

December 2008 –  
February 2009

# Delta Area Regional Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant



**Monthly Update Report**

*Project No.: 5007-91-2000-0310-5000-9100*

**DL, INC.**  
DOS LOGISTICS, INC.

**Monthly Summary of Work  
Delta Area Regional Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant  
(Elsa, Edcouch, and La Villa)  
Update Report**

Dos Logistics, Inc. (DL, Inc.) has compiled a summary of its work on the Delta Area Regional Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant planning services project. Comprehensive project reports and support material as they relate to respective scope items outlined in the contract are provided herein, as well as other support materials that further highlight progress and project development.

The following is a summary of the current activities, research, and analytical findings in accordance with the scope of services for the Environmental Review documents; technical evaluations and QA/QC analysis of Facility Plans; Grant/Funding Research and Submittals; and other related project correspondence.

**Environmental Information Documents**

Dos Logistics, Inc. (DL, Inc.) is currently 100% complete with the *City of La Villa* and *City of Edcouch, City of Elsa, and the Regional Service Area* Environmental Information Documents (EID). A hard copy of the City of Edcouch and La Villa EID was previously submitted to the Hidalgo County Urban County Department. Included with this submittal are hard copies of the City of Elsa and Regional Service Area EID.

**SUPPORT MATERIAL SUBMITTED: EXHIBIT 1**

Hard Copies of Final City of Elsa and Regional Service Area Environmental Information Documents

**Preliminary Engineering Report**

DL, Inc. continued work/development of the Preliminary Engineering Report for the targeted Cities, as well as a Regional Plan which will explore the option having water and wastewater facilities that will service all communities. The most cost-effective alternatives will be examined to provide the communities with the best option that will be capable of handling projected demands on the systems. All options will adhere to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's criteria

All alternatives and recommendations for the Preliminary Engineering Report will comply with Chapter 217 Design Criteria for Domestic Wastewater Systems. This rule was changed and adopted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on August 28, 2008. The previous used the criteria based on Chapter 317 which has been repealed.

The PER for the City of Elsa and Edcouch are 90% and 95 % complete, respectively. The Regional PER will be completed within one week. All PER's will include a review of the

general planning area, an inventory of the existing facilities, an evaluation of the need for the project and all alternatives considered, and finally, conclusions and recommendations.

The support material includes an opinion of probable cost. Highlighted portions represent items still being investigated for accuracy of costs.

**SUPPORT MATERIAL SUBMITTED: EXHIBIT 2**

- A. City of Elsa Preliminary Engineering Report (Draft Copy)
- B. City of Edcouch Preliminary Engineering Report (Draft Copy)

**Project Management and Coordination**

The DL, Inc. team continued its state and federal funding coordination – specifically on eligible grant funding programs for investments in public works, economic development facilities, and water and environmental programs.

On January 22, 2009, DL, Inc. coordinated a Pre-Application meeting in Austin, Texas with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to discuss funding availability through the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP). The meeting with the TWDB resulted through the coordination of Preliminary Engineering Reports, Facility Plans, Environmental Impact Documents, and respective planning studies for the cities of Edcouch, Elsa, and La Villa to the EDAP Project Lead and review staff. The Pre-Application meeting with the EDAP staff was a strategic step in identifying grant opportunities for the development of Stand-Alone or Regional Water and Wastewater Facility through the Hidalgo County – Urban County Program. The meeting resulted in the identification of a tremendous opportunity for funding assistance through the EDAP program.

Prior to the submittal of an EDAP application to the TWDB, a series of action items must be taken by the target Cities in order to meet qualifying criteria through TWDB. The EDAP staff indicated that although there is no deadline to apply for funds, projects are funded on a “first-come-first-serve” basis and the application will undergo a preliminary review when submitted to determine if any items are missing. Items lacking in the application must be met prior to final award.

On February 3, 2009, DL, Inc. met with *Delimira Olivarez, Edcouch City Manager, Mayor Calin Guzman and Commissioner Henry Martinez as well as Salomon Torres*, a representative from Congressman Hinojosa’s Office at City Hall. The meeting was used to explain to the city officials what the findings were in our Austin meeting with the TWDB. At that time the Mayor asked that we advise the City Manager what items should be placed on the agenda for the meeting on Friday, February 6, 2009.

DL, Inc. presented the recommended action items at a *City of Edcouch Council Meeting* on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Council voted unanimously to approve the items to ensure eligibility, including the following:

- Analysis and Review of required report formats water usage reports
- Analysis and Review of Model Subdivision Rule Amendments
- Analysis and Review of formula required for utility rate study

Correspondence notices were sent out to the *Cities of Elsa and La Villa* via fax and certified mail to inform the Cities of DL, Inc. application assistance services as part of this project, as well as the TWBD eligibility criteria action item(s) recommendations. It was stressed to the Cities that approval of these items would allow DL, Inc. to proceed with coordination of information on their behalf for submittal of the grant applications.

During the meeting of February 6<sup>th</sup>, DL, Inc. also advised the City of Edcouch that we were available to assist with interim solutions for their fines with the TCEQ. The Council was concerned with the amount of fees which they have incurred. We advised the council that it would be a good practice if we would provide them the plan of action which the City has taken to improve its water and waste water system. Further, during the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City of Edcouch took several actions on the matters pertaining to grant writing, specifically, matters that are required in order to be eligible for state funding.

DL, Inc. is currently coordinating grant applications to eligible state/federal programs for the following projects:

1. Stand-Alone Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and Improvements to Water Distribution System to ***Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) - Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP)***
  - Planning, Acquisition, and Design
  - Construction
2. Stand-Alone New Waste Water Treatment Plant and Improvements to Water Collection System and Lift Stations to ***TWDB - EDAP***
  - Planning, Acquisition, and Design
  - Construction
3. Water Treatment Plant Upgrades to Water Distribution and New Waste Water Treatment Plant and Improvements to Water Collection System and Lift Station to the ***United States Department of Agriculture - Office of Rural and Community Affairs***

Since DL, Inc. is 100% complete with the four EID's required under our Scope, we anticipate that this will categorize these projects at a higher grade of eligibility for potential full design and construction funding. In terms of anticipated dates for the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC), it was recently announced that our applications did not require any additional information or a site review/visit by BECC officials as the project(s) applications met their preliminary eligibility requirements. BECC has indicated that they will announce prioritization of projects by March or April of this year.

**SUPPORT MATERIAL SUBMITTED: EXHIBIT 3**

- A. January 15, 2009 City of Edcouch Project Update Presentation
- B. TWDB Meeting Minutes and Memorandum
- C. TWDB EDAP Application
- D. City of Edcouch Approved Action Items
- E. Correspondence to Cities of Elsa and La Villa regarding recommendations
- F. Email Regarding BECC Applications