



# Colonias-Lower Rio Grande Basin Along The U.S. Mexico Border, Tx

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of February 06, 2012

**AUTHORIZATION:** Sec 219 of WRDA 1992 (as amended) and Sec 5158 of WRDA 2007

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Water Supply



**PROJECT PHASE:** Construction

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Hutchison (TX) and Cornyn (TX); Representatives Farenthold (TX-27), Hinojosa (TX-15) and **Cuellar (TX-28)**.

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** City of Lyford, Webb County, Olmito Water Supply

**BACKGROUND:** Colonias or Barrios are extremely poor, unincorporated communities located within 100 kilometers of the U.S.-Mexico border. In the Colonias water and sewer services are limited, as rapid population growth has occurred with little or no wastewater or water supply infrastructure development. The local utility companies have placed priority on potable water distribution with secondary emphasis on central wastewater collection and treatment. The work is authorized by Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and Sec. 5158 of WRDA 2007. The local sponsor is required to pay 25 percent of the costs allocated to the assistance in cash.

**STATUS:** The project was not funded in FY2011. Carry-over funds were used to coordinate the completion of a Facility Plan and Environmental Information Document for the La Presa Colonia in Webb County. The Facility Plan will be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for approval and funding assistance for future construction.

**ISSUES:** The program was not funded in FY2011 or FY2012 President’s budget. Most residents use septic tanks or cesspools for sewage disposal. After years of use and with very little sewage disposal regulatory enforcement, the tanks are failing and causing groundwater contamination. Without the development of infrastructure, groundwater contamination, health risks and other environmental, social and economic problems will continue to increase within the study area.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):**

**CONSTRUCTION**

Federal Cost Estimate	\$20,871,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	6,957,000
Total Project Cost	\$27,828,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$984,000 <u>1/</u>
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	-113,000 <u>2/</u>
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	\$20,000,000
Balance to Complete	\$20,000,000

1/ - PED Funds

2/ - Funds in the amount \$113,000 were transferred to the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Account to repair damages at projects impacted by the 2011 Floods.

**SCHEDULE:**

**FY 2012 Scheduled Work:** Not in the President’s FY2012 budget

**FY 2013 Budget:** Not in the President’s FY2013 budget. If funding is received it would be used to plan, design and construct wastewater and sewer pipelines at several colonias in the City of Lyford (\$5,000,000), in Colonial Palacios Subdivision (\$5,000,000), in Colonial Saldivar-Central Subdivision (\$5,000,000) and Webb County (\$5,000,000).

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the project completion date is September 2014.

**For more information** regarding the Colonias-Lower Rio Grande Basin Along the U.S. Mexico Border, Tx project, contact. Mr. Pete Perez, P.E. Deputy District Engineer, Chief, Programs and Project Management Division at (409)766-3018 or Pete.G.Perez@usace.army.mil.

**Colonias**

**Galveston District Colonia Counties**



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