of groundwater and surface waters contamination by improving the wastewater collection and conveyance infrastructure providing the necessary means to collect and convey the City's wastewater flows to the treatment plant.

No-action Alternative

The no-action alternative was not considered viable for the projects, since the chronic condition of the existing infrastructure could result in significant health and safety hazards. The consistent collapse of the manholes poses an immediate threat to residents and vehicular traffic along the affected roadways. Additionally, the new residential connections and replaced service infrastructure will eliminate the discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment and associated impacts on water quality and public health will be avoided.

Existing Conditions and Project Impact – Health

According to the "World Health Organization Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Links to Health FACTS AND FIGURES – November 2004 edition", sanitation Projects can have the following benefits to human health:

- Improved sanitation reduces diarrhea morbidity by 32%.
- Access to safe water and sanitation facilities and better hygiene practice can reduce morbidity from Ascariasis by 29%.

The construction of improved wastewater system infrastructure in Holtville will reduce the health risks associated with uncontrolled discharges and inadequate on-site wastewater treatment. The Project will reduce the possibility of human contact with improperly disposed and partially treated or raw wastewater; as a result, it will reduce the transmission of water borne diseases.

Water borne diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms that are transmitted as a result of inadequate wastewater disposal practices and unsafe water supplies. An individual can become ill after drinking water that has been contaminated with these organisms, eating uncooked foods that have been in contact with contaminated water, or through poor hygiene habits that contribute to the dissemination of diseases by direct or indirect human contact. Table 3 shows waterborne statistics for Imperial County in California.

Table 3
WATERBORNE STATISTICS FOR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Disease	Number or Annual Cases				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Amebiasis	3	0	0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	40	33	18	19	23
Coccidioidomycosis	1	4	9	8	11
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	0	0	0
Giardiasis	0	1	0	3	2
Shigellosis	16	49	21	24	18

Source: California Department of Public Health, Infectious Disease Office.

There is a risk of exposure to untreated or inadequately treated wastewater due to deteriorating wastewater infrastructure including collapsing manholes, which increases the exposure risk of area residents to waterborne diseases. The infrastructure improvements to be

implemented under these Projects will reduce this risk and thus prevent potential health threats. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), access to safe water and sanitation facilities, as well as better hygiene practices can reduce ascariasis-related morbidity by 29%.[2]

Transboundary Effects

No transboundary impacts are anticipated within or around the region. The environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the Projects will be positive overall, since the Projects will expand the wastewater collection system to a currently unserved area and replace deteriorated infrastructure, reducing the risk for water resource contamination and improving the quality of life of the residents by reducing potential health risks.

2.3 FINANCIAL CRITERIA

The total estimated cost of the Project is US$5,734,287 which includes the funding for construction, supervision, and contingencies. The Project meets all BEIF program criteria and has been approved by EPA for a BEIF grant of up to US$1,359,887 that includes US$1,196,701 for the Wastewater Gravity Main (Outfall) Replacement and US$163,186 for the Residential Wastewater Collection System Expansion to complete the financing of the Project. Table 4 presents a breakdown of total Project costs, as well as the source of funds.

Table 4
USES AND SOURCES OF FUNDS
(US$)

Uses	Amount	%
Construction, contingencies, and supervision	$5,734,287	100
TOTAL	**$5,734,287**	**100**
Sources	**Amount**	**%**
Rural Development (Loan)	$2,746,400	48
Rural Development (Grant)	$1,628,000	28
NADB-BEIF Grant – Gravity Main	$1,196,701	21
NADB-BEIF Grant – Residential WWCSE	$163,186	3
TOTAL	**$5,734,287**	**100**

[2] WHO, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Links to Health, Facts and figures updated November 2004 (http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/facts2004/en/).

3 PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

3.1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

BECC published the draft certification proposal for a 30-day public comment period beginning April 5, 2013. The following Project documents were available for public access:

- Preliminary Engineering Report for a Wastewater Gravity Main (Outfall) Replacement for the City of Holtville, May 25, 2010
- Environmental Information Document for Residential Wastewater Collection Pipeline System and Water Distribution System Expansion, Holtville, California, April 2010
- Environmental Information Document under NEPA and Initial Study under CEQA for the Sanitary Sewer Outfall Main Pipeline Project located in Imperial County, California, June 2010
- Finding of No Significant Impact Residential Wastewater Collection System Expansion and Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement for the City of Holtville, California, United States, January 19, 2011
- Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Holtville Sanitary Sewer Outfall Main Pipeline Project, July 2010
- Notice of Determination, Sanitary Sewer Outfall Main Pipeline Replacement Project, September 3, 2010
- Final Initial Study Residential Wastewater Collection Pipeline System and Water Distribution System Expansion to Under-Served Areas, City of Holtville, California, April 2010
- Resolution No. 10-39, A Resolution of the Holtville City Council Certifying a Negative Declaration prepared for the Residential Wastewater Collection and Water Distribution Expansion Project, July 26, 2010
- Final Design Wastewater Outfall Pipeline and Residential Wastewater Collection System Pipelines Project, City of Holtville Project No. 116.338, Webb Engineering Consultants, November 2012
- Public Meeting Minutes, pictures, articles and materials.

The public comment period ended on May 5, 2013, with no comments received.

3.2 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The city of Holtville conducted extensive outreach efforts to communicate the projects characteristics, including cost and fees and to obtain the support of the residents of the projects area. In accordance with the public outreach requirements of the BEIF program, activities such as the use of a local steering committee, public meetings, and appropriate project information

access where conducted as described in the Public Participation Plan (PPP). The following information provides a summary of the outreach activities carried out for the Projects.

The Local Steering Committee was formed on June 13, 2011. The steering committee included members of the sponsor's staff, planning commission and city council. The steering committee developed a public participation plan and periodically met with the Project team throughout the development period to help the project sponsor to disseminate information regarding the Projects. The Project's technical and financial information was made available to the public for review. The Local Steering Committee, with assistance from the project sponsor, prepared a fact sheet and a presentation on the Projects. Information on the projects was presented to the community during two public meetings.

The first Public Meeting notice was posted at City Hall and published November 11, 2011 in the Holtville Tribune. Additionally notices were sent out to all service users in their monthly water bill. The meeting was held on November 21, 2011 at the Holtville City Hall. Based on the sign-in sheet, the meeting was attended by more than 26 individuals. This meeting informed the residents of the projects characteristics, potential funding sources, impact fees and future household connections monthly costs related to the expansion of the wastewater collection system and replacement of the wastewater outfall main.

A second public meeting was held on February 6, 2012. During the meeting the community was informed of the proposed funding structure and potential environmental impacts of the Projects. In addition to the notice postings as described for the first meeting, a meeting announcement was mailed to everyone within 300 feet of the proposed Project sites, encouraging their attendance. Based on the sign in sheet, the meeting was attended by more than 13 people showing their support and interest towards implementation of the Projects. The meeting served as a discussion forum for some of the property owners who would be affected by the right-of-way and easement acquisitions along the proposed outfall alignment.