

# BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION

## *Resource Summary*

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Funds	2,249	2,249	2,326

### *Program Description*

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) are international organizations created by the United States and Mexico under a side agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement, in order to help address the environmental infrastructure needs in the border region between both countries. The *“Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank”* (the BECC/NADB Charter), was executed in 1993 and amended through Protocol of Amendment signed on November 25 and 26, 2002, which entered into effect on August 6, 2004. The BECC, a U.S.–Mexico bi-national institution is located in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico,

The mission of the BECC is to work towards preserving, protecting, and enhancing the quality of human health and the environment along the U.S.–Mexico border region. This is achieved via strengthening cooperation among interested parties and supporting sustainable projects through a transparent bi-national process in close coordination with the NADB, federal, state, local agencies, the private sector, and civil society. BECC was established to assist border communities in developing environmental infrastructure projects meeting certification requirements making them eligible to receive funding from the NADB or other institutions. The goal of BECC’s certification requirements is to ensure that projects provide environmental and human health benefits are technically feasible and affordable as well as capable of being operated over the long term, while ensuring transparency and public participation. BECC is authorized to work on the U.S.–Mexico border up to 100 km north on the U.S. side and 300 km south on the Mexican side.

In order to carry out its purpose, the BECC/NADB Charter grants the BECC the following functions:

- With their concurrence, assist states, localities, and other public entities and private investors in: coordinating, preparing, developing, implementing, and overseeing environmental infrastructure projects in the border region, including the design, sitting, and other technical aspects; analyzing the financial feasibility or the environmental aspects of the environmental infrastructure projects; evaluating social and economic benefits of the projects; and organizing, developing and arranging public and private financing for environmental infrastructure projects in the border region; and
- Certify, by a decision of its Board of Directors, environmental infrastructure projects in the border region to be submitted for financing to the NADB, or to other sources of financing that request such certification.

## BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION

The BECC/NADB Charter defines an environmental infrastructure project as a project that will “prevent, control, or reduce environmental pollutants or contaminants, improve the drinking water supply, or protect flora and fauna so as to improve human health, promote sustainable development, or contribute to a higher quality of life”. Based on this definition, the specific sectors that BECC and NADB currently address are the following:

- Water Pollution
- Wastewater Treatment
- Municipal Solid Waste
- Water Conservation
- Industrial and Hazardous Waste
- Domestic hook-ups to Water / Wastewater Systems
- Recycling and Waste Reduction

The sectors listed above are given priority by the BECC/NADB Charter

- Air Quality
- Clean and Efficient Energy
- Public Transportation
- Municipal Planning and Development, including Water Management

The work of the BECC continues to support the Department of State’s strategic goal of Social and Environmental Issue through the following three programs: 1) Technical Assistance Program; 2) Public Involvement and Public Outreach Process; and 3) Municipal Strategic Planning. In order to set performance goals for the institution an administrative tool called “Balanced Scorecard” (BSC) was introduced. The BSC is a modern management method for measuring an organization's performance parameters. The BSC design translates the organization’s vision, values, mission, and strategy into performance indicators, which can be used to measure the degree in which the strategic objectives are accomplished. It assists in monitoring the fulfillment of strategic objectives, expenses, costs, productivity, customer satisfaction, internal processes, employee motivation, and training.

The BECC's BSC contains 18 strategic objectives and 208 performance indicators; 15 of the performance indicators (corresponding to 11 strategic objectives) were selected through a prioritization process and will be implemented in FY 2012. In addition, the objectives of the Quality Management System are also perfectly attuned to the objectives and indicators of the BSC. This effort resulted in BECC organizing its efforts into three groups consisting of seven programs, which are:

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Technical Assistance and Project Certification
- Environmental Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- BECC Performance Improvement and General Support

### **Public Involvement and Public Outreach Process:**

- Knowledge Management Program
- Public Participation and Capacity Building Program

### **Municipal Strategic Planning:**

- Municipal Planning

### **Technical Assistance**

The role of the BECC is to assist border communities in the development and certification of high priority environmental infrastructure projects by providing technical assistance services such as engineering analysis, project development and design, financial feasibility studies, community participation, environmental assessment, and sustainable development. In addition to providing project development expertise, the BECC mobilizes the resources from U.S. and Mexican environmental agencies and other

## **BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION**

sources, and provides access to the financial resources of the NADB or other funding sources requiring such certification.

The BECC assists the U.S.-Mexico border's neediest communities, which without this assistance would otherwise be incapable of obtaining financial resources, by providing grant funding for planning, development, and design of necessary, complex environmental infrastructure projects. BECC commits resources that enable border communities to undertake initial project development activities and as well, as facilitate subsequent detailed technical work necessary to formulate high quality projects that can meet the intent of the certification process.

### **Technical Assistance and Project Certification**

The purpose of the Technical Assistance and Project Certification is to offer technical services and/or financial assistance to help project sponsors effectively implement high-quality project development efforts and achieve certification for critical environmental infrastructure projects.

### **Environmental Project Management**

The purpose of the Environmental Project Management Program is to utilize BECC's leadership and institutional capacities to create an opportunity to enhance coordination among stakeholders and strengthen regional commitment to environmental activities, resulting in greater efficiencies and effectiveness for the project beneficiaries and related programs.

### **Strategic Planning**

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Program is to identify needs, develop/prioritize solutions, and optimizes resources to achieve local, state, and regional environmental and human health goals. This program includes environmental infrastructure planning by region and by sector, as well as strategy development and project management for some project types in new sectors, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. As a related function, this program also encompasses the implementation of the results measurement system for projects, specifically for post-implementation review and monitoring tasks. This includes activities such as the recently initiated project closeout process.

### **BECC Performance Improvements and General Support**

The purpose of the Performance Improvement initiative is to identify, develop, and implement institutional improvements to enhance BECCs its capacity to achieve high-quality products and services via optimal use of human capital and financial resources,. In addition, the General Support activity is to provide responsive and high quality services important to the daily operations of the BECC.

### ***Justification of Request***

For FY 2012, the BECC is requesting \$2.326 million for its operating budget. This level of funding reflects an increase of \$77,000 above the FY 2010 enacted level and funds current services. This level will allow the BECC to continue supporting the Department in achieving its strategic goal of improving health and environmental conditions in the U.S.-Mexico border region. The U.S. portion of the increase in BECC's budget for FY 2012 will be used for costs of living increases. The FY 2012 level of funding will allow the BECC to achieve a five percent increase in certified environmental infrastructure projects, conduct 30 environmental studies including a project, as well as a seven percent reduction in administrative costs.

# BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION

## *Funds by Program Activity* (\$ in thousands)

	<b>FY 2010 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2011 CR</b>	<b>FY 2012 Request</b>
<b>Public Involvement and Public Outreach Process</b>	75	75	75
<b>Technical Assistance Program</b>	2,174	2,174	2,251
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>2,326</b>

## *Funds by Object Class* (\$ in thousands)

	<b>FY 2010 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2011 CR</b>	<b>FY 2012 Request</b>
1100 Personnel Compensation	1,128	1,128	1,215
1200 Personnel Benefits	282	282	302
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	70	70	70
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	160	160	160
2500 Other Services	524	524	494
2600 Supplies and Materials	85	85	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>2,326</b>