

## PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

**International Boundary and Water Commission/Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (IBWC/CILA)** ([www.ibwc.state.gov](http://www.ibwc.state.gov)). Established in 1889, IBWC is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico and settling differences that may arise out of these treaties. The IBWC is composed of a U.S. section and a Mexican section, each headed by an engineer-commissioner appointed by the respective president and funded by the respective government.

**Border Environmental Cooperation Commission/Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza (BECC/COCEF)**, ([www.cocef.org](http://www.cocef.org)). Created by the U.S. and Mexican governments in 1993 under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) BECC develops and certifies environmental infrastructure projects along the border region that incorporate innovative sustainability and public participation. Funded by Mexico through SEMARNAT and by the United States through the Department of State and the U.S. EPA. Projects may extend up to 62 miles (100 km) into the United States and 186 miles (300 km) into Mexico, and generally address water pollution, wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste management, and related matters. BECC assists with planning and public participation and ensures that all criteria are met before a project is certified.

**North American Development Bank/Banco de Desarrollo de América del Norte (NADB/BANDAN)**, ([www.nadb.org](http://www.nadb.org)). Established in 1993 under the same NAFTA side agreement as BECC, NADB is funded and governed equally by the United States and Mexico to provide funding assistance to public and private entities involved in developing environmental infrastructure projects in the border region. While the primary focus of funding is BECC-certified projects, assistance is also provided in air quality, clean energy, and hazardous waste areas. NADB assesses financial capability of the project sponsors, recommends utility rate adjustments, and provides construction and transition assistance to reduce the impact of rate increases.

**Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF)**, ([www.nadb.org/english/program\\_service/beif/beif\\_frame.htm](http://www.nadb.org/english/program_service/beif/beif_frame.htm)). Established by NADB, this fund is administered by the U.S. EPA to provide grants to help finance BECC-certified water and wastewater infrastructure projects within 100 km of the U.S.-Mexico border. It targets the smallest and poorest communities that could not otherwise fund such projects. BEIF-funded projects in Mexico must meet the same criteria as U.S. projects, provide a benefit to the United States, and include both a loan component and a 50 percent Mexican contribution.

**Border 2012**, ([www.epa.gov/border2012/](http://www.epa.gov/border2012/)). This bilateral initiative implements the 1983 La Paz Agreement, which called for coordination of border environmental improvement activities among governmental and nongovernmental groups. The U.S. EPA and Mexico's SEMARNAT are national coordinators of the program. Border 2012 builds on the earlier Border XXI program that emphasized sustainable development, public participation, and administrative transparency; Border 2012 places greater focus on a decentralized process involving states, municipalities, and tribes.

## BORDER WATER-RELATED AGENCIES IN MEXICO

### Federal

**Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA, National Water Commission)**, ([www.cna.gob.mx](http://www.cna.gob.mx)). Created in 1989, CNA is a division of the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT, Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources) with central offices in Mexico City, 13 regional offices, and offices in every state. The agency is responsible for managing the nation's water, including developing resources; designing and building infrastructure; increasing distribution; improving the quality of water, sewage, and sanitation services; coordinating activities among the three levels of government; promoting water use efficiency and sustainable management of watersheds and aquifers; and managing the effects of floods and droughts.

### State

#### Baja California and Sonora

**Comisión Estatal del Agua (CEA, State Water Commission)**, ([www.cea.gob.mx](http://www.cea.gob.mx)). Statewide activities related to water and wastewater management, and water quality and distribution.

#### Baja California

**Comisión de Servicios de Agua del Estado (COSAE, State Water Services Commission)**, ([www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/cosae](http://www.bajacalifornia.gob.mx/cosae)). Water distribution to state public services commissions, and operation and maintenance of the state's aqueducts; also involved in water purchases.

#### Sonora

**Comisión Estatal del Agua Potable y Alcantarillado del Estado de Sonora (COAPAES, State Commission for Potable Water and Sewerage)**, ([www.coapaes.gob.mx](http://www.coapaes.gob.mx)). Statewide management of water and wastewater infrastructure systems, particularly where municipal-level control has not yet been implemented.

#### Chihuahua

**Junta Central de Agua y Saneamiento (JCAS, Central Water and Sanitation Board)**. Water and wastewater services. Local divisions may exist.

#### Coahuila

**Comisión Estatal del Aguas y Saneamiento de Coahuila (State Commission for Water and Sanitation Services)**.

#### Nuevo Leon

**Servicios de Agua y Drenaje de Monterrey (Water and Drainage Services of Monterrey)**.

#### Tamaulipas

**Dirección General del Recurso de Agua (State Office of Water Resources)**. The agency has two units: watersheds and potable water/sewage.

Sources: the Good Neighbor Environmental Board's 8th Report, Feb. 2005 ([www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/](http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/)); ADEQ, EPA, and agency Web sites.