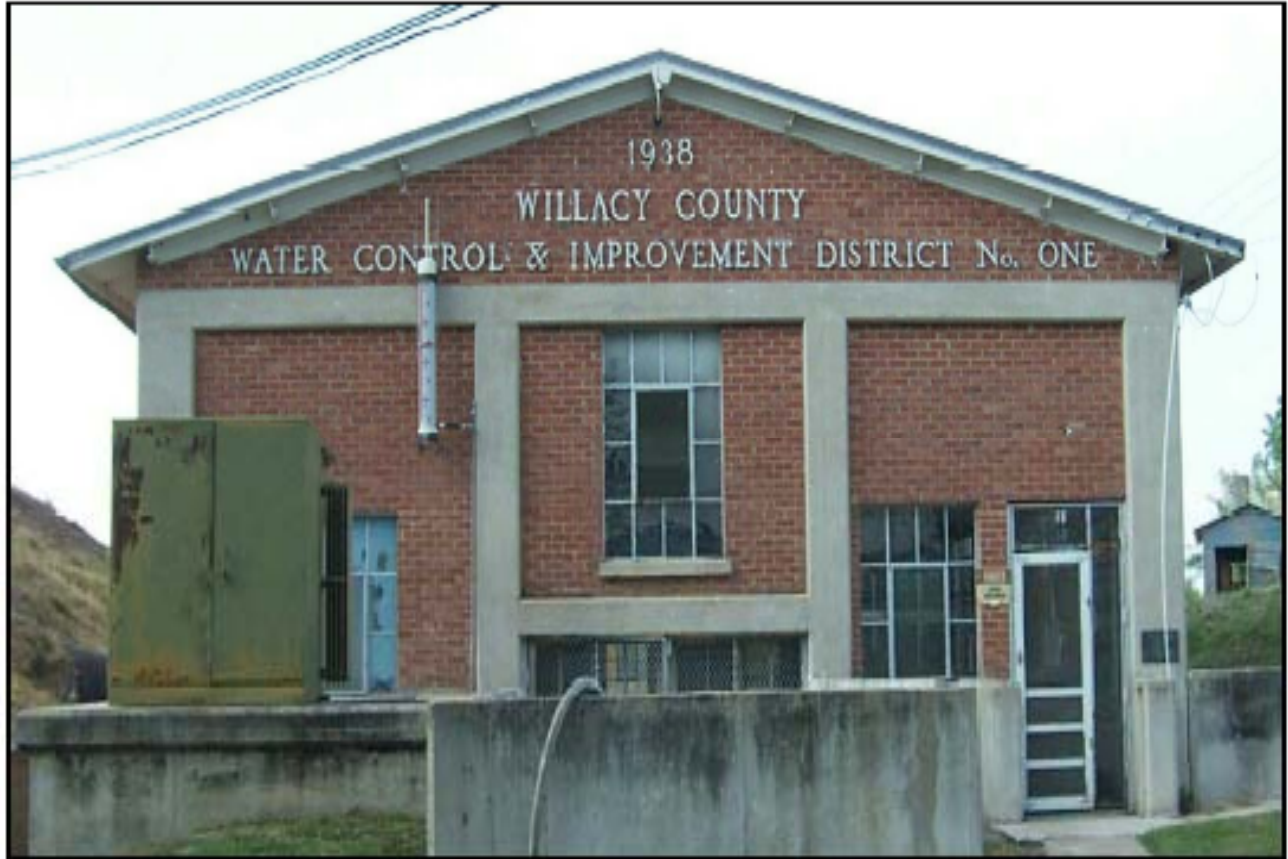


COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

for the

DELTA LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT 2003 WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT



prepared by the

Project Steering Committee

Submitted to

***BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL
COOPERATIVE COMMISSION***

August, 2003

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Summary

The Project is a four-part conservation effort consisting of the following: Reservoir Renovation, Main Canal Seepage Recovery, Measurement and Telemetry and Pipeline and Canal Lining. The *Reservoir Renovation Project* consists of building a by-pass canal, control structures, and radial gates to allow the J-Canal to be supplied directly from the main canal. In water short years, this would allow a larger portion of Delta Lake to be unused and salvage approximately 5,000 to 7,000 acre-feet of evaporation loss. The *Main Canal Seepage Recovery Project* would construct a surface and sub-surface drain collection system and return pump to collect 5 cfs of water that seeps from the main canal. The capital cost of such a recovery system may be 5 to 10 times more economically viable than concrete lining the main canal. The *Flow Measurement and Telemetry Project* consists of installing meters or providing metering of all turnouts and installation of flow measurement telemetry devices on the main canal and all canals with capacities greater than 30 cfs. The telemetry system would improve the timing of water delivery to farms and reduce spillage and operation costs. The *Pipeline and Canal Lining Projects* would renovate or replace existing open channel laterals, small canals and buried mortar joint concrete pipe with new gasket joint PVC or RCP pipe or slip-for lining of laterals. A preliminary estimate of the quantity of water that could be salvaged from each of the projects is 22,800 acre-feet per year. The District has 174,776 ac-ft of authorized water rights and has the largest amount of irrigated agriculture of the 28 irrigations districts in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

1.2 Public Participation

Required for the BECC certification is the fulfillment of a public participation process to promote community understanding of and support for the proposed project. In order to fulfill this requirement, the Project Steering Committee (Committee) proposes to carry out the following public participation plan.

The Public Participation Plan (Plan) is developed per certification requirements and is designed to provide a framework for the sponsor and steering committee to conduct public participation in Edcouch, Texas, and intends to include all sectors of the community in carrying out project public participation to comply with the BECC Step II application for certification. The Plan elements include the formation of a steering committee, contacting local organizations, public access to project information and holding at least two (2) public meetings. Additionally, the Delta Lake Irrigation District will submit a Final Public Participation Report with all of the supporting documentation that demonstrates the scope and success of the Plan as well as community support for this project.

2 FORMATION OF LOCAL COMMITTEES

2.1 Steering Committee

The following is a list of names of individuals that will be invited to serve on the Committee:

Neal Galloway, DLID Board President
Eleazar Garcia, Jr., City Manager, Raymondville, Texas
Max Phillips, DLID General Manager
Chuck Browning, North Alamo Water Supply

Other local residents will be added as needed. The Committee formation meeting was held on April 28, 2003.

2.2 Technical Work Group

A technical support group, as described in the public participation guidelines, will provide assistance, prepare minutes for all meetings and presentations, and advise the Committee. The group is made of the consulting engineers, county and state officials:

A.W. Blair, P.E.	Civil Engineer
Apolinar Cantu	DLID District Supervisor
Dale Munden	DLID Board Member
Max Phillips	DLID Manager

Max Phillips of Delta Lake Irrigation District will act as the technical secretary and keep all meeting minutes.

3 LOCAL STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND DUTIES

The Committee will assist in the development and implementation of the Plan in the following areas:

- Identify outreach activities to contact groups within the community
- Dissemination of information to the community
- Conduct/participate the Public Hearings
- Solicit Public input

The Committee will meet on an as needed basis to facilitate the completion of the BECC Step II application.

Attachment A lists the major milestones by tentative dates for accomplishing important Committee tasks.

4 MEETINGS WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Per BECC requirements, local organizations will be presented with the project proposal and other pertinent project information. The Committee will identify local organizations that will be impacted by the project and request their support, assist in developing community understanding for the project by disseminating project information and solicit public support. Presentations will be scheduled before the boards of directors of North Alamo Water Supply and will be offered for presentation before the governing bodies of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, the City of Edcouch, the City of Raymondville and the City of Monte Alto. For a listing of organizations and tentative dates of contact, please refer to Attachment B.

5 PUBLIC ACCESS TO PROJECT INFORMATION

The Project Plan and Report will be available at the public viewing locations designated below beginning thirty-days prior to the first BECC public meeting. The documents will be available for viewing during normal working hours. Accommodations can be made for viewing documents during normal business hours by phoning 956/262-2101.

<u>Viewing Locations</u>	<u>Contact Name/Phone</u>	<u>Location</u>
DLID District Office	Max Phillips, 956/262-2101	Rt.1, Box 225, Edcouch, TX

In addition, notices of availability of project information will be included in public meeting notices

which will be published in the *Monitor* and mailed to all landowners in the district. The public meeting notice will be published in the *Monitor* a minimum of thirty-days prior to the meetings.

5.1 Outreach Activities

The Committee and project sponsor envision carrying out several activities to inform the Irrigation District members about the project and solicit their support. In addition to the published notice and mail-outs, the Committee will make individual contact with District members to inform them about the project and solicit their support. A petition will be available at the District offices for walk-in District members to sign in support of the project.

5.2 Fact Sheet

Fact sheets will be developed that will include basic information on the project such as technical, environmental, financial and public participation components of the project. The fact sheets will be utilized by the Committee in educating the community about the proposed project. Copies of the fact sheets will be made available to local organizations, be available at the District offices and delivered to all landowners and producers in the District.

6 PUBLIC MEETINGS

There will be a minimum of two (2) public meetings to discuss the project per BECC requirements. The proposed dates of these meetings are yet to be determined. The first meeting will be a general information meeting to provide the general public with an update of the proposed project and what the BECC Step II application is designed to accomplish. This meeting may be held in conjunction with the public meeting required for the Environmental Assessment. The second meeting will focus on the financial aspects of the project, such as the NADB financial analysis. The project sponsor and Committee recognize that the possibility exists that more than two (2) public meetings may be necessary for this project. There will be one 30-day public meeting notice posted for both public meetings. The published notice will appear in the *Monitor* on May 2nd and 3rd, 2003

An exit survey will be prepared for distribution and collection at the end of each BECC public meeting. The exit survey inquires whether the project, its purpose, its necessity, the costs involved and the funding sources have all been adequately explained. Additionally, it will ask whether the District membership supports the project and its' costs, and will provide extra space for any comment that participants wish to express. The completed surveys will be included in the Final Comprehensive Public Participation Report.

6.1 First BECC Public Meeting

The first BECC public meeting will be a general information meeting to provide the public with an update of the proposed project and to explain what the BECC Step II application is designed to accomplish. It is scheduled to be held on June 2, 2002 at the DLID District office.

The public meeting dates will be added to the fact sheet and mailed to District members. Copies of the notice will be mailed to interested parties and posted in locations identified in the previous section. The notice will indicate that copies of the Facility Plan, which includes the Project Proposal and Draft Strategic Plan, are available for review at the location identified in Section 5 of this Public Participation Plan. The project fact sheets described in the previous section will be distributed at the public meetings and made available at the District office.

At the opening of the meeting, a sign-in sheet will be distributed to all attendees. Meeting proceedings will be recorded and minutes will be taken for later transcription into typewritten

format. At the conclusion of the meeting, the exit survey will be distributed and completed surveys collected.

The meeting notice, proof of publication, list of individual notice recipients, sign-in sheets, project fact sheets and meeting minutes will be provided in the first BWECC Public Meeting section of the Final Public Participation Report. The completed exit surveys will be provided in the Supporting Documentation section.

6.2 Second BECC Public Meeting

The second BECC public meeting will focus on the financial aspects of the project, such as NADB financial analysis and financial impact to the customers. The meeting notice, in both English and Spanish, will be advertised in the *Monitor* a minimum of thirty-days prior to the meeting. The proposed date of the second meeting is June 3, 2003 at the DLID District office. The notice will indicate that copies of the Facility Plan, which includes the Project Proposal and Draft Strategic Plan, are available for review at the location identified on Section 5 of this Public Participation Plan.

At the opening of the meeting, a sign-in sheet will be distributed to all attendees. Meeting proceedings will be recorded and minutes will be taken for transcription into typewritten format. At the conclusion of the meeting, the exit survey will be distributed and completed surveys collected.

The meeting notice, proof of publication, list of individual notice recipients, sign-in sheets, project fact sheets, meeting minutes and completed exit surveys will be provided in the Second BECC Public Meeting Section of the Final Comprehensive Public Participation Report.

7 FINAL REPORT DOCUMENTATION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

The Final Comprehensive Public Participation Report will be delivered to the BECC upon completion of the public participation project. The final report will include the following documents:

- List of Steering Committee members and Committee meeting minutes
- List of participating local organizations and support letters
- Information presented at public meeting
- Names of participants and comments made at public meetings
- Name, date, location and type of meeting held
- Public meeting minutes, which includes names of participants and comments made
- Public notice for the meeting
- Copy of the Project Fact Sheet given to the public
- Other pertinent documentation showing public support for the project such as:
 - Results of organizational meetings
 - Press articles
 - Public meeting exit surveys

Delta Lake Irrigation District 2003 Water Conservation Project

Schedule of Public Participation Activities -

Attachment A

Activity	Responsible	April, 2003	May, 2003	June, 2003	July, 2003	August, 2003
Recruit Steering Committee Members	Sponsor	4/22				
Steering Committee Formation Meeting	Sponsor, Steering Committee	4/29				
Development of Public Participation Plan	Steering Committee	4/29				
Development of Fact Sheet	Sponsor, Steering Com, Consultant	4/29				
Approval of Public Participation Plan	BECC Public Participation Office	4/30				
30-day Notice for BECC Public Meetings	Sponsor, Steering Committee		5/3			
Begin Contact of Local Organizations	Sponsor, Steering Committee		5/5			
Provide Public Access To Project Information	Sponsor, Steering Committee		5/5			
First BECC Public Participation Meeting	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant			6/2		
Second BECC Public Participation Meeting	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant			6/3		
Public Notice for Third BECC Public Meeting	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant					8/4
Submission of Public Participation Report (*)	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant					8/13
Third BECC Public Participation Meeting	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant					8/20
Submission of Final Participation Report	Sponsor, Steering Comm, Consultant					8/22
Review and Approval of Final PP Report	BECC Public Participation Officer					8/25

Delta Lake Irrigation District 2003 Water Conservation Project

Schedule of Presentation of Project Information

Attachment B

DATE	PROJECT INFORMATION PRESENTED TO	PRESENTED BY
6/23/2003	North Alamo Water Supply	Chuck Browning
7/8/2003	City of Edcouch	Max Phillips
7/8/2003	City of Raymondville	Max Phillips / Eleazar Garcia
7/15/2003	City of Monte Alto	Max Phillips
TBA	Hidalgo County	
TBA	Willacy County	