

# Water Supply for Rural Tourism Initiative

Rev. 4 – June 29, 2007

## *Isla Mendez, El Salvador*

### Phase I Cost:

**\$20,400**

water supply

### Background:

Current methods of subsistence are fragile – fishing and shellfish harvesting – and detrimental to the environment and to local wildlife – e.g., selling of sea turtle eggs and depletion of forests and natural resources. The solutions are to establish opportunities for employment in a new sector of rural (eco-) tourism that attracts visitors and delegates from other countries to visit the region. This new sector will require services to be provided to the visitors, services that will be opportunities for new and sustained employment for the local villagers.

### Partners:

EWB-Central Texas

EWB-Clemson

Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America (FSSCA)

Yale School of Public Health

Rotary District 7750



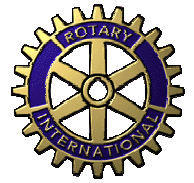
### The Need

*Isla Mendez is a Pacific coastal community of 2000+ people whose local fishing income has become depleted in recent years. The village is part of a grassroots organization of 86 peasant communities, La Coordinadora, that wishes to construct a training / visitor center, dining facility, and cabins to conduct sustainability education and to house delegations of people who want to visit the area's natural beauty and interest. Such a center will directly and indirectly provide local income to the surrounding communities. The development of a sustainable water supply system is crucial in order to supply potable water to the central community center.*

### The EWB-USA Response

*EWB-USA has been asked to assist in the design and construction of the primary water supply and sanitation systems in support of the rural tourism initiative. In addition, La Coordinadora has asked assistance on extending current sources of potable water to other communities on the same peninsula.*

*The community meeting area – to be used for education, meetings, worship services, and overnight lodging – will include a bathhouse (with showers) and a public tapstand at which local residents can obtain clean drinking*



Engineers Without Borders™-USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.

*water. Local villagers currently dig wells. Groundwater is shallow (3 to 12 feet below surface level) and is known to be contaminated with fecal coliform above safe drinking water levels. Students from Yale's School of Public Health have collected data over the past three years. Their findings and recommendations, including chlorination options, will be used for this project.*

*Sustainable technologies being considered are solar panels to power a displacement pump in the well and to provide power to computers during regular shortages. Wind power potential will be measured during early site assessments. Wind and solar technology are of extreme interest to the local farmers for their potential agricultural usage.*

*The purpose of this project is to provide alternative sources of economic sustainability by providing employment – either directly or indirectly – associated with eco-sensitive visitors to the region. Services provided by the villagers might include the home preparation of meals, restaurants, boat tours on the bay, excursions to see wildlife and the turtle hatchery, etc. The hopes of this project are that a viable economy can be achieved with minimal degradation of the environment, or, in fact, lump sums gain in environmental protection. The jobs related to rural tourism are intended to replace over-exploitation of natural resources.*

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