

Benefits of the Bajagua Project

1. THE BEST TREATMENT SOLUTION FOR THE REGION

The Bajagua Project exceeds the treatment capacity of the adjacent “Hofer” site to the International Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWTP) located on the United States, by 34 million gallons per day, and is the only proposal that provides for the expansion capability necessary to provide for treatment of most if not all of the sewage impacting the United States across the international border.

2. A PRIVATELY FINANCED PARTNERSHIP

The Bajagua Project can be built for a competitive price and will provide the only opportunity for the U.S. Government to eliminate the up front capital cost by utilizing a privately financed partnership alternative. The financing of the project will be provided entirely by the private sector and will be paid for through a fee-for-services contract with the IBWC.

3. COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF THE PROJECT

The design, construction and operation of the project will be competitively bid assuring low cost and appropriate design. The process, managed in conjunction with the US IBWC and CILA (the IBWC’s counterpart in Mexico) will be a two-step process, commencing with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to short list qualified applicants, which would initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) process culminating in the selection of a preferred bidder.

4. PROVIDES RECLAIMED WATER TO TIJUANA

The Bajagua Project provides a major benefit to the City of Tijuana by making available reclaimed water. There is an acute water shortage in Tijuana today and this project will produce reclaimed water that can offset the City’s potable use and help meet their water needs. In fact, at 59 mgd, the Bajagua Project can meet more than 70% of Tijuana’s current water demand and 85% of the demand increase in 20 years based on their projected population growth.

4. MORE CAPACITY IN THE OUTFALL FOR U.S. NEEDS

The Bajagua Project will provide the additional benefit to the City of San Diego and the United States because in reclaiming the water it will ultimately avoid the discharge of a major portion of the treated water to the ocean outfall. This will free up capacity in the outfall pipe for the city and the IBWC, which will be important for the region’s own future local needs.

5. BUILT IN MEXICO, AT THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM

The Bajagua Project will be built in Mexico, at the source of the problem, and give Mexico an important opportunity to initiate the process of dealing with the international sewage problem, on their own soil. In addition, the location in Mexico provides the land mass necessary to size the plant to meet the demand, and has the collateral benefit of being near the key business zones in Tijuana who are most likely to be customers for the reclaimed water.

6. OFFERS PRETREATMENT OF SEWAGE

Pre-treatment is an important aspect of the sewage treatment process and the Bajagua Project provides the most feasible means of funding and implementing a comprehensive pretreatment program. In previous U.S. - based alternatives, size constraints eliminated the opportunity for a pretreatment program, which is considered essential to limiting toxic "spikes" and is the best way to treat the sewage effectively.

7. BUILT QUICKER AND CHEAPER THAN PUBLIC ALTERNATIVES

The Bajagua Project will be financed, built in, and operational 16 months from the date the contract is signed with the IBWC. This timeframe is quicker and ultimately more cost effective than any public built alternative, which would require legislative action in Congress and new or revised environmental documents. The Bajagua Project is also the only project that can potentially meet the court ordered deadline of having a treatment solution up and running by September 2008.

8. MEETS ALL CLEAN WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Even though the plant is in Mexico, the regulatory process can be enforced and will be satisfied by the contract between the IBWC and Bajagua. The Bajagua Project will meet or exceed all U.S., California and Mexican clean water and environmental standards and additionally will be monitored by the responsible U.S. and California Agencies. Contractually mandated financial mechanisms included in the authorizing legislation require annual appropriations for the cost of operation and the amortized cost to construct the project, if, and only if, the treated sewage meets the applicable, U.S., California and Mexico clean water standards.