

# BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION

## *Resource Summary*

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	2,245	2,396	2,367	(29)

### *Program Description*

The Border Environment Cooperative Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) are international organizations created by the Governments of 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 to preserve, protect and enhance human health and the environment of the U.S.–Mexico border region, by 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 created to assist border communities in developing environmental infrastructure projects to meet certification requirements to be 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 and 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 and 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, siting, 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.

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

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higher quality of life”. Based on this definition, the specific sectors that BECC and NADB currently address are the following:

Water Pollution, Wastewater Treatment, Water Conservation, Domestic hook-ups to Water Wastewater Systems, Municipal Solid Waste, Industrial and Hazardous Waste, Recycling and Waste Reduction. The sectors given priority by the BECC/NADB Charter are Air Quality, Clean and Efficient Energy, and Public Transportation.

The work of BECC continues to support the Department of State’s strategic goal of promoting effective and accountable democratic governance, respect for human rights, and sustainable economic growth through through two programs: Technical Assistance Program and Public Involvement and Public Outreach Process. In order to set performance goals for the institution an administrative tool called “Balanced Scorecard” (BSC) was used. 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 12 strategic objectives and 47 performance indicators; corresponding to 23 strategic objectives carried out through the following five programs:

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

Offers 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**

Utilizes 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**

Identifies needs, develop/prioritize solutions, and optimize 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, including activities such as the recently initiated project close-out process.

### **General Support**

Identifies, develops, and implements institutional improvements to optimize its human and financial resources, enhancing its capacity to achieve high-quality products and services. In addition, the General Support activity is to provide responsive and high quality services important to the daily operations of the BECC.

This program includes creating effective communication tools to document conditions existing in the border region, which have been identified through the coordinated efforts of BECC and other border stakeholders for information exchange to all interested parties.

Information availability and accessibility are critical to facilitate the achievement of environmental and human health objectives in the border region. In addition to border communities and government stakeholders, there are varieties of other formal and informal mechanisms developed to manage border

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issues. Each requires information about the current conditions in the region in order to further their role in addressing target issues. Information exchange is also important to prevent the duplication of efforts and foster the opportunity to build upon the works of others.

## Public Participation and Capacity Building

Provides a foundation for sustainable development along the border through efforts aimed at inspiring community-based support for a project, providing transparency in each border initiative and strengthening the institutional capacity of border communities and utility providers.

One of the BECC's greatest successes is its public participation requirement. Public participation activities are required to ensure broad community support for projects that are being considered for certification. The establishment of active, local steering committees is a key element of this process that provides transparency and access to project information, the involvement of local organizations in the decision-making process, and the presentation of projects in public forums for discussion.

## Justification of Request

For FY 2013, the BECC is requesting a total of \$2.367 million for its operating budget. This level will allow the BECC to continue supporting the Department of State in achieving its strategic goal of improving health and environmental conditions in the U.S.-Mexico border region. BECC's FY 2013 request covers increases for American COLA, domestic inflation, and overseas price inflation. The requested reflects a slight decrease of \$29,000 below the FY 2012 estimate.

### *Funds by Program Activity*

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Public Involvement and Public Outreach Process	75	80	75	(5)
Technical Assistance Program	2,170	2,316	2,292	(24)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>(29)</b>

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## *Funds by Object Class*

(\$ in thousands)

	<b>FY 2011 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2012 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2013 Request</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>
1100 Personnel Compensation	1,128	1,204	1,301	97
1200 Personnel Benefits	282	301	372	71
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	70	75	117	42
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	160	171	108	(63)
2500 Other Services	524	559	379	(180)
2600 Supplies and Materials	81	86	90	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,367</b>	<b>(29)</b>