

# CITY OF LA GRULLA, TEXAS



## PHASE 3 WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM – I DESIGN PROJECT

**Kick-Off Meeting  
December 14, 2006 – 9:00 AM  
La Grulla City Hall**

### Meeting Minutes

Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) Project Manager, Javier Torres, called to Order the Kick-Off Meeting for the City of La Grulla - Phase 3 Wastewater Collection System – I Design Project.

The following persons were present:

Oscar V. Gonzalez, Mayor/City of La Grulla  
Clarita S. Cardenas, City Secretary/City of La Grulla  
Javier Torres, Project Manager/BECC  
Alonzo Perez, Rural Development Manager/USDA-RD  
Elizabeth A. Gonzalez, Rural Development Specialist/USDA-RD  
Blanca Juarez, Colonia Initiatives Advocate/Secretary of State  
Anna A. Smith, P.E., Project Manager/Naismith Engineering, Inc.  
Jose R. Rodriguez, P.E., Project Engineer/Naismith Engineering, Inc.  
Paolina Vega, E.I.T., Engineering Assistant/Naismith Engineering, Inc.  
Sam Maldonado, P.E., S.I.T., Director of Engineering/J.E. Saenz & Associates, Inc.

1. Javier Torres indicated that the BECC would like to Certify the Phase 3 Wastewater Collection System – I Design Project in July 2007, so the 100% Plans and Specifications will need to be completed by June 2007, if possible. After the 60% Design Review Meeting, the North American Development Bank (NADBank) will initiate the Financial Analysis for the City to determine the amount of potential Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) funding.
2. Community Resource Group (CRG) is currently preparing a Water and Sewer Rate Study for the City of La Grulla. The current water/sewer rates are as follows: Water - \$16.00 (3,000 gal.); Sewer - \$12.50 (\$10.00 for Senior Citizens).

3. USDA-RD indicated that they have received a Preliminary Application from the City of La Grulla for financial assistance for the remainder of the Wastewater System Improvements Project and USDA-RD could possibly fund the Design and Construction of the proposed Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant and Phase 4 Wastewater Collection System – II in multiple funding cycles (max potential award of \$4M). The Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Project would involve the design and construction of a new Mechanical WWTP to serve the entire service area for the City of La Grulla. The Phase 4 Wastewater Collection System – II will include the design and construction of the remainder of the collection system not included in the Phase 3 Project. At this time, it appears that four (4) Colonias in the service area that do not meet USDA-RD definition of a Colonia and would not be eligible for a 306C Grant Funding. In addition, any grant assistance from USDA-RD would require a Loan Component. Javier Torres added that the BEIF Funding would also require a Loan Component, but the USDA-RD Loan or other funding agency could meet the loan requirement.
4. NEI mentioned that a Water Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) application has been submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for review/approval. However, the TCEQ (Dan Smith) indicated that a Sewer CCN would not be accepted until funding for a Sewer System was obtained. BECC mentioned that Dorothy Young of TCEQ indicated that the TCEQ would be able to provide a Sewer CCN to the City. NEI will follow up with TCEQ about the possibility of obtaining both a Water and Sewer CCN.
5. NEI mentioned that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was issued by the EPA on August 8, 2002. However, Javier Torres indicated that the FNSI was actually issued in 2004 and would provide a copy to NEI for review.
6. The City of La Grulla mentioned that some of the Colonia Names were incorrect in the Map prepared by NEI. The City/USDA-RD/SOS will reconcile the Colonia Names and provide the corrected list to NEI. NEI will correct the Map and send to everyone for review.
7. SOS is to provide the Starr County Colonia Study (CD) to NEI for replication.
8. NEI/JES indicated that the Scope of Services currently does not include Aerial Surveying but would like to include it in the Design Project (i.e., Pharr Design Project). The Aerial Surveyor could fly the entire area but we would provide the surveying for the Phase 3 Wastewater Collection System – I Area. However, the remaining areas would be available for the other Design Projects. NEI/JES will coordinate with the Aerial Surveyor an obtain a Proposal for providing Aerial Surveying for the Project.

9. NEI will develop a Phase 3 Wastewater Collection System – I Design Project Web Site (hosted on NEI Web Site) and include:
  - Project Information
  - Project Status
  - Agendas for Bi-Weekly Conference Calls
  - Meeting Minutes
10. NEI to set up Bi-Weekly Conference Calls to keep everyone updated on the Project Progress. We anticipate that the Bi-Weekly Meetings will be scheduled on every other Thursday @ 9:30 AM. NEI will send out the Bi-Weekly Conference Call information (1-800#, etc...) at the beginning of the year.
11. NEI mentioned that the TWDB is finalizing rules for their New Statewide EDAP Program and felt that the La Grulla Project would be a great candidate to receive EDAP Grant Funds for Design and/or Construction. EDAP Eligible Areas had to be in existence in 2005; no longer 1989. This could make every Colonia in La Grulla EDAP Eligible.
12. USDA-RD mentioned that the City of La Grulla anticipates posting Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for the Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant and Phase 4 Wastewater Collection System – II in January 2007. NEI/JES responded that they are interested in Submitting Statement of Qualifications (SOQ's) for these Projects, so that all of Projects are design and coordinated under the same firms who developed and prepared the Facility Engineering Report for these improvements.