

APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE





**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Honorable Mark Chino, President
ATTN: Ms. Holly Houghten, Cultural Affairs Office
Mescalero Apache Tribe
124 Chiricahua Plaza
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Sir:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI_{net}* Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. *SBI_{net}* is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will help the Border Patrol secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, *SBI_{net}* plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in and around the area east of El Paso, Texas.

While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBlnet's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBlnet is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBlnet is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBlnet's proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Honorable Arturo Senclair, Governor
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Tigua Reservation
119 South Old Pueblo Road
El Paso, Texas 79907

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI^{net}



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Bill Martin
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
Austin, Texas 78701

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Martin:

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SBI_{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers,

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI^{net}



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Charles Peveto
Architecture Division
Capitol Station
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Peveto:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI_{net}*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Allen Strand
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o TAMU-CC
6300 Ocean Drive, Campus Box 338
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Strand:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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Program Manager, SBInet



U.S. Customs and
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Mr. F. Lawrence Oakes
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Oakes:

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI_{net}*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Fred Nahwoosky
Comanche Nation
584 NW Bingo Rd
HC 32 Box 1720
Lawton, Oklahoma 73507

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Nahwoosky:

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SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBI*net* would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBI*net* intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Honorable Billy Evans Horse, Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Hwy 9 West
Carnegie, OK 73015

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Sir:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI_{net}* Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI_{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers,

ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBI^{net} would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
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- Recreational Resources
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- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Honorable Jeff Houser, Chairman
Ft. Sill Apache Tribe
Attn: Mr. Leland Darrow
2 Miles north of Apache on HWY 281
Apache, Oklahoma 73006

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Sir:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBlnet's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBlnet is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBlnet is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBlnet's proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
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- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Honorable Wallace Coffey, Chairman
Comanche Nation
584 NW Bingo Rd
HC 32 Box 1720
Lawton, Oklahoma 73507

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Sir:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

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local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which *SBI_{net}* would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBI_{net} intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI_{net}*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Honorable Ronnie Lupe, Chairman
White Mountain Apache Tribal Council
Attn: Mark T. Altaha, THPO
202 East Walnut Street
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Sir:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBI*net* Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

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SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

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- Land Use and Zoning
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI*net



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

International boundary and Water Commission
U.S. Section
Attn: Doug Echlin
4171 North Mesa St., C-130
El Paso, TX 79902

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Echlin:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

*SBI*net's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers,

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Ms. Katherine Slick, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
228 East Palace Ave, Room 320
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Ms. Slick:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which *SBI*net would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

*SBI*net intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI*net



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Kathy Boydston
TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Ms. Boydston:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBI*net* Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. SBI*net* is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will help the Border Patrol secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, SBI*net* plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in and around the area east of El Paso, Texas.

While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI*net*'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers,

ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBI^{net} would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBI*net* intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Tim Bone
Texas Parks and Wildlife
West Texas Wildlife District
Natural Resource Specialist
109 South Cockrell
Alpine, TX 79830

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Bone:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI_{net}* Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described

above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which *SBI_{net}* would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBI_{net} intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI_{net}*



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 6
Attn: Archie Clouse
401 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 560
El Paso, TX 79901-1206
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Clouse:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
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- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
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- Utilities Infrastructure

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Charles Peveto
Architecture Division
Capitol Station
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Peveto:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI^{net}'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBI^{net} would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBI^{net} intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI^{net}



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region (AZ, NM, TX)
10711 Burnett Road Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

To Whom It May Concern:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBlnef's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBlnef is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBlnef is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBlnef's proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. William Seawell, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Seawell:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI*net*'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI*net* is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI*net* is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI*net*'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which *SBI*net would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

*SBI*net intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBI*net



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Ms. Celeste Brancel-Brown
Texas Parks and Wildlife
3000IH-35 South, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78704

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Ms. Brancel-Brown:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. *SBI*net is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will help the Border Patrol secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, *SBI*net plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in and around the area east of El Paso, Texas.

While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI*net*'s proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion before Fall 2007. Project deployment is expected to begin around September 2007 and reach completion around Spring 2008.

SBI*net* is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI*net* is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI*net*'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
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- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
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- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Honorable Jeff Houser, Chairman
ATTN: Mr. Leland Michael Darrow, Tribal Historian
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
Rt. 2, Box 121
Apache, Oklahoma 73006

SUBJECT: Section 106 Compliance and an Environmental Assessment for the Texas Mobile Tower Project, OBP El Paso Sector, El Paso, Texas

Dear Chairman Houser:

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Secure Border Initiative (*SBI_{net}*), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of 10 sensor and communication towers and 8 canal crossings. The objective of this *SBI_{net}* project is to develop a solution to establish and maintain effective control of the U.S. border along the approximately 73.6 miles of border in the El Paso Sector, encompassing border zones in and around the Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock, Texas OBP Areas of Responsibility (AORs). This project would support the Border Patrol's mission by strengthening national security between ports of entry (POEs) to prevent illegal entry of terrorists, terrorist weapons, contraband, and illegal aliens into the United States.

CBP and *SBI_{net}* wish to continue its consultation process with appropriate, federally recognized tribes who historically used this region and/or continue to use the area. In a letter dated September 11, 2007, we notified you of the project mentioned above. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, an archaeological survey was conducted on the 21 locations (10 primary and 2 alternate towers and 9 canal crossings 8 primary and 1 alternate). A copy of the survey report is enclosed for your review, comments, and records. The survey resulted in the discovery of no new archaeological sites. One previously recorded archaeological site is located at proposed Tower EPT_YST_059. This site, 41HZ582, is a buried AT&T communication cable installed in 1947-48 as part of the 3,000-mile transcontinental telephone cable system. The linear site is more than several miles in length and is buried three to six feet below the modern surface. The exact alignment of the cable at this location is unknown due to imprecise archival maps but it appears to be outside of the tower area of potential effect (APE). The proposed tower undertaking will not adversely affect the character, integrity, or setting of the site.

Six of the 12 tower locations and all nine crossing locations are within the boundaries of the El Paso Water Control District #1, an extensive architectural and engineering district that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1997. In addition, Tower EPT_FBN_055 is situated within 50 m of the Franklin Canal, an irrigation feature that was listed in 1992. None of the towers or crossings will have any direct adverse effect on either of these districts. The characteristics of both of these districts that make them eligible for the NRHP are their extensive nature; the Franklin Canal extends for more than 30 linear miles and the El Paso Water Control District #1 covers more than 75 square miles. Because all of the proposed towers and crossings are isolated and small in size relative to the districts, none of the proposed towers or crossings has the potential to diminish those characteristics of the districts that make them eligible for the NRHP. Further, the proposed towers and crossings will not have any adverse visual effect on either of the two districts because neither visual setting nor visual elements are character-defining elements of their eligibility.

Given the findings and recommendations noted above, which are included in the enclosed report and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have asked for the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) concurrence in our determination of, "...historic properties present but the undertaking will have no effect upon them as defined in § 800.16(i)...." If we have not heard from the SHPO within 30 days of their receipt of this letter and report, we will assume their concurrence with our determination. If you have any concerns at this time regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area, please inform us immediately.

Thank you for participating in this public process. If you have any questions pertaining to this project please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Patience Patterson, RPA at (202) 344-1131, or via e-mail to patience.patterson@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Kirk Evans, Program Manager
SBInet, Program Office

Enclosure



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 27, 2007

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet
US Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20229

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Antiquities Code of Texas, Secure Border Initiative's proposed EA for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based security system within a 71 by 25 mile border area east of El Paso, El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas (US Customs and Border Protection /Homeland Security)

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed federal undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission. As the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas, these comments also provide recommendations on compliance with state antiquities laws and regulations

The review staff, led by Debra L. Beene, has completed its review. We understand that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) has yet to be defined; however, this particular area of Texas contains very old pit house structures, camps, and villages that are one-of-a-kind, unique cultural sites. Much of the study area has a moderate to high probability of containing these significant cultural resources and an archeological investigation may be warranted. We recommend that a professional archeological staff identify the high probability areas for future investigation. We will be pleased to review the research design and survey results when available.

You can obtain lists of most professional archeologists in Texas on-line at www.rpanet.org or <http://www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org>. Please note that other professional archeologists meeting the qualifying standards may be used; see these standards at http://www.cr.nps.gov/locallaw/arch_stnds_9.htm. Please check the THC's web page for survey procedures at www.thc.state.tx.us/rulesregs/rrstate.html and follow the CTA's report guidelines http://www.thc.state.tx.us/rulesregs/RulesRegsPDF/CTA_guidelines.pdf.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your assistance in this federal and state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Debra L. Beene at 512/463-5865.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Lawrence Oaks".

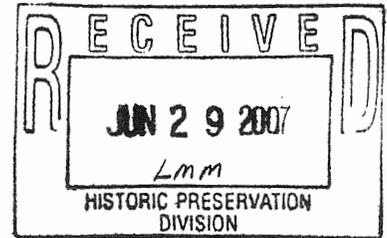
for
F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

FLO/dlb



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

081619



Ms. Katherine Slick, Director
Department of Cultural Affairs
Historic Preservation Division
228 East Palace Ave, Room 320
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Ms. Slick:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), *SBI*net Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*

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While no final decisions on locations have been made, the geographic area of this proposed action is approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border area as well, and include areas in Ysleta, Fabens and Fort Hancock located within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties.

SBI*net's* proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of illegal entrants (IEs) in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operational.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in and around Fabens, Ft. Hancock and Ysleta areas within the El Paso Border Patrol Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the El Paso Sector. Illegal cross border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of illegal cross border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

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SBI*net* is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI*net* is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI*net's* proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and

local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBInet would have to comply during project siting, construction and operation.

SBInet intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
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- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: John Wells, Project Manager at (202)344-3418 or John.A.Wells@cbp.dhs.gov.



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

COMMENTS

*We look forward to consulting
for NM State Historic Preservation Officer
under section 106 of the
National Historic Preservation Act
when the APE and historic
properties are identified.
Thank you.*

*Jim M. Meyer
7/2/07*



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

July 6, 2007

John Wells
Project Manager
SBInet Program Management Office
Ronald Reagon Bldg (Rm. 7.5-62)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Subject: Request for Information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction and operation of a technology-based border security system

Dear Mr. Wells:

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Secure Border Initiative (SBI). The following comments are provided for your perusal. As we understand the project, you propose to develop and implement technology and tactical infrastructure that will help the Border Patrol secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. The goal is to design, develop, and deploy technology-based solutions to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in and around a 71-mile area east of El Paso, Texas.

As you may already be aware, it is the responsibility of the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) to preserve the Rio Grande as the international boundary and maintain flood control works. A license will be required from the USIBWC for any proposed activities crossing or encroaching upon the United States portion of the Rio Grande. To obtain a license from the USIBWC, we will require complete compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (P.L. 91-190, as amended), the Endangered Species Act (P.L. 93-205, as amended), the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 89-665, as amended), and the Clean Water Act (Federal Water Pollution Control Act)(P.L. 92-500, P.L. 93-243, and P.L. 95-217; 33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251, et seq.). The environmental assessment documentation should be sufficient support for any request for license for the proposed SBInet initiative. Questions regarding USIBWC permitting should be addressed to Mr. Richard Peace, Operations and Maintenance Division at the letterhead address or via telephone at (915) 832-4158. Further information regarding license requests can be obtained online at: www.ibwc.state.gov/Permits_Licenses/boundary_realty.html. During the permitting process the USIBWC also requires that engineering drawings be submitted to the USIBWC for review and approval before beginning construction of the proposed project infrastructure on USIBWC property. The drawings must show the location of each component in relation to the Rio Grande.

For your information, the USIBWC will be releasing a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for its Flood Control Projects in Texas. The PEIS evaluates a range of alternatives for maintenance activities and future improvements to three of the USIBWC flood control projects (FCP) along the Rio Grande. Those flood control projects are:

- Rio Grande Rectification Project extending 84.4 miles along the Rio Grande, downstream from American Diversion Dam to Fort Quitman, Texas. For the purposes of the PEIS, this project is identified as Rectification FCP.
- Presidio-Ojinaga Flood Control Project extending over 13.1 river miles of the Rio Grande near Presidio, Texas.

- Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project extending 186 river miles on the Rio Grande, from Peñitas, Texas to the Gulf of Mexico, and including 120 miles of interior floodways.

The PEIS evaluates, at a programmatic level, potential environmental consequences that may result from implementation of a No Action Alternative and three Action Alternatives. The following environmental resources are assessed in the PEIS: water resources, biological resources, land use, air quality, noise, public health and environmental hazards, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, and cumulative impacts. Once released the PEIS will be available on the USIBWC website: www.ibwc.state.gov. You may possibly utilize information from the PEIS in developing your environmental assessment.

Also, the USIBWC has identified several priority areas within the Rio Grande Rectification Project for immediate flood control improvements. The need for improvements was determined by hydraulic modeling completed by the USIBWC in 2003. The hydraulic study indicated that increases in levee height would be required to meet USIBWC design criteria and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for flood protection and levee certification. Close coordination with this agency will be required in order to avoid schedule conflicts with current and planned levee rehabilitation efforts.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call me at (915) 832-4702, or you may contact Environmental Protection Specialist Daniel Borunda at (915) 832-4767 or via email at danielborunda@ibwc.state.gov.

Sincerely,



Gilbert G. Anaya
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist
Environmental Management Division



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78758
512 490-0057
FAX 490-0974

JUL 26 2007

John Wells
U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 7.5B-62
Washington, District of Columbia 20229

Consultation #: 21450-2007-TA-0196

Dear Mr. Wells:

This letter is in response to letters received from Kirk Evans, Project Manager, *SBI_{net}*, on June 25, 2007, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Corpus Christi Ecological Service Field Office and Austin Ecological Services Field Office (Service) regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of an *SBI_{net}* technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in western Texas. Please note that for your convenience, we have established a single point of contact for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol projects. Please send all future correspondence to Mr. Allan Strand, Field Supervisor, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, c/o TAMU-CC, 6300 Ocean Drive, Campus Box 338, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. However, you may receive letters signed by myself or Allan Strand, depending upon the geographic location of the project. For your convenience, please find enclosed a map of both offices' jurisdictions on a county-by-county basis.

According to your project description, the *SBI_{net}* project in western Texas may include communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment in a geographic area approximately 71 miles along the Texas border with Mexico, east of El Paso, Texas. It could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from the border and areas around the communities of Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock, Texas.

We are providing the following information to assist consultants and/or Federal action agencies in assessing, avoiding, and minimizing adverse effects to species listed as threatened or endangered according to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1531 *et seq.*), designated critical habitat, as well as migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 703-712), and designated wetlands.



Federally Listed Species

According to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations, it is the responsibility of each Federal agency to ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any federally-listed species. In this case the responsibility belongs to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol or their designated representative.

A county by county listing of federally-listed threatened and endangered species that occur within this office's work area can be found at <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/endangeredspecies/lists/>. You should use the county by county listing and other current species information to determine whether suitable habitat for a listed species is present at your project site. If suitable habitat is present, a qualified individual should conduct surveys to determine whether a listed species is present. After completing a habitat evaluation and/or any necessary surveys, you should evaluate the project for potential effects to listed species and make one of the following determinations:

- 1) *No effect* - the appropriate determination when a project, as proposed, is anticipated to have no effects to listed species or critical habitat. A "no effect" determination does not require section 7 consultation; however, the action agency should maintain a complete record of their evaluation, including the steps leading to the determination of affect, the qualified personnel conducting the evaluation, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related information.
- 2) *May affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* – the appropriate determination when a proposed action's anticipated effects are insignificant, discountable, or completely beneficial. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where "take" of a listed species occurs. "Take" is defined as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. In addition to the direct take of an individual animal, habitat destruction or modification can be considered take, regardless of whether it has been formally designated as critical habitat, if it would result in the death or injury of wildlife by removing essential habitat components or impairing essential behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgment, a person would not be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects, or expect discountable effects to occur. This determination requires written concurrence from the Service. A biological evaluation or other supporting information justifying this determination should be submitted with a request for written concurrence.
- 3) *May affect, is likely to adversely affect* – the appropriate determination if any adverse effect to listed species or critical habitat may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action, and the effect is not discountable or insignificant. This determination requires formal section 7 consultation.

The Service's Consultation Handbook is available online to assist you with further information on definitions, process, and fulfilling Endangered Species Act requirements for your projects at <http://endangered.fws.gov/consultations/s7hndbk/s7hndbk.htm>.

If a "may affect" determination is made, the Federal agency shall initiate the formal section 7 consultation process by writing to: Field Supervisor; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; c/o TAMU-CC, Campus Box 338; 6300 Ocean Drive; Corpus Christi, Texas 78412. If no effect is evident, no further consultation is needed; however, we would appreciate it if you could submit a copy of your determination for our files.

Non-Federal representatives (i.e. consultants, state agencies, county or local officials) may request and receive species lists, prepare environmental documents, biological assessments, and provide information for formal consultations. However, the Service requires the action agency to designate the non-Federal representative in writing. If not designated, we recommend non-Federal representatives provide a complete record of their evaluation to the Federal action agency so that they may make a determination of affect and, if necessary, consult with the appropriate Service office on the proposed action.

The Service recommends the action agency and/or non-Federal representative maintain a complete record that identifies steps leading to the determination of affect, the qualified personnel conducting the evaluation, habitat conditions, site photographs, and any other related articles. The Service's Consultation Handbook is available at <http://endangered.fws.gov/consultations/s7hndbk/s7hndbk.htm> for further information on definitions and process.

State Listed Species

The State of Texas protects certain species. Please contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (Endangered Resources Branch), Fountain Park Plaza Building, Suite 100, 3000 South IH-35, Austin, Texas 78704 (telephone 512/912-7011) for information concerning fish, wildlife, and plants of State concern or visit their website at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/endang/animals/mammals/>.

Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements various treaties and conventions for the protection of migratory birds. Under the MBTA, taking, killing or possessing migratory birds is unlawful. Many may nest in trees, brush areas or other suitable habitat. The Service recommends activities requiring vegetation removal or disturbance avoid the peak nesting period of March through August to avoid destruction of individuals, nests or eggs. If project activities must be conducted during this time, we recommend surveying for nests prior to commencing work. If a nest is found, and if possible, the Service recommends a buffer of vegetation (≥ 164 feet [ft] for songbirds, ≥ 328 ft for wading birds, and ≥ 590 ft for terns, skimmers and birds of prey) remain around the nest until young have fledged or the nest is abandoned. A list of migratory birds may be viewed at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/intrnltr/mbta/proposedbirdlist.pdf>.

Wetlands

Wetlands and riparian zones provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat and contribute to flood control, water quality enhancement, and groundwater recharge. Wetland and riparian vegetation provide food and cover for wildlife, stabilize banks, and decrease soil erosion. These areas are inherently dynamic and very sensitive to changes caused by such activities as overgrazing, logging, major construction, or earth disturbance. Executive Order 11990 asserts

that each agency shall provide leadership and take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial value of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities. Construction activities near riparian zones should be carefully designed to minimize impacts. If vegetation clearing is needed in these areas, they should be re-vegetated with native wetland and riparian vegetation to prevent erosion or loss of habitat. We recommend minimizing the area of soil scarification and initiating incremental re-establishment of herbaceous vegetation at the proposed work sites. Denuded and/or disturbed areas should be re-vegetated with a mixture of native legumes and grasses. Species commonly used for soil stabilization are listed in the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) Native Tree and Plant Directory, available from TDA at P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711. The Service also urges taking precautions to ensure sediment loading does not occur to any receiving streams in the proposed project area. To prevent and/or minimize soil erosion and compaction associated with construction activities, avoid any unnecessary clearing of vegetation, and follow established rights-of-way whenever possible. All machinery and petroleum products should be stored outside the floodplain and/or wetland area during construction to prevent possible contamination of water and soils. No permanent structures should be placed in the 100-year floodplain.

If your project will involve filling, dredging, or trenching of a wetland or riparian area it may require a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). For permitting requirements please contact the U.S. Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229, (409) 766-3002.

Beneficial Landscaping

In accordance with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species and the Executive Memorandum on Beneficial Landscaping, where possible, any landscaping associated with project plans should be limited to seeding and replanting with native species. A mixture of grasses and forbs appropriate to address potential erosion problems and long-term cover should be planted when seed is reasonably available. Although Bermuda grass is listed in seed mixtures, this species and other introduced species should be avoided as much as possible. The Service also recommends the use of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous species that are adaptable, drought tolerant and conserve water.

Service Response

Please note that the Service strives to respond to requests for project review within 30 days of receipt, however, this time period is not mandated by regulation. Responses may be delayed due to workload and lack of staff. Failure to meet the 30-day timeframe does not constitute a concurrence from the Service that the proposed project will not have effects to threatened and endangered species.

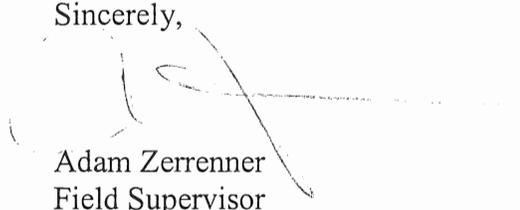
Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and other resources, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. If we can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions about these comments, please contact Larisa Ford at

Mr. John Wells

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361-994-9005. Please refer to the Service Consultation number listed above in any future correspondence regarding the siting, construction, and operation of an *SBI*net technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties in western Texas.

Sincerely,



Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor

cc: Allan Strand, Corpus Christi ESFO, Corpus Christi, Texas



August 15, 2007

Mr. John Wells
US Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229-001

RE: Proposed Secure Border Initiative (SBI) for the Siting, Construction,
and Operation of a Technology-based Border Security System, El Paso
and Hudspeth Counties

Dear Mr. Wells:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) received the request for information regarding the above-referenced border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in western Texas. TPWD staff has reviewed the information provided and offers the following information concerning this project for SBI^{net} reference in preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Project Description

Technology components that would be installed as a result of this project could include communications towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment. The proposed action is located along approximately 71 miles of the Texas border with Mexico east of El Paso. The proposed project could include areas approximately 25 miles inland from that border and areas in Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock within El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. No final decisions have been made on the locations of the proposed action.

Communication Towers

Agencies proposing to site new communications towers are strongly encouraged to co-locate the communications equipment on an existing communication tower or related structure. Depending on tower load factors, from 6-10 providers may co-locate on an existing tower. If at all possible, new towers should be located within existing "antenna farms," preferably in an area not used by migratory birds or listed species. New towers should be designed structurally and electrically to accommodate the antennas and

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Take a kid
hunting or fishing
• • •
Visit a state park
or historic site

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number of towers needed in the future. Co-location is always recommended unless the design would require the addition of lights or guy wires to an otherwise unlighted and/or unguyed tower.

If co-location is not feasible, TPWD strongly recommends that the proposed towers be less than 199 feet in height using construction techniques which do not require guy wires. Such towers should be unlighted. If the proposed towers are greater than 199 feet, TPWD recommends that the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) be used. Towers requiring lights for aviation safety should use white strobe lights.

Avoid siting towers in or near (within 3-5 miles of) wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (e.g. refuges), or habitat of threatened or endangered species known to be impacted by towers. Collisions with communications towers are a known cause of avian mortality. Large birds such as ravens, hawks and vultures frequently select towers for perching, roosting and nesting due to the expansive view of the surrounding terrain. Power connections should be properly designed and constructed so as to avoid potential bird electrocutions. If significant populations of breeding birds are known to occur within the tower footprint, seasonal restrictions on construction should be adopted in order to reduce or avoid impacts to breeding bird populations. Attached are the "***Guidelines Recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for New Communications Tower Sitings***" to further assist you in your planning activities.

Vegetation Impacts

The information provided did not specifically describe the location of the study area. The information request stated only that the proposed project would include 71 miles along the border east of El Paso. Because approximately 150 miles of the international border is located in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, it was not possible for TPWD to determine the location of the study area. Therefore, in the information provided below, the study area was considered to be the area within 25 miles of the Rio Grande in El Paso County and Hudspeth County. According to the TPWD Vegetation Types of Texas (1984), the following vegetation types are found in the project study area (see attached map):

- Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*)- Lechuguilla (*Agave lecheguilla*)
Shrub

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- Creosotebush-Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) Shrub
- Gray oak (*Quercus grisea*)- Pinyon pine (*Pinus cembroides*) Alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*) Parks/Woods
- Mesquite- Sandsage (*Artemisia filifolia*) Shrub
- Tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*)-Black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*) Grassland
- Crops
- Urban

Recommendation: TPWD recommends minimizing impacts to native vegetation to the extent feasible during project design and construction. If native vegetation must be removed to construct the necessary technology components, TPWD recommends mitigating for the loss of wildlife habitat by revegetating disturbed areas with site specific native vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife in the area.

Construction requiring ground disturbance should be conducted in conjunction with a storm water pollution prevention plan to protect drainages and streams from sedimentation. In order to enhance the stabilization of exposed soils resulting from construction activities, newly disturbed areas should be seeded or sodded with native plant species. Lists of native plant species that can be tailored to fit your site revegetation needs can be found at <http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/>.

Water Resource Impacts

The Rio Grande and tributaries to the Rio Grande including Glen Creek, Red Light Draw, Alamo Arroyo, and several other waterways are located in the project study area.

Recommendation: All waterways and associated floodplains, riparian corridors, arroyos, irrigation canals, and wetlands in the study area provide valuable wildlife habitat and should be protected to the maximum extent possible. Natural buffers contiguous to any wetlands or aquatic systems should remain undisturbed to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors.

Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implicitly prohibits intentional and unintentional take of migratory birds, including their nests and eggs, except

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where permitted. Additional information regarding the MBTA may be obtained through the Southwest Regional Office (Region 2) Division of Migratory Birds, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), at (505) 248-7882.

Recommendation: Proposed project areas should be surveyed for migratory bird nests, including ground nesting species, prior to construction. Measures should be taken to ensure that migratory bird species within and near the project area are not adversely impacted by clearing and construction activities. TPWD recommends avoiding vegetation removal during the primary breeding season, March through August, for migratory bird species to help minimize impacts to this group.

Rare and Protected Species

Based on records in the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD), occurrences of the following species and natural communities have been documented in the proposed project study area as defined above:

Federal and State Listed Endangered

Sneed's pincushion cactus (*Escobaria sneedii* var. *sneedii*)

State Listed Endangered

American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

State Listed Threatened

Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

Species of Concern

Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)

Cave myotis bat (*Myotis velifer*)

Fringed myotis bat (*Myotis thysanodes*)

Long-legged myotis bat (*Myotis volans*)

Pale Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*)

Pecos River muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus ripensis*)

Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)

Western small-footed myotis bat (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)

Yellow-nosed cotton rat (*Sigmodon ochrognathus*)

Franklin Mountains talus snail (*Sonorella metcalfi*)

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San Carlos threeband (*Humboldtiana hoegiana praesidii*)
Chisos agave (*Agave glomeruliflora*)
Comal snakewood (*Colubrina stricta*)
Desert nigh-blooming cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*)
Hueco rock-daisy (*Perityle huecoensis*)
Ojinaga ringstem (*Anulocaulis reflexus*)
Resinleaf brickellbush (*Brickellia baccharidea*)
Sand prickly-pear (*Opuntia arenaria*)
Swallow spurge (*Chamaesyce golondrina*)
Texas false saltgrass (*Allolepis texana*)
Texas wolf-berry (*Lycium texanum*)
Watson's false clappia-bush (*Pseudoclappia watsonii*)
Wheeler's spurge (*Chamaesyce geyeri* var. *wheeleriana*)

Natural Communities

Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) Series
Creosotebush-Mariola (*Larrea tridentata-Parthenium incanum*) Series
Lechuguilla-Sotol (*Agave lechuguilla-Dasyilirion leiophyllum*) Series
Oneseed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) Series
Scrub Oak-Mountain Mahogany (*Quercus pungens-Cercocarpus montanus*) Series
Sideoats Grama-Black Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula-B. eriopoda*) Series

A map showing an overview of the location of TXNDD records of rare and protected species that have been documented within the study area is attached. Because much of the data in the TXNDD overlaps, maps showing labeled records in such a large area can become cluttered and unclear. TPWD recommends SBI^{net} contact Stephanie Shelton of the Wildlife Diversity Program at (512) 912-7053 or Stephanie.Shelton@tpwd.state.tx.us to obtain TXNDD data for the study area in digital format (shapefiles).

The TXNDD is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. Absence of information in an area does not imply that a species is absent from that area. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, the data from the TXNDD do not provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features

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within your project area. These data are not inclusive and **cannot be used as presence/absence data**. They represent species that could potentially be in your project area. This information cannot be substituted for on-the-ground surveys. The TXNDD is updated continuously. As your project progresses and for future projects, please contact Stephanie Shelton for the most current and accurate information.

Determining the actual presence of a species in a given area depends on many variables including daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency and population density (both wildlife and human). The absence of a species can be demonstrated only with great difficulty and then only with repeated negative observations, taking into account all the variable factors contributing to the lack of detectable presence. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting wildlife.

Due to the limitations in the TXNDD discussed above, some rare and protected species are poorly represented in the TXNDD although they may have substantial populations in the study area. Lists of rare, threatened, and endangered species with the potential to occur in El Paso and Hudspeth Counties are attached for your reference.

Recommendation: Please review these lists, as rare species could occur throughout the study area depending on habitat availability. Updated TPWD county lists of rare and protected species can be found online at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.phtml. The USFWS should be contacted for additional species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for federally listed species. For the USFWS rare species lists please visit <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/EndangeredSpecies/lists/>.

Managed Areas

The following managed areas are located within the study area for the proposed project:

- Chamizal National Memorial
- Fort Bliss Military Reservation
- Franklin Mountains State Park
- Hueco Tanks State Historic Park
- Magoffin Home State Historic Site

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Recommendation: TPWD recommends that SBI~~net~~ contact personnel from the managed areas listed above if the proposed project could potentially impact property or activities within the facilities.

Because the locations of the project activities have not yet been decided, TPWD cannot provide specific comments on potential impacts to threatened and endangered species or general fish and wildlife resources. Once the EA has been completed, please submit a copy to TPWD for review and comment. I appreciate the opportunity to provide preliminary input on potential impacts related to this project, and I look forward to reviewing the EA. Please contact me at (512) 389-4579 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie C. Wicker".

Julie C. Wicker
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

JCW:gg.12482

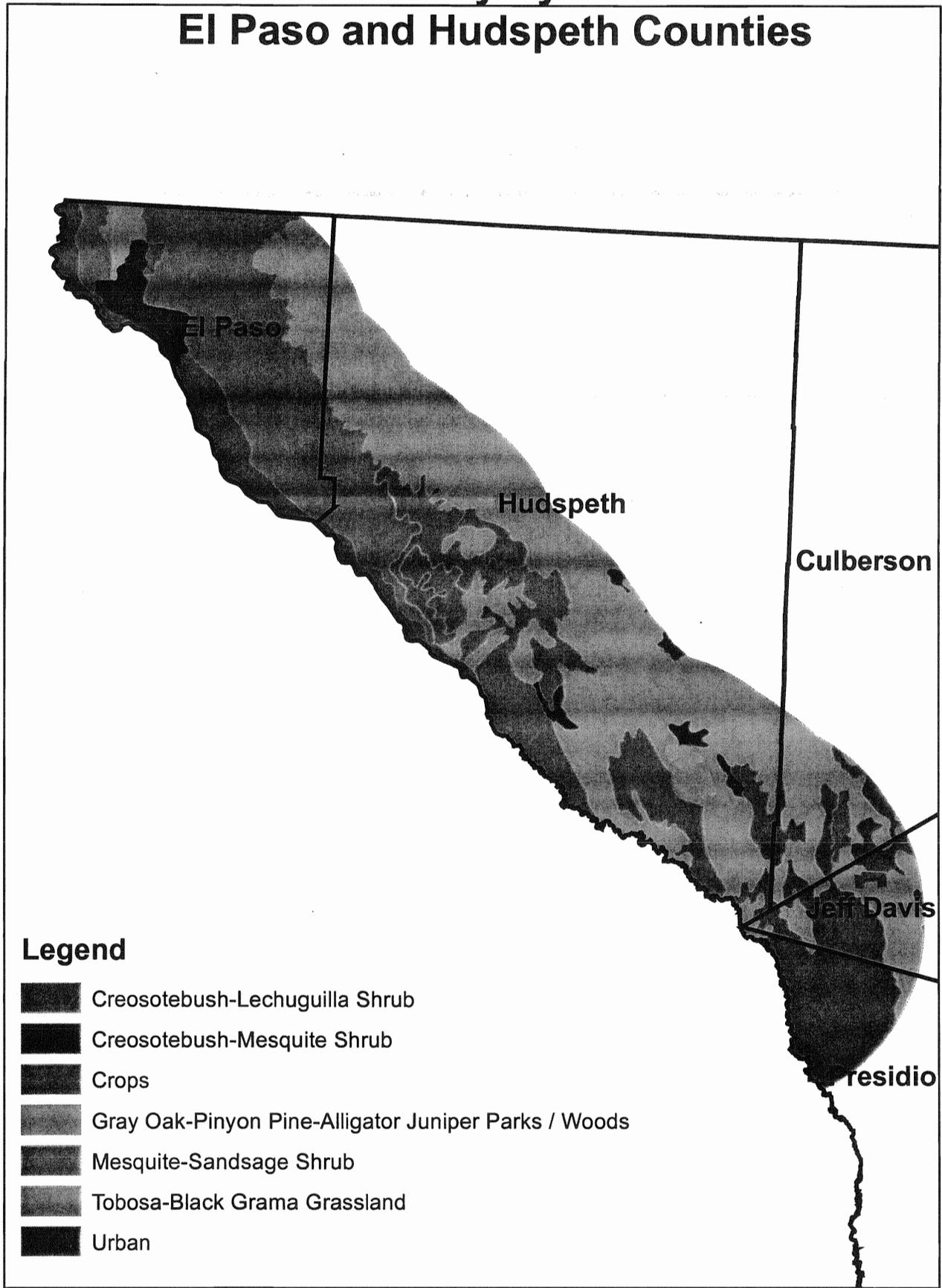
Attachments

cc: Stephanie Shelton, TPWD (w/out attachments)

Vegetation Types of Texas (1984)

International Border Security System - 25 mile Study Area

El Paso and Hudspeth Counties



Legend

- Creosotebush-Lechuguilla Shrub
- Creosotebush-Mesquite Shrub
- Crops
- Gray Oak-Pinyon Pine-Alligator Juniper Parks / Woods
- Mesquite-Sandsage Shrub
- Tobosa-Black Grama Grassland
- Urban



13 July 2007

Projection: Texas State Mapping System

Map compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.



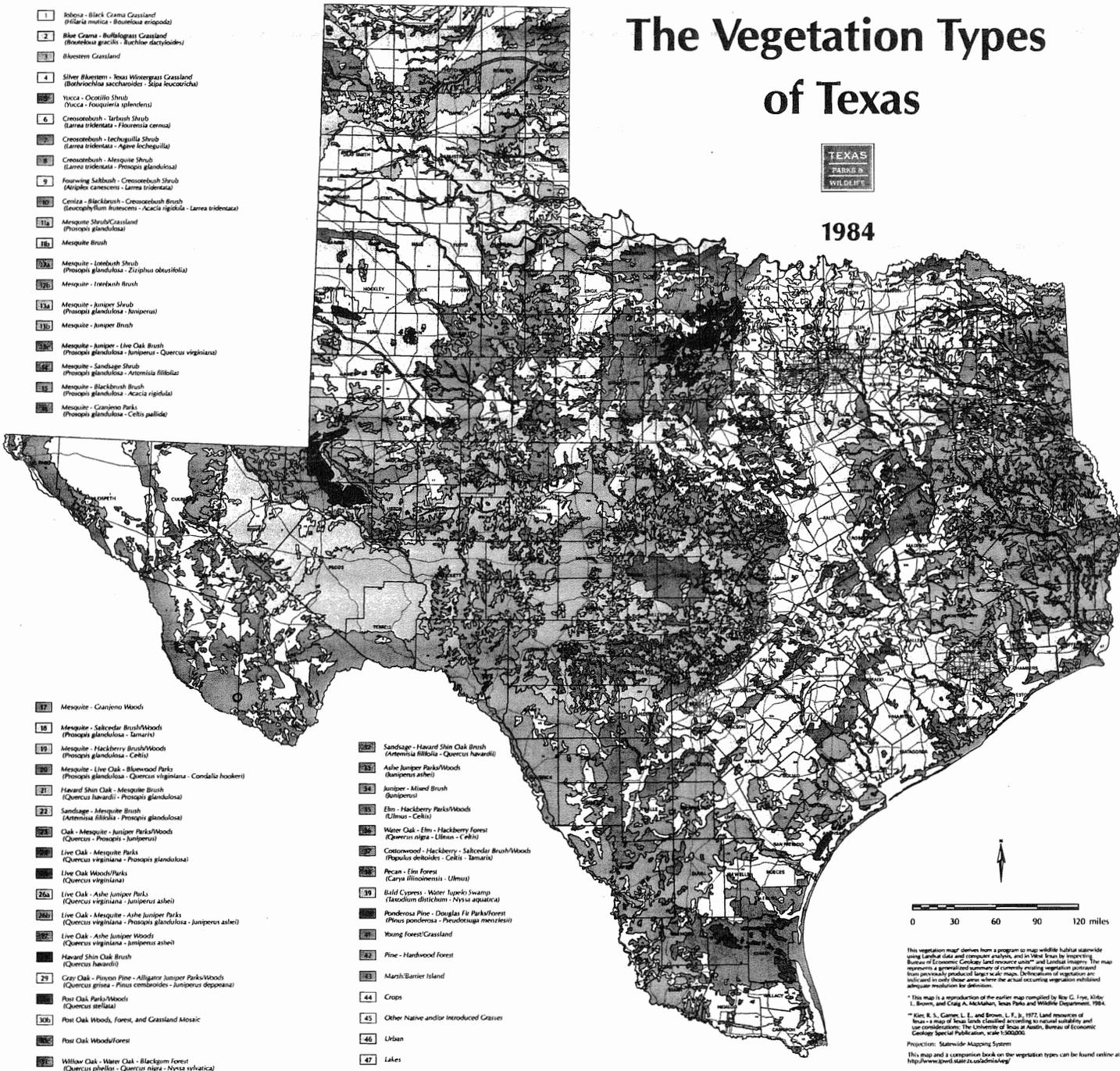
10 5 0 10 Miles



The Vegetation Types of Texas



1984



- 1 Indigo - Black Grama Grassland (*Stipa capensis* - *Bouteloua eriopoda*)
- 2 Blue Grama - Buffalograss Grassland (*Bouteloua gracilis* - *Bouteloua dactyloides*)
- 3 Bluestem Grassland
- 4 Silver Bluestem - Texas Winegrass Grassland (*Bouteloua saccharoides* - *Stipa leucostachya*)
- 5 Yucca - Ocotillo Shrub (*Yucca* - *Fouquieria splendens*)
- 6 Creosotebush - Tarbush Shrub (*Larrea tridentata* - *Fouquieria cornata*)
- 7 Creosotebush - Lecheguilla Shrub (*Larrea tridentata* - *Agave lecheguilla*)
- 8 Creosotebush - Mesquite Shrub (*Larrea tridentata* - *Prosopis glandulosa*)
- 9 Fourwing Saltbush - Creosotebush Shrub (*Grayia canescens* - *Larrea tridentata*)
- 10 Ceniza - Blackbrush - Creosotebush Brush (*Leucophyllum frutescens* - *Acacia rigidula* - *Larrea tridentata*)
- 11a Mesquite Shrub/Grassland (*Prosopis glandulosa*)
- 11b Mesquite Brush
- 12a Mesquite - Liveoak Shrub (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Ziziphus obtusifolia*)
- 12b Mesquite - Liveoak Brush
- 13a Mesquite - Juniper Shrub (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Juniperus*)
- 13b Mesquite - Juniper Brush
- 13c Mesquite - Juniper - Live Oak Brush (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Juniperus* - *Quercus virginiana*)
- 14a Mesquite - Sandalwood Shrub (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Antennaria filifolia*)
- 14b Mesquite - Blackbrush Brush (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Acacia rigidula*)
- 15a Mesquite - Granjeno Parks (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Celtis pallida*)

- 17 Mesquite - Granjeno Woods
- 18 Mesquite - Salscedar Brush/Woods (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Tamarix*)
- 19 Mesquite - Hackberry Brush/Woods (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Celtis*)
- 20 Mesquite - Live Oak - Bluewood Parks (*Prosopis glandulosa* - *Quercus virginiana* - *Condalia hookeri*)
- 21 Howard Shin Oak - Mesquite Brush (*Quercus hawardi* - *Prosopis glandulosa*)
- 22 Sandalwood - Mesquite Brush (*Antennaria filifolia* - *Prosopis glandulosa*)
- 23 Oak - Mesquite - Juniper Parks/Woods (*Quercus* - *Prosopis* - *Juniperus*)
- 24a Live Oak - Mesquite Parks (*Quercus virginiana* - *Prosopis glandulosa*)
- 24b Live Oak Woods/Parks (*Quercus virginiana*)
- 25a Live Oak - Ashe Juniper Parks (*Quercus virginiana* - *Juniperus ashei*)
- 25b Live Oak - Mesquite - Ashe Juniper Parks (*Quercus virginiana* - *Prosopis glandulosa* - *Juniperus ashei*)
- 26a Live Oak - Ashe Juniper Woods (*Quercus virginiana* - *Juniperus ashei*)
- 26b Live Oak - Ashe Juniper Woods (*Quercus virginiana* - *Juniperus ashei*)
- 27 Howard Shin Oak Brush (*Quercus hawardi*)
- 28 Crazy Oak - Pinon Pine - Alligator Juniper Parks/Woods (*Quercus grisea* - *Pinus commodorensis* - *Juniperus deppeana*)
- 29 Post Oak Parks/Woods (*Quercus steudleri*)
- 30a Post Oak Woods, Forest, and Grassland Mosaic
- 30b Post Oak Woods/Forest
- 31 Willow Oak - Manor Oak - Blackgum Forest (*Quercus phellos* - *Quercus nigra* - *Nyssa sylvatica*)

- 32a Sandalwood - Howard Shin Oak Brush (*Antennaria filifolia* - *Quercus hawardi*)
- 32b Ashe Juniper Parks/Woods (*Juniperus ashei*)
- 33 Juniper - Mixed Brush (*Juniperus*)
- 34 Elm - Hackberry Parks/Woods (*Ulmus* - *Celtis*)
- 35 Water Oak - Elm - Hackberry Forest (*Quercus nigra* - *Ulmus* - *Celtis*)
- 36 Cottonwood - Hackberry - Salscedar Brush/Woods (*Populus deltoides* - *Celtis* - *Tamarix*)
- 37 Pecan - Elm Forest (*Carya illinoensis* - *Ulmus*)
- 38 Bald Cypress - Water Tupelo Swamp (*Taxodium distichum* - *Nyssa aquatica*)
- 39 Ponderosa Pine - Douglas Fir Parks/Forest (*Pinus ponderosa* - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- 40 Young Forest/Grassland
- 41 Pine - Hardwood Forest
- 42 Marsh/Barrier Island
- 43 Crops
- 44 Other Native and/or Introduced Grasses
- 45 Urban
- 46 Lakes



This vegetation map derives from a program to map wildlife habitat statewide using lands of state and computer analysis, and in West Texas by inspecting Bureau of Economic Geology, land resource atlas and forest inventories. The map represents a generalized summary of currently existing vegetation patterns based primarily on data from large scale maps. Delineations of vegetation are indicated in only those areas where the actual occurring vegetation exhibited adequate resolution for definition.

* This map is a reproduction of the earlier map compiled by Roy G. Frye, Walter L. Brown, and Craig A. McMillan, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 1984.

** Alan R. S. Campton, L. J., and Brown, L. J., Jr. 1972. Land resources of Texas - a map of Texas lands classified according to natural suitability and use considerations. The University of Texas at Austin, Bureau of Economic Geology Special Publication, scale 1:500,000.

Projection: Statewide Mapping System

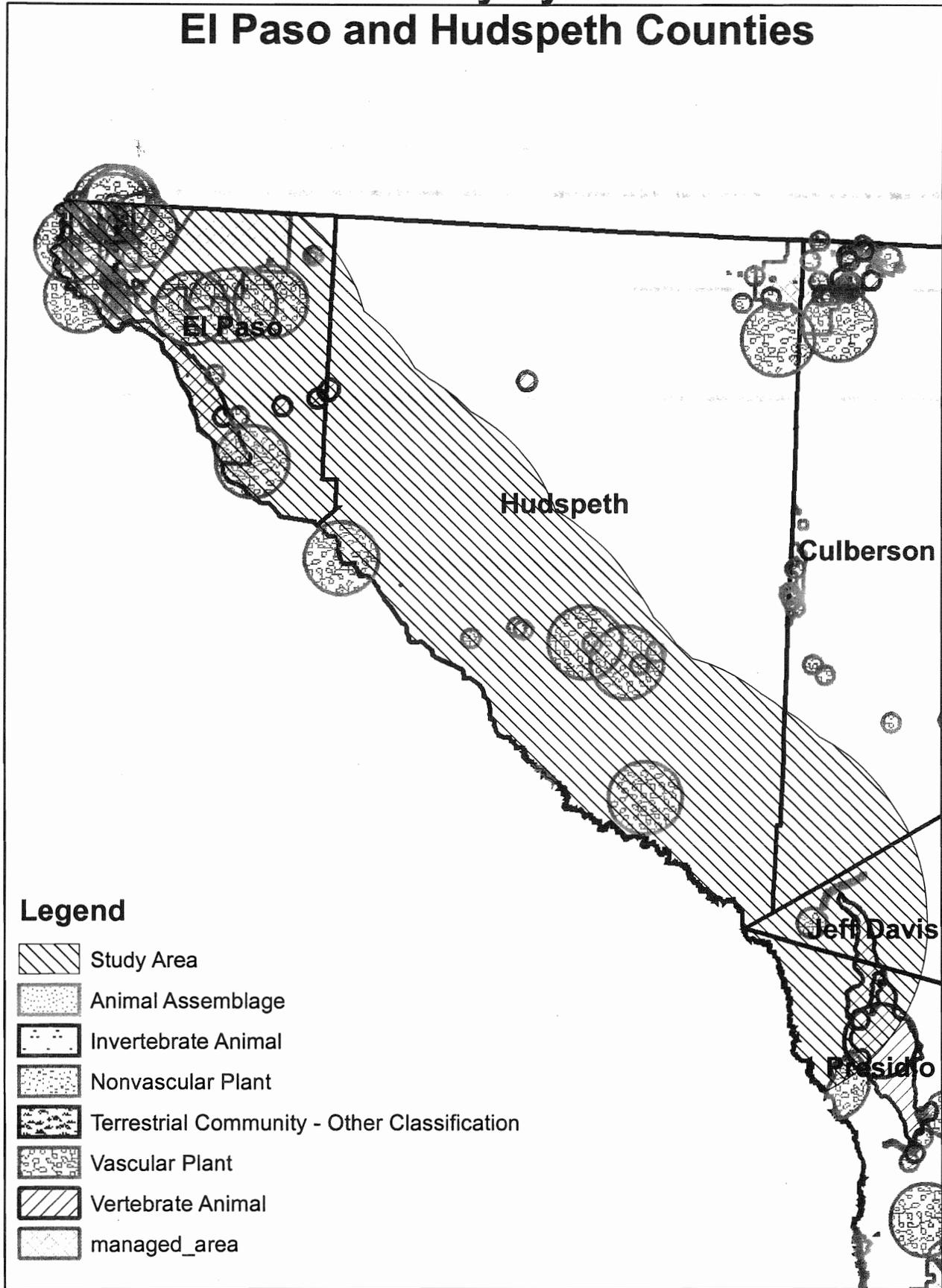
This map and a companion book on the vegetation types can be found online at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/ohm/veg/>

Map prepared by GIS Lab, TPWD

TXNDD Data Overview

International Border Security System - 25 mile Study Area

El Paso and Hudspeth Counties



13 July 2007

Projection: Texas State Mapping System

Map compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program. No claims are made to the accuracy of the data or to the suitability of the data to a particular use.



Texas Natural Diversity Database: Map Interpretation and Use

In our database every element occurrence representation (EORep) is represented geographically as a polygon. The polygon is a combination of the geographic location of the reported observation and the locational uncertainty of the observation.

Data Interpretation

When viewing the map data that has been provided, interpretation is not necessarily intuitive. Each record consists of at least one polygon, be that polygon a simple circle or a more complex boundary. However, a record may consist of numerous shapes that all combine to represent a single occurrence. An occurrence may consist of many observations over many years. What an occurrence of a species has in common is geographic proximity to other observations of that same species. By combining observations over time we develop a better representation of that species in a specific area. Distances used to decide if an observation should be part of an occurrence or not can be found as part of the species information on the NatureServe Explorer web site (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>) under the heading of EO Separation Distances.

When interpreting an occurrence as it is displayed on screen in a GIS application or on a map, the representation of that occurrence is the smallest feature that could be drawn that we are confident contains that occurrence inside its boundaries. Therefore, when analyzing an EORep, we are confident that the element in question (plant, animal, ...) could be found within the boundary of the EORep on the day it was observed. We cannot be certain where within that EORep the element occurred or what the distribution of the element was within the EORep. We only know that for the day(s) in question, the element could be found within the boundaries of the EORep. Further, the boundary of any EORep is not necessarily meant to indicate the total real extent of the element. The EORep is only meant to geographically represent the observation(s) in the best, most accurate way possible based on the available data. The absence of information on the map should not be interpreted as an absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species in that location. These data cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence, or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features in any area. Nor can these data substitute for on-site evaluation by qualified biologists. The Texas Natural Diversity Database information is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features.

The Texas Natural Diversity Database data is not to be published in a public document, nor redistributed. Refer all requests for data or maps back to the Texas Natural Diversity Database to obtain the most current information. The Texas Natural Diversity Database is a dynamic database that changes almost daily. You are encouraged to request updates to data at least quarterly for ongoing long term projects.

If you have any questions about use or interpretation of the data please call Bob Gottfried (512)912-7044 or email to bob.gottfried@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Guidelines Recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for New Communications Tower Sitings

1. Any company/licensee proposing to site a new communications tower is strongly encouraged to co-locate the communications equipment on an existing communication tower or related structure (*e.g.*, church steeple, billboard mount, monopole, or building mount). Depending on tower load factors, from 6-10 providers may co-locate on an existing tower. If co-location is not possible, the tower licensee should justify in writing why co-location is not feasible.
2. If co-location is not feasible, providers are strongly encouraged to construct towers less than 199 feet, using construction techniques which do not require guy wires (*e.g.*, use a lattice structure). Such towers should be unlighted. If at all possible, new towers should be located within existing "antenna farms," preferably in areas not used by migratory birds or listed species. Avoid siting towers in or near – within 3-5 miles – of wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (*e.g.*, Refuges), or in Critical Habitat of threatened or endangered species known to be impacted by towers. Review local meteorological conditions, and recommend against siting towers in areas with an especially high incidence of fog, mist and low ceilings.
3. If taller (>199 feet) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) should be used. Only white strobe lights should be used at night, and these should be the minimum number, minimum intensity, and minimum number of flashes per minute (longest duration between flashes) allowable by the FAA. The use of solid red or pulsating red warning lights at night should be avoided. Current research indicates that solid or pulsating (beacon) red lights attract night-migrating birds at a much higher rate than white strobe lights.
4. Towers constructed in known raptor or waterbird concentration areas which must use guy wires for support should have daytime visual markers on the wires to minimize collisions by these diurnally moving species.
5. Towers should be constructed so as to limit or minimize habitat loss within the tower "footprint." Road access and fencing should be minimized to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation and disturbance, and to reduce above ground obstacles to birds in flight. However, a larger tower footprint is preferable to the use of guy wires in construction.
6. If significant populations of breeding birds are known to occur within the tower footprint, seasonal restrictions on construction should be adopted in order to reduce or avoid impacts to breeding bird populations.
7. New towers should be designed structurally and electrically to accommodate the applicant's antennas and comparable antennas for at least two additional users (minimum of three users required for each tower structure), in order to reduce the number of towers needed in the future, unless this design would require the addition of lights or guy wires to an otherwise unlighted and/or unguyed tower.
8. Security lighting for on-ground facilities and equipment should be down-shielded to keep light within the boundaries of the site.
9. Towers no longer in use or determined to be obsolete should be removed within 12 months of cessation of use.

Notes for
County Lists of Texas' Special Species

The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) county lists **include**:

Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Vascular Plants identified as being of conservation concern by TPWD within Texas. These special species lists are comprised of species, subspecies, and varieties that are federally listed; proposed to be federally listed; have federal candidate status; are state listed; or carry a global conservation status indicating a species is critically imperiled, very rare, vulnerable to extirpation, or uncommon.

The TPWD county lists **do not include**:

Natural Plant Communities such as Little Bluestem-Indiangrass Series (native prairie remnant), Water Oak-Willow Oak Series (bottomland hardwood community), Saltgrass-Cordgrass Series (salt or brackish marsh), Sphagnum-Beakrush Series (seepage bog).

Other Significant Features such as bird rookeries, migratory songbird fallout areas, comprehensive migratory bird information, bat roosts, bat caves, invertebrate caves, and prairie dog towns.

These lists are not all inclusive for all rare species distributions. The lists were compiled, developed, and are updated based on field guides, staff expertise, scientific publications, and the TPWD Natural Diversity Database (NDD) (formerly the Biological and Conservation Data System) occurrence data. Historic ranges for some state extirpated species, full historic distributions for some extant species, accidentals and irregularly appearing species, and portions of migratory routes for particular species are not necessarily included. Species that appear on county lists do not all share the same probability of occurrence within a county. Some species are migrants or wintering residents only. Additionally, a few species may be historic or considered extirpated within a county.

TPWD includes the Federal listing status for your convenience and makes every attempt to keep the information current and correct. However, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the responsible authority for Federal listing status. The TPWD lists do not substitute for contact with the FWS and federally listed species county ranges may vary from the FWS county level species lists because of the inexact nature of range map development and use.

Status Key:

- LE, LT - Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened
- PE, PT - Federally Proposed Endangered/Threatened
- E/SA, T/SA - Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened by Similarity of Appearance
- C - Federal Candidate for Listing; formerly Category 1 Candidate
- DL, PDL - Federally Delisted/Proposed for Delisting
- NL - Not Federally Listed
- E, T - State Listed Endangered/Threatened
- NT - Not tracked or no longer tracked by the State
- "blank" - Rare, but with no regulatory listing status

This information is specifically for your assistance only; due to continuing data updates, **please do not redistribute the lists**, instead refer all requesters to the web site at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.phtml or to our office for the most current information available. For questions regarding county lists, please call (512) 912-7011.

Please use the following citation to credit the source for this county level information:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division, Diversity and Habitat Assessment Programs. County Lists of Texas' Special Species. [county name(s) and revised date(s)].

HUDSPETH COUNTY

BIRDS

Federal Status State Status

American Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum* DL E

year-round resident and local breeder in west Texas, nests in tall cliff eyries; also, migrant across state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.

Arctic Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus tundrius* DL T

migrant throughout state from subspecies' far northern breeding range, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.

Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii*

shortgrass prairie with scattered low bushes and matted vegetation; mostly migratory in western half of State, though winters in Mexico and just across Rio Grande into Texas from Brewster through Hudspeth counties

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

open country, primarily prairies, plains, and badlands; nests in tall trees along streams or on steep slopes, cliff ledges, river-cut banks, hillsides, power line towers; year-round resident in northwestern high plains, wintering elsewhere throughout western 2/3 of Texas

Interior Least Tern *Sterna antillarum athalassos* LE E

subspecies is listed only when inland (more than 50 miles from a coastline); nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams, rivers; also know to nest on man-made structures (inland beaches, wastewater treatment plants, gravel mines, etc); eats small fish and crustaceans, when breeding forages within a few hundred feet of colony

Mexican Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis lucida* LT T

remote, shaded canyons of coniferous mountain woodlands (pine and fir); nocturnal predator of mostly small rodents and insects; day roosts in densely vegetated trees, rocky areas, or caves

Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae*

open pine-oak or juniper-oak with ground cover of bunch grass on flats and slopes of semi-desert mountains and hills; travels in pairs or small groups; eats succulents, acorns, nuts, and weed seeds, as well as various invertebrates

Mountain Plover *Charadrius montanus*

breeding: nests on high plains or shortgrass prairie, on ground in shallow depression; nonbreeding: shortgrass plains and bare, dirt (plowed) fields; primarily insectivorous

Northern Aplomado Falcon *Falco femoralis septentrionalis* LE E

open country, especially savanna and open woodland, and sometimes in very barren areas; grassy plains and valleys with scattered mesquite, yucca, and cactus; nests in old stick nests of other bird species

HUDSPETH COUNTY

BIRDS

Federal Status State Status

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* DL E T

both subspecies migrate across the state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada to winter along coast and farther south; subspecies (*F. p. anatum*) is also a resident breeder in west Texas; the two subspecies' listing statuses differ, thus the species level shows this dual listing status; because the subspecies are not easily distinguishable at a distance, reference is generally made only to the species level; see subspecies for habitat.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*

open, mountainous areas, plains and prairie; nests on cliffs

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

formerly an uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast

Southwestern Willow *Empidonax traillii extimus* LE E

Flycatcher

thickets of willow, cottonwood, mesquite, and other species along desert streams

Western Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*

open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roosts in abandoned burrows

Western Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*

uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast

Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis* C;NL

status applies only to western population beyond the Pecos River Drainage; breeds in riparian habitat and associated drainages; springs, developed wells, and earthen ponds supporting mesic vegetation; deciduous woodlands with cottonwoods and willows; dense understory foliage is important for nest site selection; nests in willow, mesquite, cottonwood, and hackberry; forages in similar riparian woodlands; breeding season mid-May-late Sept

FISHES

Federal Status State Status

Bluntnose shiner *Notropis simus* T

extirpated; Rio Grande; main river channel, often below obstructions over substrate of sand, gravel, and silt; damming and irrigation practices presumed major factors contributing to decline

Rio Grande silvery minnow *Hybognathus amarus* LE E

extirpated; historically Rio Grande and Pecos River systems and canals; pools and backwaters of medium to large streams with low or moderate gradient in mud, sand, or gravel bottom; ingests mud and bottom ooze for algae and other organic matter; probably spawns on silt substrates of quiet coves

West Mexican redhorse *Scartomyzon austrinus*

Rio Grande basin above Amistad Reservoir; restricted to rocky riffles of creeks and small to medium rivers, often near boulders in swift water

HUDSPETH COUNTY

INSECTS

Federal Status State Status

A Royal moth

Sphingicampa raspa

woodland - hardwood; with oaks, junipers, legumes and other woody trees and shrubs; good density of legume caterpillar foodplants must be present; Prairie acacia (*Acacia augustissima*) is the documented caterpillar foodplant, but there could be a few other woody legumes used

A tiger beetle

Cicindela hornii

grassland/herbaceous; burrowing in or using soil; dry areas on hillside or mesas where soil is rocky or loamy and covered with grasses, invertivore; diurnal, hibernates/aestivates, active mostly for several days after heavy rains. the life cycle probably takes two years so larvae would always be present in burrows in the soil

A tiger beetle

Amblycheila picolominii

bare rock/talus/scree, desert, grassland/herbaceous; burrowing in or using soil; invertivore; crepuscular, nocturnal, hibernates/aestivates; larva always present in burrows in soil

Barbara Ann's tiger beetle

Cicindela politula barbarannae

limestone outcrops in arid treeless environments or in openings within less arid pine-juniper-oak communities; open limestone substrate itself is almost certainly an essential feature; roads and trails

Guadalupe Mountains tiger beetle

Cicindela politula petrophila

open, sunny areas; predaceous and feeds on a variety of small insects; larva lives in vertical burrows in soil of dry paths, fields, or sandy beaches

Leonora's dancer damselfly

Argia leonorae

south central and western Texas; small streams and seepages

MAMMALS

Federal Status State Status

Big free-tailed bat

Nyctinomops macrotis

habitat data sparse but records indicate that species prefers to roost in crevices and cracks in high canyon walls, but will use buildings, as well; reproduction data sparse, gives birth to single offspring late June-early July; females gather in nursery colonies; winter habits undetermined, but may hibernate in the Trans-Pecos; opportunistic insectivore

Black bear

Ursus americanus

T/SA;NL

T

bottomland hardwoods and large tracts of inaccessible forested areas; due to field characteristics similar to Louisiana Black Bear (LT, T), treat all east Texas black bears as federal and state listed Threatened

Black-footed ferret

Mustela nigripes

LE

E

extirpated; inhabited prairie dog towns in the general area

Black-tailed prairie dog

Cynomys ludovicianus

dry, flat, short grasslands with low, relatively sparse vegetation, including areas overgrazed by cattle; live in large family groups

Cave myotis bat

Myotis velifer

HUDSPETH COUNTY

MAMMALS

Federal Status State Status

colonial and cave-dwelling; also roosts in rock crevices, old buildings, carports, under bridges, and even in abandoned Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) nests; roosts in clusters of up to thousands of individuals; hibernates in limestone caves of Edwards Plateau and gypsum cave of Panhandle during winter; opportunistic insectivore

Davis Mountains cottontail *Sylvilagus floridanus robustus*

brushy pastures, brushy edges of cultivated fields, and well-drained streamsides; active mostly at twilight and at night, where they may forage in a variety of habitats, including open pastures, meadows, or even lawns; rest during daytime in thickets or in underground burrows and small culverts; feed on grasses, forbs, twigs and bark; not sociable and seldom seen feeding together

Desert bighorn sheep *Ovis canadensis mexicana*

rough, rocky mountainous terrain; bluffs and steep slopes with sparse vegetation

Desert pocket gopher *Geomys arenarius*

cottonwood-willow association along the Rio Grande in El Paso and Hudspeth counties; live underground, but build large and conspicuous mounds; life history not well documented, but presumed to eat mostly vegetation, be active year round, and bear more than one litter per year

Fringed bat *Myotis thysanodes*

habitat variable, ranging from mountainous pine, oak, and pinyon-juniper to desert-scrub, but prefers grasslands at intermediate elevations; highly migratory species that arrives in Trans-Pecos by May to form nursery colonies; single offspring born June-July; roosts colonially in caves, mine tunnels, rock crevices, and old buildings

Ghost-faced bat *Mormoops megalophylla*

colonially roosts in caves, crevices, abandoned mines, and buildings; insectivorous; breeds late winter-early spring; single offspring born per year

Gray wolf *Canis lupus* LE E

extirpated; formerly known throughout the western two-thirds of the state in forests, brushlands, or grasslands

Gray-footed chipmunk *Tamias canipes*

forest-dwelling; occur in Texas only in the Sierra Diablo and Guadalupe Mountains in the Trans-Pecos; favorite habitat is downed logs near edges of clearings; also occur in dense stands of mixed timber (oaks, pines, firs) and on brushy hillsides, especially with rock crevices

Guadalupe southern pocket gopher *Thomomys bottae guadalupensis*

known from Guadalupe Mountains; habitat variable, ranging from loose sands and silts to tight clays; dry deserts to montane meadows; active year round, mostly underground; diet variable, but mostly roots and tubers; breeds continuously, but main season in spring

Limpia Creek pocket gopher *Thomomys bottae texensis*

HUDSPETH COUNTY

MAMMALS

Federal Status State Status

throughout Davis Mountains; habitat variable, ranging from lower canyons to higher coniferous woodlands; loose sands and silts to tight clays; dry deserts to montane meadows; active year round, mostly underground; diet variable, but mostly roots and tubers; breeds continuously, but main season in spring

Limpia southern pocket gopher *Thomomys bottae limpiae*

Limpia Canyon area of Davis Mountains; habitat variable, ranging from loose sands and silts to tight clays; active year round, mostly underground; diet variable, but mostly roots and tubers; breeds continuously, but main season in spring

Long-legged bat *Myotis volans*

in Texas, Trans-Pecos region; high, open woods and mountainous terrain; nursery colonies (which may contain several hundred individuals) form in summer in buildings, crevices, and hollow trees; apparently do not use caves as day roosts, but may use such sites at night; single offspring born June-July

Pale Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*

roosts in caves, abandoned mine tunnels, and occasionally old buildings; hibernates in groups during winter; in summer months, males and females separate into solitary roosts and maternity colonies, respectively; single offspring born May-June; opportunistic insectivore

Pecos River muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus ripensis*

creeks, rivers, lakes, drainage ditches, and canals; prefer shallow, fresh water with clumps of marshy vegetation, such as cattails, bulrushes, and sedges; live in dome-shaped lodges constructed of vegetation; diet is mainly vegetation; breed year round

Western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*

roosts in tree foliage in riparian areas, also inhabits xeric thorn scrub and pine-oak forests; likely winter migrant to Mexico; multiple pups born mid-May - late Jun

Western small-footed bat *Myotis ciliolabrum*

mountainous regions of the Trans-Pecos, usually in wooded areas, also found in grassland and desert scrub habitats; roosts beneath slabs of rock, behind loose tree bark, and in buildings; maternity colonies often small and located in abandoned houses, barns, and other similar structures; apparently occurs in Texas only during spring and summer months; insectivorous

Yellow-nosed cotton rat *Sigmodon ochrognathus*

higher elevations in the Chisos Mountains, Davis Mountains, and Sierra Vieja; rocky slopes with scattered bunches of grass; underground dens and aboveground nests in various locations, including at base of agaves or roots of junipers; active in daytime; several litters possible during breeding season of March-October

Yuma myotis bat *Myotis yumanensis*

desert regions; most commonly found in lowland habitats near open water, where forages; roosts in caves, abandoned mine tunnels, and buildings; season of partus is May to early July; usually only one young born to each female

MOLLUSKS

Federal Status State Status

HUDSPETH COUNTY

MOLLUSKS

Federal Status State Status

Northern threeband *Humboldtiana ultima*
leaf litter in mesic canyons of limestone mountains; in soil, under rocks

REPTILES

Federal Status State Status

Big Bend slider *Trachemys gaigeae*
almost exclusively aquatic, sliders (*Trachemys* spp.) prefer quiet bodies of fresh water with muddy bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation, which is their main food source; will bask on logs, rocks or banks of water bodies; breeding March-July

Chihuahuan Desert lyre snake *Trimorphodon wilkinsonii* T

mostly crevice-dwelling in predominantly limestone-surfaced desert northwest of the Rio Grande from Big Bend to the Franklin Mountains, especially in areas with jumbled boulders and rock faults/fissures; secretive; egg-bearing; eats mostly lizards

Mountain short-horned lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi* T

diurnal, usually in open, shrubby, or openly wooded areas with sparse vegetation at ground level; soil may vary from rocky to sandy; burrows into soil or occupies rodent burrow when inactive; eats ants, spiders, snails, sowbugs, and other invertebrates; inactive during cold weather; breeds March-September

Texas horned lizard *Phrynosoma cornutum* T

open, arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent burrows, or hides under rock when inactive; breeds March-September

PLANTS

Federal Status State Status

Chisos agave *Agave glomeruliflora*
grasslands or oak-juniper woodlands at elevations of about 1050-1850 m (3500-6000 ft); flowering July-August

Desert night-blooming cereus *Peniocereus greggii* var *greggii*
shrublands in lower elevation desert flats and washes; flowering concentrated during a few nights in late May to late June

Gyp locoweed *Astragalus gypsodes*
gypsum or stiff gypseous clay soils on low rolling hills, mostly low elevations in areas adjacent to the Guadalupe Mountains; many of the known locations are on the Castile Formation (Permian); flowering April-June

Gypsum scalebroom *Lepidospartum burgessii*
grasslands on stabilized gypsum; flowering May-late summer

Sand prickly-pear *Opuntia arenaria*

HUDSPETH COUNTY

PLANTS

Federal Status

State Status

deep, loose sands in sparsely vegetated dune or sandhill areas; flowering May-June

Sand sacahuista

Nolina arenicola

windblown Quaternary sand in dune areas east of Van Horn; also in shrublands on steep Permian limestone slopes in the Guadalupe Mountains; flowering March-August

Smooth-stem skullcap

Scutellaria laevis

on mountain slopes and in arroyos along dry streambeds; known from Beach and Guadalupe mountains; flowering April-September

Swallow spurge

Chamaesyce golondrina

alluvial or eolian sand along Rio Grande, occasionally on adjacent shale or limestone slopes; flowering June-November

Terlingua brickellbush

Brickellia hinckleyi var *terlinguensis*

various situations in Chihuahuan Desert; slopes in the Chisos Mountains; also along creek bottoms; flowering July-October?

Texas wolf-berry

Lycium texanum

semi-desert grasslands and thorn shrublands on sandy, gravelly, and/or loamy soils, on very gently sloping terrain as well as in rocky areas in canyons, often over limestone at moderate elevations; flowering March-October

Watson's false clappia-bush

Pseudoclappia watsonii

Chihuahuan Desert shrublands on dry, rocky, gypseous clay hills; flowering May-August

Wheeler's spurge

Chamaesyce geyeri var *wheeleriana*

sparsely vegetated loose sand in reddish sand dunes or coppice mounds; flowering and fruiting August-September?

EL PASO COUNTY

AMPHIBIANS

Federal Status State Status

Northern leopard frog *Rana pipiens*

streams, ponds, lakes, wet prairies, and other bodies of water; will range into grassy, herbaceous areas some distance from water; eggs laid March-May and tadpoles transform late June-August; may have disappeared from El Paso County due to habitat alteration

BIRDS

Federal Status State Status

American Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*

DL E

year-round resident and local breeder in west Texas, nests in tall cliff eyries; also, migrant across state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.

Arctic Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus tundrius*

DL T

migrant throughout state from subspecies' far northern breeding range, winters along coast and farther south; occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban, concentrations along coast and barrier islands; low-altitude migrant, stopovers at leading landscape edges such as lake shores, coastlines, and barrier islands.

Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii*

shortgrass prairie with scattered low bushes and matted vegetation; mostly migratory in western half of State, though winters in Mexico and just across Rio Grande into Texas from Brewster through Hudspeth counties

Ferruginous Hawk *Buteo regalis*

open country, primarily prairies, plains, and badlands; nests in tall trees along streams or on steep slopes, cliff ledges, river-cut banks, hillsides, power line towers; year-round resident in northwestern high plains, wintering elsewhere throughout western 2/3 of Texas

Interior Least Tern *Sterna antillarum athalassos*

LE E

subspecies is listed only when inland (more than 50 miles from a coastline); nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams, rivers; also know to nest on man-made structures (inland beaches, wastewater treatment plants, gravel mines, etc); eats small fish and crustaceans, when breeding forages within a few hundred feet of colony

Mexican Spotted Owl *Strix occidentalis lucida*

LT T

remote, shaded canyons of coniferous mountain woodlands (pine and fir); nocturnal predator of mostly small rodents and insects; day roosts in densely vegetated trees, rocky areas, or caves

Montezuma Quail *Cyrtonyx montezumae*

open pine-oak or juniper-oak with ground cover of bunch grass on flats and slopes of semi-desert mountains and hills; travels in pairs or small groups; eats succulents, acorns, nuts, and weed seeds, as well as various invertebrates

EL PASO COUNTY

BIRDS

Federal Status State Status

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* DL E T

both subspecies migrate across the state from more northern breeding areas in US and Canada to winter along coast and farther south; subspecies (F. p. anatum) is also a resident breeder in west Texas; the two subspecies' listing statuses differ, thus the species level shows this dual listing status; because the subspecies are not easily distinguishable at a distance, reference is generally made only to the species level; see subspecies for habitat.

Prairie Falcon *Falco mexicanus*

open, mountainous areas, plains and prairie; nests on cliffs

Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

formerly an uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* LE E

thickets of willow, cottonwood, mesquite, and other species along desert streams

Western Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia hypugaea*

open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports; nests and roosts in abandoned burrows

Western Snowy Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*

uncommon breeder in the Panhandle; potential migrant; winter along coast

Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis* C;NL

status applies only to western population beyond the Pecos River Drainage; breeds in riparian habitat and associated drainages; springs, developed wells, and earthen ponds supporting mesic vegetation; deciduous woodlands with cottonwoods and willows; dense understory foliage is important for nest site selection; nests in willow, mesquite, cottonwood, and hackberry; forages in similar riparian woodlands; breeding season mid-May-late Sept

FISHES

Federal Status State Status

Bluntnose shiner *Notropis simus* T

extirpated; Rio Grande; main river channel, often below obstructions over substrate of sand, gravel, and silt; damming and irrigation practices presumed major factors contributing to decline

Rio Grande silvery minnow *Hybognathus amarus* LE E

extirpated; historically Rio Grande and Pecos River systems and canals; pools and backwaters of medium to large streams with low or moderate gradient in mud, sand, or gravel bottom; ingests mud and bottom ooze for algae and other organic matter; probably spawns on silt substrates of quiet coves

INSECTS

Federal Status State Status

A Royal moth *Sphingicampa raspa*

EL PASO COUNTY

INSECTS

Federal Status State Status

woodland - hardwood; with oaks, junipers, legumes and other woody trees and shrubs; good density of legume caterpillar foodplants must be present; Prairie acacia (*Acacia augustissima*) is the documented caterpillar foodplant, but there could be a few other woody legumes used.

A tiger beetle *Cicindela hornii*

grassland/herbaceous; burrowing in or using soil; dry areas on hillside or mesas where soil is rocky or loamy and covered with grasses, invertivore; diurnal, hibernates/aestivates, active mostly for several days after heavy rains. the life cycle probably takes two years so larvae would always be present in burrows in the soil

Barbara Ann's tiger beetle *Cicindela politula barbarannae*

limestone outcrops in arid treeless environments or in openings within less arid pine-juniper-oak communities; open limestone substrate itself is almost certainly an essential feature; roads and trails

Poling's hairstreak *Fixsenia polingi*

oak woodland with *Quercus grisea* as substantial component, probably also uses *Q. emoryi*; larvae feed on new growth of *Q. grisea*, adults utilize nectar from a variety of flowers including milkweed and catslaw acacia; adults fly mid May - Jun, again mid Aug - early Sept

MAMMALS

Federal Status State Status

Big free-tailed bat *Nyctinomops macrotis*

habitat data sparse but records indicate that species prefers to roost in crevices and cracks in high canyon walls, but will use buildings, as well; reproduction data sparse, gives birth to single offspring late June-early July; females gather in nursery colonies; winter habits undetermined, but may hibernate in the Trans-Pecos; opportunistic insectivore

Black bear *Ursus americanus* T/SA;NL T

bottomland hardwoods and large tracts of inaccessible forested areas; due to field characteristics similar to Louisiana Black Bear (LT, T), treat all east Texas black bears as federal and state listed Threatened

Black-footed ferret *Mustela nigripes* LE E

extirpated; inhabited prairie dog towns in the general area

Black-tailed prairie dog *Cynomys ludovicianus*

dry, flat, short grasslands with low, relatively sparse vegetation, including areas overgrazed by cattle; live in large family groups

Cave myotis bat *Myotis velifer*

colonial and cave-dwelling; also roosts in rock crevices, old buildings, carports, under bridges, and even in abandoned Cliff Swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) nests; roosts in clusters of up to thousands of individuals; hibernates in limestone caves of Edwards Plateau and gypsum cave of Panhandle during winter; opportunistic insectivore

Desert pocket gopher *Geomys arenarius*

EL PASO COUNTY

MOLLUSKS

Federal Status State Status

Franklin Mountain talus snail *Sonorella metcalfi*
terrestrial; bare rock, talus, scree; inhabits igneous talus most commonly of rhyolitic origin

Franklin Mountain wood snail *Ashmunella pasonis*
terrestrial; bare rock, talus, scree; talus slopes, usually of limestone, but also of rhyolite, sandstone, and siltstone, in arid mountain ranges

REPTILES

Federal Status State Status

Big Bend slider *Trachemys gaigeae*
almost exclusively aquatic, sliders (*Trachemys* spp.) prefer quiet bodies of fresh water with muddy bottoms and abundant aquatic vegetation, which is their main food source; will bask on logs, rocks or banks of water bodies; breeding March-July

Chihuahuan Desert lyre snake *Trimorphodon wilkinsonii* T

mostly crevice-dwelling in predominantly limestone-surfaced desert northwest of the Rio Grande from Big Bend to the Franklin Mountains, especially in areas with jumbled boulders and rock faults/fissures; secretive; egg-bearing; eats mostly lizards

Mountain short-horned lizard *Phrynosoma hernandesi* T
diurnal, usually in open, shrubby, or openly wooded areas with sparse vegetation at ground level; soil may vary from rocky to sandy; burrows into soil or occupies rodent burrow when inactive; eats ants, spiders, snails, sowbugs, and other invertebrates; inactive during cold weather; breeds March-September

New Mexico garter snake *Thamnophis sirtalis dorsalis*
nearly any type of wet or moist habitat; irrigation ditches, and riparian-corridor farmlands, less often in running water; home range about 2 acres; active year round in warm weather, both diurnal and nocturnal, more nocturnal during hot weather; bears litter July-August

Texas horned lizard *Phrynosoma cornutum* T
open, arid and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush or scrubby trees; soil may vary in texture from sandy to rocky; burrows into soil, enters rodent burrows, or hides under rock when inactive; breeds March-September

PLANTS

Federal Status State Status

Comal snakewood *Colubrina stricta*
only known Texas population lies at the base of an igneous rock outcrop in the Chihuahuan Desert east of El Paso; flowering late spring or early summer

Desert night-blooming cereus *Peniocereus greggii var greggii*
shrublands in lower elevation desert flats and washes; flowering concentrated during a few nights in late May to late June

Hueco rock-daisy *Perityle huecoensis*

EL PASO COUNTY

PLANTS

Federal Status State Status

dry limestone rock outcrops only known location is in the Hueco Mountains

Resin-leaf brickellbush *Brickellia baccharidea*

mixed desert shrublands on gravelly soils derived from limestone and perhaps also from igneous rocks, on bajada slopes and in arroyos; flowering summer-fall

Sand prickly-pear *Opuntia arenaria*

deep, loose sands in sparsely vegetated dune or sandhill areas; flowering May-June

Sand sacahuista *Nolina arenicola*

windblown Quaternary sand in dune areas east of Van Horn; also in shrublands on steep Permian limestone slopes in the Guadalupe Mountains; flowering March-August

Sneed's pincushion cactus *Escobaria sneedii var sneedii* LE E

dry limestone outcrops on rocky slopes in desert mountains of the Chihuahuan Desert; flowering April-September (peak season in April?)

Texas false saltgrass *Allolepis texana*

sandy to silty soils of valley bottoms and river floodplains; flowering (June-) July-October

Wheeler's spurge *Chamaesyce geyeri var wheeleriana*

sparsely vegetated loose sand in reddish sand dunes or coppice mounds; flowering and fruiting August-September?



United States Department of the Interior

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P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115
www.blm.gov



IN REPLY REFER TO

1790 (93200)

October 1, 2007

Mr. Abel Anderson
Project Manager, SBI *net*
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. Room 7.5
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently received the letter from Mr. Kirk Evans addressed to Mr. Mark Spencer of my staff requesting information in support of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system for the El Paso Border Patrol Sector, El Paso, Texas.

The BLM's role in this effort is to review all documents assuring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council of Environmental Quality regulations and to authorize site-specific proposed actions as appropriate. Our history of coordination with the Border Patrol and their contractors has shown that there is a significant need for up-front coordination with the BLM. There is also a need to "go the extra mile" in notifying the public and local governments of the availability of the EA and the opportunity to provide input. The ranching families that hold grazing permits in these rural areas may not have access to newspapers, public libraries or other notification, so one-on-one consultation between the rancher and applicant is often required.

The staff at the Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) will be working with you to help coordinate this project, and the LCDO has specialists to address most of the resource concerns that would be addressed in the EA. The LCDO also will review the EA and any other relevant NEPA documents to ensure they meet program specific requirements, as well as consistency with other BLM laws and policies.

We will provide comments within 30 days of our receipt of the EA. The BLM requests that the Office of the Border Patrol allow at a minimum 120 days to process each site-specific realty application.

Regulations at 43 CFR 2804.14 require that the BLM recover the full reasonable costs of processing each realty application. No action to process any applications will be undertaken until the Cost Recovery Agreement/Master Agreement is in effect and funding is in place to process your applications.

We appreciate the opportunity to become involved with this effort and look forward to a productive and effective collaboration process. In the future, please send all related correspondence to Mr. Edward Seum at the Las Cruces District Office, Bureau of Land Management, 1800 Marquess St., Las Cruces, NM 88005. If you have any questions, you may reach him by telephone at 505-525-4313. Also, Mr. Seum will need a single point of contact for this project from your office.

Sincerely,



Ron Dunton
Deputy State Director
Lands and Resources

cc:

NM (030, E. Guerrero)
NM (030, E. Seum)
NM (930, M. Spencer)



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

October 10, 2007

Abel Anderson
Project Manager
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 7.5
Washington, D.C. 20229

Re: Scoping Comments on proposed siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system for the El Paso Border Patrol Sector, El Paso Texas

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the above referenced project. The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) understands the proposed project is to develop and construct technology and tactical-based infrastructure beginning in El Paso, Texas and running west through the entire New Mexico border to the Arizona/New Mexico state line. The following comments are provided for your information.

The USIBWC has a duty to access, maintain, and utilize the international boundary monuments along the United States/Mexico international land boundary. The USIBWC is charged with these duties through treaties and international agreements between the United States and Mexico. We require that the proposed works, and related facilities not affect the permanence (disturb the foundations) of existing boundary monuments nor impede access for their maintenance. In addition, any proposed construction must allow for line-of-sight visibility between each of the boundary monuments.

The USIBWC requires that engineering drawings be submitted to the USIBWC for review and approval prior to beginning any construction near the international boundary. These drawings must show the location of each component in relation to the international boundary and the boundary monuments.

The USIBWC requests that proposed construction activities be accomplished in a manner that does not change historic surface runoff characteristics at the international border. The USIBWC will not approve any construction near the international boundary in the United States that increases, concentrates, or relocates overland drainage flows into either country. This requirement is intended to ensure that developments in one country will not cause damage to lands or resources in the other country. The USIBWC will need copies of any hydrological or hydraulic studies and site specific drawings for work proposed in the vicinity of the international boundary, particularly if new roads, pad sites or other structures are to be constructed in any drainage courses that cross the boundary. We will also require that you ensure that structures constructed along the border are maintained in an adequate manner and that liability issues created by these structures are addressed.



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

OCT 31 2007

Texas Historical Commission
Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer
ATTN: Ms. Debra Beene
108 W. 16th Street
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Section 106 Compliance and a Supplemental Environmental Assessment for
the Texas Mobile Tower Project, OBP El Paso Sector, El Paso, Texas

Dear Mr. Oaks:

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Secure Border Initiative (SBI^{net}), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of 10 sensor and communication towers and 8 canal crossings. The objective of this SBI^{net} project is to develop a solution to establish and maintain effective control of the U.S. border along the approximately 73.6 miles of border in the El Paso Sector, encompassing border zones in and around the Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock, Texas OBP Areas of Responsibility (AORs). This project would support the Border Patrol's mission by strengthening national security between ports of entry (POEs) to prevent illegal entry of terrorists, terrorist weapons, contraband, and illegal aliens into the United States.

In a letter dated September 11, 2007, we notified you of the project mentioned above. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, an archaeological survey was conducted on the 21 locations (10 primary and 2 alternate towers and 9 canal crossings 8 primary and 1 alternate). A copy of the survey report is enclosed for your review and comment. The survey resulted in the discovery of no new archaeological sites. One previously recorded archaeological site is located at proposed Tower EPT_YST_059. This site, 41HZ582, is a buried AT&T communication cable installed in 1947-48 as part of the 3,000-mile transcontinental telephone cable system. The linear site is more than several miles in length and is buried three to six feet below the modern surface. The exact alignment of the cable at this location is unknown due to imprecise archival maps but it appears to be outside of the tower area of potential effect (APE). The proposed tower undertaking will not adversely affect the character, integrity, or setting of the site.

Six of the 12 tower locations and all 9 crossing locations are within the boundaries of the El Paso Water Control District #1, an extensive architectural

and engineering district that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1997. In addition, Tower EPT_FBN_055 is situated within 50 miles of the Franklin Canal, an irrigation feature that was listed in 1992. None of the towers or crossings will have any direct adverse effect on either of these districts. The characteristics of both of these districts that make them eligible for the NRHP are their extensive nature; the Franklin Canal extends for more than 30 linear miles and the El Paso Water Control District #1 covers more than 75 square miles. Because all of the proposed towers and crossings are isolated and small in size relative to the districts, none of the proposed towers or crossings has the potential to diminish those characteristics of the districts that make them eligible for the NRHP. Further, the proposed towers and crossings will not have any adverse visual effect on either of the two districts because neither visual setting nor visual elements are character-defining elements of their eligibility.

Given the findings and recommendations noted above which are included in the enclosed report and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we ask for your concurrence in our determination of, "...historic properties present but the undertaking will have no effect upon them as defined in § 800.16(i)...." If we do not hear from you within 30 days of your receipt of this letter and report, we will assume your concurrence with our determination.

If you have any questions pertaining to this project please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Patience Patterson, RPA at (202) 344-1131, or via e-mail to patience.patterson@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



 Kirk Evaris, Program Manager
SBI~~net~~, Program Office

Enclosure



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 05, 2007

Kirk Evans
Program Manager
SBInet, Programs Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20229

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Draft Report: *Archeological Survey of Tower Sites and Crossing Localities along the U.S. Mexico International Border, El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, Texas* (Homeland Security)

Dear Mr. Evans:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Debra L. Beene, has completed its review. We concur that the 21 surveillance towers, access roads and water canals should not have an adverse effect on the Franklin Canal and the El Paso Water Control District #1, two National Register Districts. However, we do not agree with the reasons presented in the reports. The authors have stated that the significance criterion of these two districts is their extensive nature and because the proposed towers and crossings are isolated and small, they will not damage the extensive nature of the districts. Please have the authors revise their report to reflect the contributing elements as defined in the National Register nomination; this can be easily accessed by the authors.

The historical importance of the EPCWID irrigation system derives from two sources. First, the system meets National Register Criterion A in that it is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" -- specifically, the transformation of long-established farming patterns in the El Paso Valley. This local event was part of a much larger pattern, the federal transformation of Western agriculture representing a radical departure from the village-based irrigation agriculture practiced by Hispanic settlers and the private enterprises of Anglo settlers. This intervention affected local historical developments in several ways. The system also meets National Register Criterion C in that it embodies "the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." The network of irrigation canals and the network of drains are important examples of historic engineering.

The Franklin Canal's meets National Register Criterion A as well; it's significance as part of an international irrigation system stems from the terms of the Treaty of 1906 between the United States and Mexico. In 1906 the problems of water allocation led the U.S. and Mexico to add that aspect of border problems to the areas of consideration. The two nations engaged in formal diplomacy at the highest levels which resulted in a treaty. The treaty also marked an important U.S. realization of the rights of its immediate neighbor in Latin America during a period when overall Latin American relations were at a very low point.

We look forward to reviewing the survey report and EIS upon completion and thank you for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Debra L. Beene at 512/463-5865.**

Sincerely,



for

F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer
FLO/dlb



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Gerardo and Ofelia Duran
8242 Loma Terrace
El Paso, TX 79907

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI~~net~~ Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Gerardo and Ofelia Duran:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to further CBP's ability to gain effective control of our nation's borders by providing 24-hour, year-round surveillance capabilities that will help deter illegal entry attempts into the United States, and enable CBP agents to detect, analyze, and rapidly respond to illegal cross border activity.

The Draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 1500 et seq., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1, Environmental Planning Program*.

CBP invites your participation in this public process. Comments must be received by February 4, 2008. When submitting your comments, please include name and address, and identify comments as intended for the Texas Mobile Draft EA and Proposed FONSI. Comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them, can be submitted by:

(a) E-mail to: TxMComments@cbp.gov

(b) Mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.

(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Horak Development, LLC
16001 Socorro Road
Fabens, TX 79838

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Horak Development, LLC:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Zay and Nancy Clopton
Victorio Ranch
Hachita, NM 88040

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Zay and Nancy Clopton:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

(Robert) Skov Family Limited Partnership
Box 310
Clint, TX 79836

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear (Robert) Skov Family Limited Partnership:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Ed Orr
Box 876
Fabens, TX 79838

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Ed Orr:

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Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

David Burrus
P.O. Box 685
Windsor, CO 80550

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear David Burrus:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Craig Ivey
P.O. Box 168
Tomillo, TX 79853

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Craig Ivey:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Dr. Thomas F. Crais and Bonnie Crais
315 South River Street
Hailey, ID 83333

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Dr. Thomas F. Crais and Bonnie Crais:

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Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Billy Mack Jobe
Fort Hancock East Inc.
P.O. Box 89
Toyah, TX 79785

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Billy Mack Jobe:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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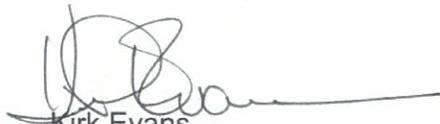
(a) E-mail to: TxMComments@cbp.gov

(b) Mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.

(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

William Lion
1512 Eagle Feather Drive
Kissimmee, FL 34746

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear William Lion:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to further CBP's ability to gain effective control of our nation's borders by providing 24-hour, year-round surveillance capabilities that will help deter illegal entry attempts into the United States, and enable CBP agents to detect, analyze, and rapidly respond to illegal cross border activity.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Evans', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Ian Martin
c/o Attorney
P.O. Box 1770
El Paso, TX 79949

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Ian Martin:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Larry T. Bishop
HC 66, Box 35
Ft. Hancock, TX 79839

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Larry T. Bishop:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Heriberto B. and Yvonne A. Parada
1908 Bayview Lane
El Paso, TX 79938

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBlnet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Heriberto B. and Yvonne A. Parada:

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Emil Kiehne
3620 Buxton Drive
El Paso, TX 79928

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Emil Kiehne:

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI_{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Senator John Cornyn:

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4304

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Congressman Silvestre Reyes
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Congressman Silvestre Reyes:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Congressman Ciro Rodriguez
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Congressman Ciro Rodriguez:

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Sheriff Leo Samaniego
El Paso County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 125, 800 E. Overland
El Paso, TX 79941

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Sheriff Leo Samaniego:

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Judge Anthony Cabos
500 E. San Antonio, County Courthouse
El Paso, TX 79901

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Judge Anthony Cabos:

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBlnet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Judge Rebecca Dean Walker
P.O. Box 68, County Courthouse
Sierra Blanca, TX 79851

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Judge Rebecca Dean Walker:

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Sheriff Arvin West
525 N. Wilson
Sierra Blanca, TX 79851

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Sheriff Arvin West:

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(b) Mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.

(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mayor John Cook
#2 Civic Center Plaza, 10th Floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mayor John Cook:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to further CBP's ability to gain effective control of our nation's borders by providing 24-hour, year-round surveillance capabilities that will help deter illegal entry attempts into the United States, and enable CBP agents to detect, analyze, and rapidly respond to illegal cross border activity.

The Draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 1500 et seq., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1, Environmental Planning Program*.

CBP invites your participation in this public process. Comments must be received by February 4, 2008. When submitting your comments, please include name and address, and identify comments as intended for the Texas Mobile Draft EA and Proposed FONSI. Comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them, can be submitted by:

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Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Jim Miller
Commissioner: Precinct 1
P.O. Box 205
Ft. Hancock, TX 79839

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Jim Miller:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to further CBP's ability to gain effective control of our nation's borders by providing 24-hour, year-round surveillance capabilities that will help deter illegal entry attempts into the United States, and enable CBP agents to detect, analyze, and rapidly respond to illegal cross border activity.

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Curtis Carr
Commissioner: Precinct 2
P.O. Box 111
Ft. Hancock, TX 79839

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Curtis Carr:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Mr. Tim Bone
Natural Resource Specialist
Texas Parks and Wildlife, West Texas Wildlife District
109 South Cockrell
Alpine, TX 79830

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mr. Tim Bone:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Ms. Celeste Brancel-Brown
Environmental Review Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife, Endangered Resource Branch
4200 Smith School Rd
Austin, TX 78744

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Ms. Celeste Brancel-Brown:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Ms. Kathy Boydston
Environmental Review Program Leader
Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
4200 Smith School Rd
Austin, TX 78744

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Ms. Kathy Boydston:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Evans", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Archie Clouse
Regional Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Region 6
401 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 560
El Paso, TX 79901

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mr. Archie Clouse:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Carlos Pena
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist
International Boundary and Water Commission, Environmental Management Division
4171 N Mesa, Suite C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mr. Carlos Pena:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Allan Strand
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region 2
6300 Ocean Drive, Campus Box 338
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mr. Allan Strand:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,

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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Mr. Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services
10711 Burnet Rd., Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78758

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBlnet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas

Dear Mr. Adam Zerrenner:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above-referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on January 4, 2008 and ends on February 4, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the Draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles, supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for the CBP along approximately 73 miles of the U. S./Mexico international border, within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

JAN 03 2008

Ysleta Branch Library
9321 Alameda
El Paso, Texas 79907

Dear Librarian:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requests that your library make available to the public the enclosed *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Fort Hancock, Fabens, and Ysleta Stations Area of Operations, El Paso Sector, Texas*, and the related Proposed *Finding of No Significant Impact*, for a 30-day public review period. To assist the public, please place a copy of this letter with the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that is made available for public review. The public comment period begins January 4, 2008 and all comments must be received no later than February 4, 2008.

In support of the Secure Border Initiative program, on January 4, 2008, CBP is publishing a Notice of Availability for the Draft EA. The draft document identifies and assesses the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communications towers, vehicles, supporting infrastructure components, and technological improvements to existing facilities within the El Paso Sector. The location for the Proposed Action, "Texas Mobile Project," is along approximately 73 miles of the U.S./Mexico international border within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The enclosed document is also available to the public by the following:

- (a) Downloading from the Internet at www.cbp.gov/sbi under the link SBI NEPA Documents for Public Review and Comment.
- (b) E-mailing a request to TxMComments@cbp.gov.
- (c) Writing to Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.
- (d) Faxing a request to (202) 344-3550, Attn: Ms. Patterson

Public comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them, can be submitted by:

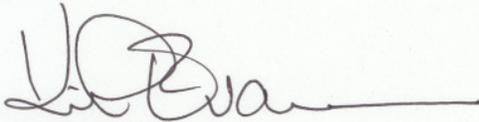
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(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

I appreciate your assistance with our efforts to invite public involvement in our decision making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Evans", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBlnet*

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JAN 03 2008

Ft. Hancock Public Library
100 School Drive
Ft. Hancock, Texas 79839

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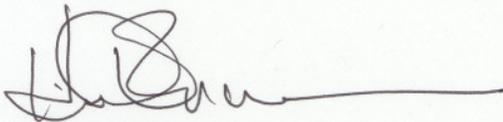
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Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBInet

Enclosures



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JAN 03 2008

El Paso Public Library
Richard Burgess Branch
9600 Dyer
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Librarian:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requests that your library make available to the public the enclosed *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Fort Hancock, Fabens, and Ysleta Stations Area of Operations, El Paso Sector, Texas*, and the related Proposed *Finding of No Significant Impact*, for a 30-day public review period. To assist the public, please place a copy of this letter with the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that is made available for public review. The public comment period begins January 4, 2008 and all comments must be received no later than February 4, 2008.

In support of the Secure Border Initiative program, on January 4, 2008, CBP is publishing a Notice of Availability for the Draft EA. The draft document identifies and assesses the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communications towers, vehicles, supporting infrastructure components, and technological improvements to existing facilities within the El Paso Sector. The location for the Proposed Action, "Texas Mobile Project," is along approximately 73 miles of the U.S./Mexico international border within the El Paso Sector, Texas (the Proposed Action).

The enclosed document is also available to the public by the following:

- (a) Downloading from the Internet at www.cbp.gov/sbi under the link SBI NEPA Documents for Public Review and Comment.
- (b) E-mailing a request to TxMComments@cbp.gov.
- (c) Writing to Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.
- (d) Faxing a request to (202) 344-3550, Attn: Ms. Patterson

Public comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them, can be submitted by:

(a) E-mail to: TxMComments@cbp.gov

(b) Mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *SBlnet* Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.

(c) Fax to: (202) 344-3550.

I appreciate your assistance with our efforts to invite public involvement in our decision making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Evans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Evans
Program Manager, *SBlnet*

Enclosures



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
c/o TAMU-CC, Campus Box 338
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412

January 14, 2008

Ms. Patience Patterson
SBInet Environment Land and Facilities
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 7.5B-62
Washington, District of Columbia 20229

Consultation Number 21450-2007-TA-0196

Dear Ms. Patterson:

This letter responds to the letter received from Kirk Evans, Project Manager, SBInet, on December 14, 2007, concerning the proposal for the construction, operation and maintenance of 12 radar, sensor and communication towers; the construction and improvement of roads, and the installation of unattended ground sensors within the Fabens, Fort Hancock, and Ysleta Stations in El Paso and Hudspeth counties, Texas. The letter requests the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to concur with the determinations for effects to federally-listed species stated in the letter. The Service also received the Draft Environmental Assessment for this project on January 4, 2007.

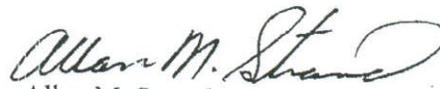
The Service is unable to concur with the determinations, primarily because the letter appears to make two determinations. On page 2, paragraph 4 the letter states, "Therefore SBInet has determined that no effects to any listed species would occur under the Proposed Action Alternative", and on page 3 the letter states that, "...SBInet has determined that the proposed action would not adversely affect any of the Federally or state listed species for Hudspeth and El Paso Counties". The Service asks for clarification of the determination of effects to federally-listed species for this project. The Service does not provide concurrence with determinations for species listed only by the state, and suggests that you contact Texas Parks and Wildlife (Endangered Resources Branch), Fountain Park Plaza Building, Suite 100, 3000 South IH-35, Austin, Texas 78704 (telephone 512/912-7011) concerning effect of your proposed project to state listed species.

Please note that the federally-listed endangered northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) is no longer extirpated from the Trans-Pecos region due to reintroduction efforts and subsequent sightings. The Service will provide you with the most current release sites and sighting information available for the vicinity near your proposed project, in particular site EPT-YST-059#. The request for this information has been made through the Peregrine Fund and will be forwarded to your consultants as soon as it is received. Depending on the information received, and due to the revegetation planned for 7.26 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub or Chihuahuan Desert grassland habitat in the project area, a determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the northern aplomado falcon may be appropriate. Please coordinate

with the Service so that all relevant information is available to verify your request for concurrence. If Customs and Border Protection decides that a no effect determination is appropriate, then concurrence by the Service is not required.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and other resources, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The Service wishes to continue to coordinate this project with you and provide you with technical assistance. Please contact Dr. Larisa Ford at 361-994-9005 (office) or 361-533-2797 (cell) if you have any questions. Please refer to the Service Consultation number listed above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Allan M. Strand
Field Supervisor

cc: Amy Roberson, USFWS, Alpine, Texas
Adam Zerrenner, USFWS, Austin, Texas

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
for
Environmental Coordination and Review
Between the Department of the Interior and
U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the
Secure Border Initiative

This Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) is entered into by the U.S. Department of the Interior (“DOI”) on behalf of the following DOI bureaus: the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, (collectively the “DOI Bureaus”), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). The DOI and CBP are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties.”

I. Purpose

This MOA is entered into in order to further effectuate the goals, principles, and objectives of the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between DHS, DOI, and the Department of Agriculture entitled “Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States’ Borders.” The purpose of this MOA is to formalize the commitment among the Parties to coordinate the review of projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq., and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations implementing NEPA, 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508. This agreement will facilitate a coordinated approach that ensures sound decisions based on concurrent and expedited agency reviews. This MOA shall be applicable to CBP projects that are undertaken for the purposes of securing the border, which may include, but are not limited to the construction, maintenance, and operation of borderland security fences, roads, towers, vehicle deterrent fences, remote detection systems, and other related tactical and technological infrastructure.

II. Background

The goal of the Secure Border Initiative is for CBP to obtain operational control of our Nation’s borders consistent with its Homeland Security mission. This will be accomplished in part through the construction, maintenance, and operation of various tactical and technological infrastructure along the United States–Mexico international border, including pedestrian and vehicle fences, roads, lighting systems, communication towers, remote detection systems, and electronic surveillance systems.

DOI has a longstanding responsibility for many cultural and natural resources in our Nation’s borderlands. The value of these interests is manifested to a significant degree in the borderlands and waters administered by DOI Bureaus and in Indian tribal lands. In particular, an array of valuable fish, wildlife, and plant communities coexist with important archaeological sites that collectively contribute to the fabric of the borderlands of the Southwest.

These important resources are being damaged or destroyed by large numbers of cross border violators entering the United States from Mexico. Likewise, Indian communities, visitors to DOI lands, and DOI employees are subject to increased danger to their well being due to the presence of criminal activity.

The need to coordinate the environmental review process for the planning, construction, and operation of borderland security projects is seen as necessary by the Parties to efficiently fulfill the mandates of NEPA.

III. Statutory and Regulatory Authority

WHEREAS, this MOA is entered into under the authority of NEPA , 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq., and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508;

WHEREAS, pursuant to NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4331(b), the Federal government shall use all practicable means to improve and coordinate Federal plans, functions, programs, and resources to enhance the quality of the environment;

WHEREAS, regulations implementing NEPA at 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6 emphasize interagency cooperation early in the environmental review process;

WHEREAS, if more than one Federal agency is involved in the same action, 40 C.F.R. § 1501.5 provides for the designation in writing of a lead agency that will supervise the preparation of an environmental impact statement. The other agencies are identified as cooperating agencies;

WHEREAS, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1508.5, an Indian tribe may by agreement with the lead agency become a cooperating agency when the effects are on a reservation;

WHEREAS, consistent with the intent of the CEQ regulations, the Parties may designate a lead agency for all NEPA documents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1501.6(c), a cooperating agency may, in response to a lead agency's request for assistance in preparing an environmental analysis, defer to the lead agency in preparing such analysis;

NOW, THEREFORE:

IV. Commitment of the Agencies

In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, and with the mutual understanding that this is a flexible working agreement among the signatory agencies, the Parties hereby commit to the following responsibilities:

- A. To facilitate preparation of NEPA environmental documents, the Parties agree:

1. That CBP will serve as lead agency for all CBP border infrastructure projects (including, but not limited to Secure Border Initiative tactical and technological infrastructure) and will coordinate all NEPA document development and review;
2. That the DOI Bureaus involved in any CBP projects, by and through their respective offices and branches, and, where appropriate, Indian tribes, will serve as cooperating agencies for such projects, or in appropriate cases as joint lead; and
3. That each party will assume responsibility for its own actions.

B. As lead agency, CBP agrees:

1. To provide project information in a timely and thorough manner;
2. To invite cooperating agencies to coordination meetings and joint field reviews; and
3. To provide cooperating agencies an opportunity to comment on draft documents.

C. When serving as a cooperating agency, the DOI Bureaus agree:

1. To promptly provide comments on draft documents and otherwise fulfill the role of a cooperating agency as set forth at 40 C.F.R. Part 1501, in accordance with established Departmental procedures;
2. To provide technical assistance to CBP on tribal and non-tribal environmental and cultural resource issues; and
3. To the degree possible, seek ways to streamline and facilitate the completion of environmental and cultural compliance processes.

V. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Nothing in this MOA may be construed to obligate the Parties or the United States to any current or future expenditure of funds in advance of availability of appropriations, nor does this MOA obligate the Parties or the United States to spend funds for any particular purpose, even if funds are available.

B. The Parties will, as appropriate, enter into specific reimbursable agreements pursuant to the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1535, when one party is to furnish materials or perform work or provide a service on behalf of another party.

C. The Parties shall retain all applicable legal responsibility for their respective personnel working pursuant to this MOA. This MOA is not intended to change in any way the individual employee status or the liability or responsibility of any party under Federal law.

D. Nothing in this MOA is intended to conflict with current law, regulation, directive, or other governing authority of any party to this MOA. If any term of this MOA is inconsistent with such authority, then that term shall not apply, but the remaining terms and conditions of the MOA shall remain in full force and effect.

E. This document is an intra-governmental agreement among the Parties and does not create or confer any rights, privileges, or benefits upon any person or entity not a signatory hereto. This MOA is not and shall not be construed as a rule or regulation.

F. This MOA may be modified or amended in writing upon the consent of all Parties, and other affected Federal or State agencies may seek to become a party to this MOA.

G. This MOA shall be effective through December 31, 2012, and may be renewed for another five years upon mutual agreement of the Parties. Any party to this MOA may terminate its participation in this MOA upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party.

H. This MOA becomes effective upon the date of signature by the last signatory.

VI. Conclusion

In signing this MOA, the undersigned recognize and accept the roles and responsibilities assigned to each party. Each of the Parties agrees to pursue maximum cooperation and communication to secure our Nation's borders and to eliminate the environmental degradation of DOI-administered lands by persons illegally entering the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

By: James E. Cason Date: 1/11/08
James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

By: W. Ralph Basham Date: 1/18/08
W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78758

512 490-0057

FAX 490-0974

FEB 04 2008

Rec'd
2/13/08
PEP



Ms. Patience Patterson
SBInet Environment Land and Facilities
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 7.5B-62
Washington, District of Columbia 20229

Consultation Number 21450-2007-TA-0196

Dear Ms. Patterson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project, Ysleta, Fabens, and Fort Hancock Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas, dated January 2008 and received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on January 4, 2008. The DEA describes the preferred alternative as the construction, operation and maintenance of 12 radar, sensor and communication towers; the construction and improvement of roads; and the installation of unattended ground sensors within the Fabens, Fort Hancock, and Ysleta Stations in El Paso and Hudspeth counties, Texas.

Please note that the federally-listed endangered northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) is no longer extirpated from the Trans-Pecos region due to reintroduction efforts and subsequent sightings. The DEA states that there is potentially suitable habitat for the aplomado falcon in the vicinity of tower site EPT-YST-059#. The Service contacted the Peregrine Fund, which is the organization carrying out the reintroduction and monitoring efforts for this species, to request the most recent information on the species in the project area. Based on the information we received, we have determined that the nearest location to tower site EPT-YST-059# where northern aplomado falcons have been released and/or sited is 6 miles east of Sierra Blanca, Texas. Based on rough calculations, this is approximately 50-60 miles from the tower site and is within the dispersal distance of the northern aplomado falcon. Due to the potential presence of the species in the project area; the presence of potentially suitable habitat; the permanent disturbance of 1.45 acres; and the temporary disturbance and revegetation planned for 5.81 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub or Chihuahuan Desert grassland habitat in the project area, a determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the northern aplomado falcon may be appropriate. Please coordinate with the Service to ensure all relevant information is available to you for your analysis. If Customs and Border Protection decides that a no effect determination is appropriate, then concurrence by the Service is not required.

Please provide more information about the 5.81 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub or Chihuahuan Desert grassland that will be revegetated, as described in the preferred alternative. Specifically, what species will be planted, will they be provided with supplemental water to increase the likelihood of establishment, and will the revegetated areas be monitored?

**TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA** 

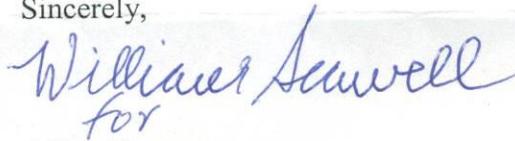
Ms. Patience Patterson

2

The DEA mentions the potential impacts to birds of lighting the towers and describes measures that will be taken to reduce the impacts. Please also consider the potential impacts of the tower lights on bats in your analysis.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and other resources, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The Service wishes to continue to coordinate this project with you and provide you with technical assistance. Please contact Dr. Larisa Ford at 361-994-9005 (office) or 361-533-2797 (cell) if you have any questions. Please refer to the Service Consultation number listed above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor

cc: Allan Stand, USFWS, Corpus Christi, Texas



Ysleta del Sur Pueblo

Tribal Council

119 S. Old Pueblo Rd. • P.O. Box 17579 • El Paso, Texas 79917 • (915) 859-8053 • Fax: (915) 859-4252

February 4, 2008

RE: Texas Mobile Draft EA and Proposed FONSI

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SBlnet Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Headquarters
1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ms. Patterson:

This letter is in response to the correspondence received in our office in which you provide Ysleta del Sur Pueblo the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant for the proposed SBlnet Texas Mobile Project, Fort Hancock, Fabens, and Ysleta Stations Areas of Operation, El Paso Sector, Texas.

While we believe that this project will not adversely affect traditional, religious or culturally significant sites of our Pueblo and have no opposition to it, we would like to request consultation should any human remains or artifacts unearthed during this project be determined to fall under NAGPRA guidelines. Copies of our Pueblo's Cultural Affiliation Position Paper and Consultation Policy are attached for your review.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment on the draft EA, proposed FONSI, and proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Paiz'.

Frank Paiz
Tribal Governor

FP:svg



United States Department of the Interior

Rec'd
2/13/08
PEP



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78758

512 490-0057

FAX 490-0974

FEB 04 2008

Ms. Patience Patterson
SBInet Environment Land and Facilities
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Room 7.5B-62
Washington, District of Columbia 20229

Consultation Number 21450-2007-TA-0196

Dear Ms. Patterson:

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Please note that the federally-listed endangered northern aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*) is no longer extirpated from the Trans-Pecos region due to reintroduction efforts and subsequent sightings. The DEA states that there is potentially suitable habitat for the aplomado falcon in the vicinity of tower site EPT-YST-059#. The Service contacted the Peregrine Fund, which is the organization carrying out the reintroduction and monitoring efforts for this species, to request the most recent information on the species in the project area. Based on the information we received, we have determined that the nearest location to tower site EPT-YST-059# where northern aplomado falcons have been released and/or sited is 6 miles east of Sierra Blanca, Texas. Based on rough calculations, this is approximately 50-60 miles from the tower site and is within the dispersal distance of the northern aplomado falcon. Due to the potential presence of the species in the project area; the presence of potentially suitable habitat; the permanent disturbance of 1.45 acres; and the temporary disturbance and revegetation planned for 5.81 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub or Chihuahuan Desert grassland habitat in the project area, a determination of may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the northern aplomado falcon may be appropriate. Please coordinate with the Service to ensure all relevant information is available to you for your analysis. If Customs and Border Protection decides that a no effect determination is appropriate, then concurrence by the Service is not required.

Please provide more information about the 5.81 acres of Chihuahuan Desert scrub or Chihuahuan Desert grassland that will be revegetated, as described in the preferred alternative. Specifically, what species will be planted, will they be provided with supplemental water to increase the likelihood of establishment, and will the revegetated areas be monitored?

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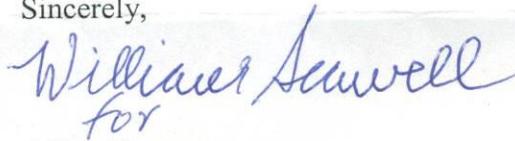
Ms. Patience Patterson

2

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Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and other resources, and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. The Service wishes to continue to coordinate this project with you and provide you with technical assistance. Please contact Dr. Larisa Ford at 361-994-9005 (office) or 361-533-2797 (cell) if you have any questions. Please refer to the Service Consultation number listed above in any future correspondence regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor

cc: Allan Stand, USFWS, Corpus Christi, Texas

PUBLISHERS AFFIDAVIT

GULF SOUTH RESEARCH CORP

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF EL PASO

Before me, a Notary Public in and for El Paso County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared TERRIE CARTER who state upon oath that he is the CLASSIFIED SUPERVISOR of the El Paso Times, a daily newspaper published in the City and County of El Paso, State of Texas, which is a newspaper of general circulation and which has been continuously and regularly published for the period of not less than one year in the said County of El Paso, and that he was such upon the dates herein mentioned:

That the LEGAL copy was published in the El Paso Times for the ONE DAY. The dates of such publication being as follows, to wit JANUARY 04, 2008

Subscribed and sworn to before me, Signed

Terrie A. Carter

This the 4th day of JANUARY 2008
2007

Belia Duenes



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND PROPOSED FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE PROPOSED SBINET TEXAS MOBILE
PROJECT, YSLETA, FABENS, AND FORT HANCOCK STATIONS AREAS OF
OPERATION, EL PASO SECTOR, TEXAS**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), announces the availability of and invites public comments on a Draft EA and proposed FONSI for the proposed SBInet Texas Mobile Project Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., CBP has prepared the Draft EA and proposed FONSI to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communications towers, vehicles, supporting infrastructure components, and technological improvements to existing facilities within the El Paso Sector. The location for the Proposed Action, which is known as the "Texas Mobile Project," is an approximately 73-mile area of the U.S./Mexico international border within El Paso Sector, Texas.

The Draft EA and proposed FONSI were prepared in accordance with CBP's obligations under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and DHS Management Directive 5100.1 (Environmental Planning Program). Copies of the Texas Mobile Draft EA and proposed FONSI can be downloaded from the project website at www.cbp.gov/sbi under the link SBI NEPA Documents for Public Review and Comment. Additionally, copies will be available in the following libraries for public review:

El Paso Public Library
Main Branch
501 N. Oregon St.
El Paso, TX 79901
Phone (915) 543-5442

El Paso Public Library
Richard Burgess Branch
9600 Dyer
El Paso, TX 79901
(915) 759-2400

Ft. Hancock Public Library
100 School Drive
P.O. Box 98
Ft. Hancock, TX 79839
(915) 769-3811

Ysleta Branch Library
9321 Alameda
El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 858-0905

Pursuant to the CEQ regulations, CBP invites public participation in the NEPA process. The public may participate by reviewing and submitting comments on the Draft EA and proposed FONSI. The public may submit comments by one of three methods described below. CBP will consider all applicable and pertinent comments submitted during the public comment period, and subsequently will prepare the Final EA. CBP will announce the availability of the Final EA and FONSI.

Comments on the Draft EA and proposed FONSI should be received by February 4, 2008. Please use only one of the following methods:

- (a) By Email to: TxMComments@cbp.gov
- (b) By mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room B115N, Washington, D.C. 20004.
- (c) By fax to: (202) 344-3550.

When submitting comments, please include your name and address, and identify your comments as being for the Texas Mobile Draft EA and proposed FONSI. To request a hard copy of the Draft EA, please use one of the aforementioned contact methods.

