

SAN JAVIER, CHIAPAS, MEXICO

Community Water System Project

THE COMMUNITY

San Javier is a Zapatista community with 45 families and approximately 450 inhabitants. Families from San Javier are originally from Benito Juarez Miramar, who left after having disagreements among the community about the Zapatista movement. As with all disagreements, each side tells a different story. Although in speaking with both sides, it is evident that the separation of the community has been very hurtful to both sides, a separation that left fathers on one side and sons on the other side of the Zapatista movement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

San Javier currently gets their water from the community of Patate Nuevo, which is not a Zapatista community and is evidently reluctant to continue giving water to San Javier. Water for Patate Nuevo comes from a region known as Las Palmas higher in the mountains approximately 16 km (approximately 10 miles) from the community. Members from San Javier also found someone in this high mountainous region who is willing to let San Javier pipe water from a river that runs through their property. Although there is plenty of water, there are many concerns for a project of this magnitude, one of them being the ability to execute a long term agreement between the private property owner, his descendents and the community of San Javier. Other concerns are the ability to divert water from the river, issues related to surface water quality, the high cost of running and maintaining waterlines over ten miles, and the crossing of the Rio Jatate. It is believed therefore that such a project would be impractical and excessively expensive.

San Javier has a couple of local waterholes within the community that could be explored for the possibility of hand dug wells. Unlike San Juan las Palmas, the community of San Javier has never excavated these water sources to determine if these water sources are worth developing.

A formal proposal and cost analysis is still pending. However it is estimated that the cost of constructing and equipping a well with hand pump unit would be approximately \$2,200.

Hand Dug Well Materials	\$ 1,020
Specialized Labor	\$ 820
General Project Contingency	\$ 360
Total Estimated Project Cost:	\$ 2,200

