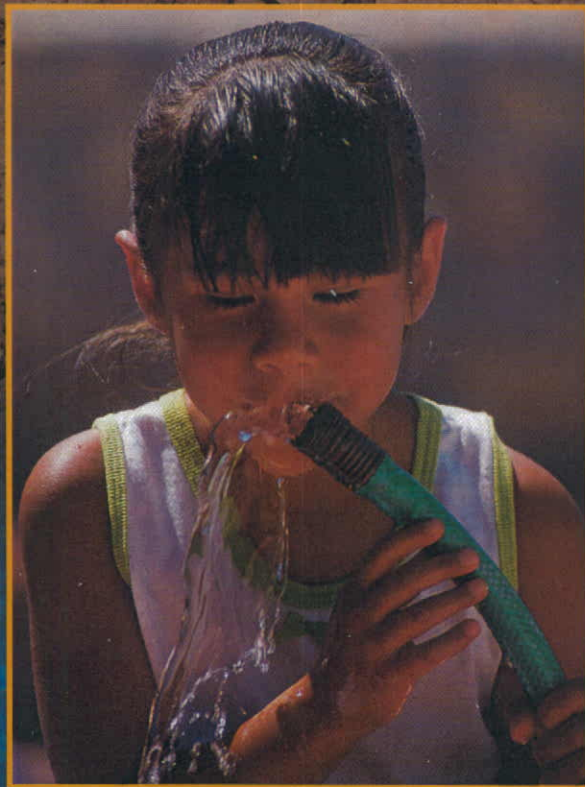
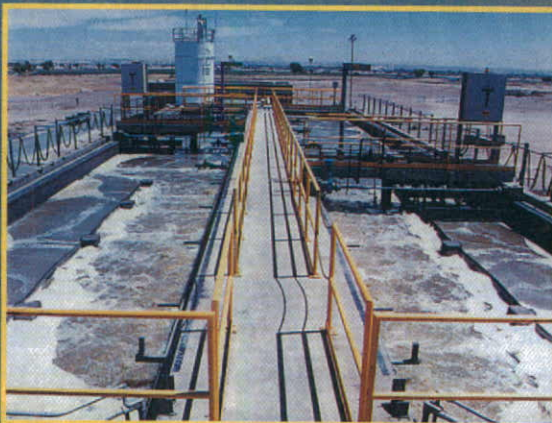


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BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION



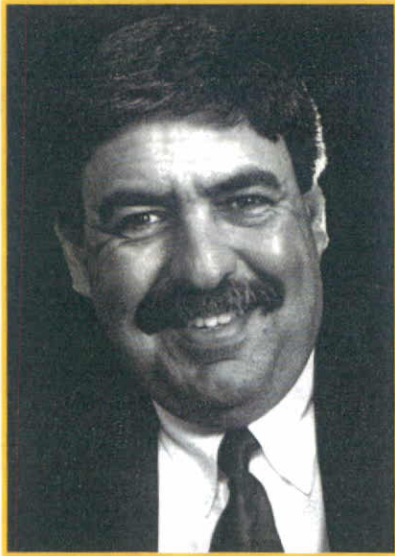
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**Message from the
Chairman of the
Board of Directors
Ygnacio Garza**



"Considering the BECC's successful track record, we are optimistic about the continued development of this binational organization into a viable alternative for environmental infrastructure development along the border."

With this Annual Report on the progress and activities of the BECC in 1999, we would like to summarize the accomplishments of the past five years.

The BECC is a young organization, born late in the 20th century, yet conceived in a form well suited to the requirements of the new millennium. It has developed into an organization that seeks to produce comprehensive solutions, incorporating a public participation process that guarantees the right of communities to be informed through open, neutral and transparent communication, while applying principles of sustainable development uniformly to all its programs and activities.

This binational organization has been characterized over these past five years as an institution that offers solutions that economically and technically are rational and appropriate, and which has a humane vision which respects the opinions of the communities and their historical development. Solutions are precise, efficient, and technologically appropriate.

In this way, border society is elevated to new levels of organization, self-awareness and habitability, strengthened with democratic values, and consolidated in a vision of sustainability, as a new form of defining its environmental condition and its eventual solution.

During the past five years, the BECC has achieved important advances in its efforts to resolve the lack of environmental infrastructure along the border and in the consolidation of its administrative structure. Highlights of these include:

- Certification of 32 projects, 12 in Mexico and 20 in the U.S., with an estimated financial commitment of \$695 million to benefit some 6.5 million residents.
- Award of \$16.3 million in technical assistance for 116 projects that will benefit 87 communities.
- Of the 32 certified projects, 13 are under construction, and five are operational. It is worth mentioning that the wastewater treatment plants in Cd. Juarez and its components of the certified sanitation project for this city, will be operational by the second quarter of 2000.
- Production, with participation from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Southwest Center for Environmental Research Policy (SCERP) and University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), of a needs assessment of the border area, that identifies the