

### Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program City of Las Cruces, NM Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-27

PHMSA Approval:

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#### **Overview:**

The purpose of this Tier 2 Site Specific Environmental Assessment (Tier 2) is to: (1) document the proposed action (the Project) and the need for the action; (2) identify existing conditions; (3) assess the social, economic, and environmental effects using appropriate tools and agency coordination to comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws, regulations, and ordinances; to (4) document applicable mitigation commitments that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential effects; and (5) seek comments from the public. This Tier 2 analysis informs Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA's) assessment as to whether the Project is consistent with the impacts described in the Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program.<sup>1</sup>

As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-27 in your response.

At the conclusion of the EA process, PHMSA will either issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact," further supplement this EA with additional analysis, mitigation measures or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

#### I. <u>Project Description/Proposed Action</u>

Project Title City of Las Cruces	
Project Location City of Las Cruces, Doña Anna County, New Mexico	
Project Description/Proposed Action:	
Acrylonitrile Butadiene which would enhance	located in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, is proposing to replace aging and failing e Styrene (ABS) and Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las nsmission system, including pipeline modernization and interim safety enhancement lix A, Project Maps.
and PVC gas lines, inst pipelines would be rep replacement of approx Neighborhood, would includes the replacement the replacement of ap	distribution system proposes to replace approximately 13,600 linear feet (LF) of ABS alled in the 1980's. The project consists of 4 discrete segments where existing placed. Segment 1, located in the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood, includes the kimately 7,600 LF of 2-inch PVC pipelines and Segment 2, located in the Broadmoor replace approximately 3,800 LF of 2-inch ABS pipeline. Segment 3 along Sirius Street ent of approximately 800 LF of 2-inch ABS, and Segment 4 along Galaxy Drive includes proximately 1,400 LF of 2-inch PVC. All lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (36 sturbance from trenching. No new right-of-way (ROW) or easement is needed to of pipe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/09/2022-24378/pipeline-safety-notice-of-availability-of-the-tier-1-nationwide-environmental-assessment-for-the</u>

Construction methods for the pipe installation include trenching. At most locations, the new gas lines would be installed next to the existing gas lines. However, depending on the limitations in the area and the location of other utilities, the new gas line may need to be installed on the opposite side of the street. The Tier 1 EA described that the majority of site-specific projects would utilize the insertion method of pipe replacement. As described in this document, the City of Las Cruces would utilize an open trench method, which generally involves greater soil disturbance and use of heavy equipment and related impacts than the insertion method. Abandonment of the existing pipeline (versus excavation and removal) would minimize ground disturbance and facilitate the replacement process in a more efficient manner. PHMSA has specific requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline abandonment, found in 49 CRF 192.727 and 195.402(c)(10). These requirements include disconnecting pipelines from all sources and supplies of gas, purging all combustibles and sealing the facilities left in place. By complying with PHMSA requirements for purging and sealing abandoned pipelines, the City of Las Cruces would ensure that the abandoned pipelines pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state.

In addition to pipeline replacement activities, the project includes installation of monitoring equipment at existing facilities and the acquisition of mobile leak detection equipment. Due to the sizable distance between the Talavera Regulator Station and the Main Gate Regulator Station, the project would include installation of an additional odorization unit to consistently provide the proper concentration of the odorant and suitable gas consumption in the Talavera area. The system would be installed inside an existing enclosure that has been prepared to accept the new infrastructure. This project also involves the addition of pressure sensing transducers throughout the distribution system. Up to eighty (80) transducers would be added to existing distribution lines, at above-ground locations or within existing vaults, that provide access to the line below ground. No new ground disturbance, ROW or easements would be required for these actions.

#### No Action:

The No Action alternative, as required under NEPA, serves as a baseline, and is used to compare impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA would not fund this pipeline replacement project. Additionally, PHMSA would not be able to reduce the inventory of methane leaks and reduce safety risks by replacing pipe prone to leakage. Under this alternative, the City of Las Cruces would continue to use vintage lead prone ABS and PVC pipe, and conduct repairs or replacements in the future using non-federal sources of funding, and potentially on an emergency basis, when a pipeline fails. Impacts and benefits associated with replacing the leak prone pipeline within the City of Las Cruces with updated material would not be seen in the near term. The safety risks and methane leaks would persist. The replacement pipeline activities would either not be taken or they would be undertaken at a later, uncertain date. Even if pipe replacement were to happen at some point in the future, environmental mitigation measures during such a replacement would be unknown. Furthermore, existing economic losses, and increased risk associated with prolonged gas leaks would continue. No equipment would be purchased to assist the City of Las Cruces in leak detection.

#### **Need for the Project:**

The City of Las Cruces has estimated that the total 13,600 LF of ABS and PVC gas lines identified for replacement for this project are vulnerable to leaks. The City of Las Cruces would replace the leak prone natural gas mains with PE piping. The overall needs addressed by this project would include (1) improving upon the safe delivery of energy by reducing incidents, as well as methane leaks; (2) avoiding economic losses caused by pipeline failures; and (3) protecting our environment and reducing climate impacts by remediating aged and failing pipelines and pipe prone to leakage.

#### Description of the Environmental Setting of the Project Area:

The affected environment includes the City of Las Cruces in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The proposed project takes place within urban and suburban environments with a mix of residential housing and commercial businesses. The pipeline infrastructure and locations of the new pipe are located within the existing ROW. All land would be returned to its original condition.

#### II. <u>Resource Review</u>

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHG)		
Question	Information and Justification	
Is the project located in an area designated by the EPA	No, based on a review of the Environmental	
as non-attainment or maintenance status for one or	Protection Agency's (EPAs) Greenbook. <sup>2</sup>	
more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
(NAAQS)?	Νο	
Will the construction activities produce emissions that exceed de minimis thresholds (tons per year)	NO	
described in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet?		
Will mitigation measures be used to capture	Νο	
blowdown <sup>3</sup> ?		
Does the system have the capability to reduce	No	
pressure on the segments to be replaced? If yes, what		
is the lowest psi your system can reach prior to		
venting?		
Will project proponent commit to reducing pressure	No, the existing system operates at 15 pounds per	
on the line to this psi prior to venting? Please calculate	square in (PSI). Based on the size of the existing pipe	
venting emissions based on this commitment and also	of 2 inches, 0.6 thousand cubic ft (MCF) or 18 kg/yr of	
provide comparison figure of venting emissions	methane would be vented during construction.	
volume without pressure reduction/drawdown using		
calculation methods identified in the initial Tier 2 EA		
worksheet.		
Estimate the current leak rate per mile based on the	The existing leak rate is 496 kg/yr. Replacement	
type of pipeline material. Based on mileage of	would result in a leak rate of 421 kg/yr. <sup>4</sup>	
replacement and new pipeline material, estimate the		
total reduction of methane.		
Conclusion:		

The project area is in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, which is designated by the EPA as in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://www.epa.gov/green-book/green-book-national-area-and-county-level-multi-pollutant-information</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Blowdown refers to the venting of natural gas in current facilities, in order to begin rehabilitation, repair, or replacement activities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Leak rates are based on Pre-1990 Installation emission factors found in *Table 1 Average methane emission factors for natural gas pipelines (adopted from EPA GHG Inventory, Annex 3.6, Table 3.62)* in the November 9, 2022, PHMSA: Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program Programmatic Environmental Assessment, Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Analysis.

maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The project proponent would continue to use leak prone pipe material. The total methane emissions for the pipelines within the project area were extrapolated over 20 years to represent the continuation of methane release under the No Action alternative. Under the No Action alternative, PHMSA estimates that 588 kg of methane would be released each year from the existing pipelines within the project area. This amounts to 11,759 kg of methane over a 20-year time frame. See Appendix B, Methane Emissions, for the methane leak rate calculations.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action alternative consists of replacing 13,600 LF of ABS and PVC pipe which would result in minor air quality impacts associated with construction activities, including the intentional venting of methane contained in the existing pipelines prior to replacement. Pipeline blowdowns are typically necessary to ensure that construction and maintenance work can be conducted safely on depressurized natural gas facilities and pipelines. Venting methane is required when service is switched from the existing line to the newly constructed line. Based on an operating pressure of 15 PSI and an average diameter of 2 inches, PHMSA estimates 0.6 MCF of methane (or 18 kg) would be vented into the atmosphere during construction. See Appendix B, Methane Calculations, for the methane blowdown calculations.

As described in the Tier 1 EA, methane leaks from natural gas distribution pipelines increase with age and are higher for vintage lead prone ABS and PVC pipes, as compared with newer PE plastic. Replacing leak prone pipe with newer, more durable materials would reduce leaks and methane emissions. Based on the current leak rate of the existing pipe within the project area, this project would reduce overall emissions by 403 kg in the first year (when considering the methane that would be released from blowdown that would occur during construction) and would reduce 421 kg of methane per year thereafter. The total reduction in methane emissions resulting from the conversion to plastic pipeline would be approximately 8,429 kg over a 20-year span post construction. See Appendix B, Methane Calculations, for the methane reduction calculations. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that the proposed project would provide a net benefit to air quality from the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and that no indirect or cumulative impacts would result from the Proposed Action.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Las Cruces shall implement the following mitigation measures:

- Minimize and or eliminate the idling of equipment;
- Transfer gas to a parallel line;
- Minimize excavation to the greatest extent practical;
- Utilize cleaner, newer, non-road equipment as practicable;
- Ensure all vehicles and equipment are in proper operating condition; and
- Water, or use of other approved dust suppressants, at construction sites and on unpaved roadways, as necessary.

Water Resources		
Question	Information and Justification	
Are there water resources within the project area,	Yes, according to United States Fish and Wildlife	
such as wetlands, streams, rivers, or floodplains? If so,	Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI)	
would the project temporarily or permanently impact	and the Federal Emergency Management Agency	
wetlands or waterways?	(FEMA) National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette maps.	

Under the Clean Water Act, is a Section 401 State	No
certification potentially required? If yes, describe	
anticipated permit and how project proponent will	
ensure permit compliance.	
Under the Clean Water Act, is a USACE Section 404	No, there would be no discharge of dredge or fill
Permit required for the discharge of dredge and fill	material into waters of the US as a result of the
material? If yes, describe anticipated permit and how	project.
project proponent will ensure permit compliance.	
Under the Clean Water Act, is an EPA or State Section	No
402 permit required for the discharge of pollutants into	
the waters of the United States? Is a Stormwater	
Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required?	
Will work activities take place within a FEMA designated	Yes. All proposed work would occur within Zone X,
floodplain? If so, describe any permanent or temporary	areas of minimal flood hazard
impacts and the required coordination efforts with	
state or local floodplain regulatory agencies.	
Will the proposed project activities potentially occur	No, the project is not located within a coastal zone.
within a coastal zone <sup>5</sup> or affect any coastal use or	
natural resource of the coastal zone, requiring a	
Consistency Determination and Certification?	
Conclusion:	

Conclusion:

PHMSA reviewed NWI maps, as well as the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette map, to assist in identifying aquatic features and other water resources in or near the project area. Based on aerial photographs and NWI maps, the manmade Quesenburg Lateral borders the Rosedale neighborhood to the north and east. The Quesenburg Lateral is a riverine habitat classified by USFWS as a R4SBCx (Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed, Seasonally Flooded, Excavated). No other water resources were identified within or near the project area. See Appendix C, Water Resources.

FEMA's National Flood Hazard maps indicate the presence of special flood hazard areas designated as FEMA Zone X and Zone A near the project areas. Zone X corresponds to areas of minimal flood hazard and Zone A corresponds to the one percent annual chance of flood (100-year flood). These areas designated as Zone A have no base flood elevations determined. All proposed work would occur within Zone X, areas of minimal flood hazard. Additionally, the project is not located within a coastal zone. See Appendix C, Water Resources.

### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipeline would remain in the current location and normal maintenance activities would continue without any impact anticipated to water resources. Depending on the location of the activities, the work could be in close proximity to an aquatic resource where the City of Las Cruces would need to take precautions to avoid adverse impacts to these sensitive areas. Additionally, if work was to occur in an area identified as a special flood hazard area, prior coordination with the local Floodplain Manager may be required.

#### **Proposed Action:**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The term "coastal zone" means the coastal waters (including the lands therein and thereunder) and the adjacent shorelands (including the waters therein and thereunder), strongly influenced by each other and in proximity to the shorelines of the several coastal states, and includes islands, transitional and intertidal areas, salt marshes, wetlands, and beaches.)

The project is located in Las Cruces, in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Based on a review of the NWI, the Rosedale Segment is bordered on the north and east by the Quesenburg Lateral. All proposed work would occur within the previously disturbed ROW, approximately 200 ft. from the manmade canal. Therefore, no impacts to the Quesenburg Lateral are anticipated. PHMSA has not identified any additional water resources within the project area. The proposed 13,600 LF of pipeline replacement is not considered new construction or development as pipes would be installed in existing, previously impacted ROW and all areas would be restored to their existing contours and condition. These activities would not affect the flood-holding capacity of the 100-year floodplain or cause any adverse impacts to special flood hazard areas near the project locations. All proposed work would occur within Zone X, areas of minimal flood hazard, and therefore coordination with state or local floodplain regulatory agencies is not required. The new pipeline placement and abandonment of the existing pipeline is not anticipated to cause any reasonably foreseeable indirect effects or cumulative effects to water resources as none have been identified in the area. Therefore, it is PHMSA's assessment that there would be no adverse impacts to water resources.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

No mitigation measures are required.

Groundwater and Hazardous Materials/Waste	
Question	Information and Justification
Does the project have potential to encounter and	No
impact groundwater? If yes, describe potential impacts	
from construction activities.	
Will the project require boring or directional drilling	No
that may require pits containing mud and inadvertent	
return fluids? If yes, describe measures that will be	
taken during construction activities to prevent impacts	
to groundwater resources.	
Will the project potentially involve a site(s)	Yes, one Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
contaminated by hazardous waste? Is there any	(RCRA) site was identified.
indication that the pipeline was ever used to convey	
coal gas? If yes, PHMSA will work with the project	
proponent for required studies.	
Does the project have the potential to encounter or	No
disturb lead pipes or asbestos?	
Conclusion:	·

#### Conclusion:

PHMSA reviewed the EPA's NEPAssist website to identify any brownfield properties, hazardous waste sites, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites, air pollution sites and superfund sites. One RCRA site was identified, a construction facility, near the Galaxy Drive segment. Although this establishment resides near the project site, the facility would not be impacted by the project. See Appendix D, Hazardous Materials. No brownfield properties, air pollution sites, or superfund sites were identified within or near the project area.<sup>6</sup>

PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the United States Department of Agriculture's NRCS's web soil survey which indicates that the project area is comprised of soils classified as Bluepoint loamy sand, Berino-Bucklebar association, Terino Casito association, Belen clay, and Vinton variant fine sandy loam.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepamap.aspx?wherestr=Norwich+Ct

The majority of these soils within the project area are well drained soils where the depth to the water table is greater than 80 inches.<sup>7</sup> See Appendix E, Soils Report.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipeline would remain in their current location and ongoing and routine maintenance activities would occur. Pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. While there are no adverse impacts to groundwater anticipated by the No Action alternative, increased methane emissions are likely to occur if the leak prone pipes remain (EPA, PRO Fact Sheet No. 402<sup>8</sup>) and the risk of failure is higher among these types of pipes. Therefore, under the no action alternative, PHMSA anticipates an increased risk for the release of methane, both as leaks and during a pipeline failure, which could then result in ground disturbances from construction activities, potentially impacting groundwater.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The City of Las Cruces is replacing approximately 13,600 LF of existing ABS and PVC pipelines. The pipeline would be installed approximately 36 inches deep and all work would occur within the existing ROW. Therefore, impacts to groundwater are not anticipated. One RCRA construction facility was identified near the north end of the Galaxy Drive segment. Although this establishment is near the project site, the facility would not be impacted by the Proposed Action. The existing pipeline would be abandoned, and new, plastic pipeline would be installed adjacent to the existing pipeline, via trenching. All excavated trench materials would be hauled out and the trench would be backfilled, and the areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions. PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impacts to groundwater associated with the project as the trenching would not be deep enough to intercept groundwater. Additionally, PHMSA has not identified any indirect or cumulative effects to groundwater or hazardous materials.

#### Mitigation Measures:

In the event of a release of hazardous materials/waste into the environment during construction, the City of Las Cruces shall notify the appropriate emergency response agencies, potentially impacted residents, and regulatory agencies of the release or exposure.

The City of Las Cruces shall implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan which would identify appropriate construction and restoration activities to minimize the potential impacts to groundwater. All impacted areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Soils		
Question	Information and Justification	
Will all bare soils be stabilized using methods using methods identified in the initial Tier 2 EA worksheet? Will additional measures be required?	Yes. All impacted areas would be restored to pre- construction contours.	
Will the project require unique impacts related to soils?	No	
Conclusion:		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Insert Gas Main Flexible Liners at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-

<sup>06/</sup>documents/insertgasmainflexibleliners.pdf#:~:text=Methane%20emissions%20reductions%20come%20from%20lower%20leakage%20rates,pipe%20a nd%20external%20corrosion%20in%20unprotected%20steel%20piping.

PHMSA obtained a custom soil report for the project area from the United States Department of Agriculture's NRCS's web soil survey which indicates that the project area is comprised of soils classified as Bluepoint loamy sand, Berino-Bucklebar association, Terino Casito association, Belen clay, and Vinton variant fine sandy loam. The majority of these soils within the project area are well drained soils where the depth to the water table is greater than 80 inches.<sup>9</sup>

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, the existing pipelines would remain in their current locations and soils would remain in their current state and condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur. Some soil disturbance would occur during maintenance activities. The impacted areas would be restored to existing conditions. Under either scenario, no adverse impacts to soils would be anticipated under the No Action alternative.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The pipeline would be installed approximately 36 inches deep (not to exceed 3.5 feet) and in a 12-inch-wide trench, where trenching is required. The trench would be backfilled daily and the areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that there would be no adverse impacts associated with soils resulting from the Proposed Action alternative and that there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as the City of Las Cruces would restore all areas to pre-construction conditions. **Mitigation Measures:** 

#### 5

The City of Las Cruces shall restore all impacted areas to pre-construction conditions.

Biological Resources	
Question	Information and Justification
Based on review of IPaC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries database, are there any federally threatened or	Yes, based on review of the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and NOAA Fisheries website. <sup>10</sup> Additionally, New Mexico state resources
endangered species and/or critical habitat potentially occurring within the geographic range of the project area? If no, no further analysis is required.	were inventoried to identify potential state listed species.
Will the project impact any areas in or adjacent to habitat for Federally, listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat? If no, provide justification and avoidance measures. If yes, PHMSA will work with the project proponent to conduct	No
necessary consultation with resource agencies. Conclusion:	

The project areas are within urban amd suburban areas consisting of mostly residential neighborhoods and light commercial businesses along previously disturbed roadways. All areas are within the existing ROW and maintained through regular landscaping. PHMSA requested an official species list through the USFWS IPaC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> <u>https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</u> and <u>https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory/threatened-endangered</u>

website. See Appendix F, Biological Resources, for the IPaC species list. The non-essential experimental populations of Mexican wolf (*Canis lupis baileyi*) and northern alpomado falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), and the candidate monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) were identified as federally listed species within the geographical range of the project. The threatened yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) and the endangered sneed pincushion cactus (*Corypantha sneedii var. sneedii*) were also identified as federally listed species within the geographical range of the project areas. There is no designated critical habitat within the project area.

Additionally, the New Mexico Game and Fish Biota Information System was reviewed to assist in identifying potential species protected by the state.<sup>11</sup> The following state protected species were identified by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish as potentially occurring within the project areas:

- Western yellow bat (*Dasypterus xanthinus*) (threatened)
- Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*) (threatened)
- Penasco least chipmunk (Neotamias minimus atristriatus) (endangered)
- Organ mountains Colorado chipmunk (Neotamias quadrivittatus australis) (threatened)
- Common ground dove (*Columbina passerine*) (endangered)
- Buff-collared nightjar (Antrostomus ridgwayi) (endangered)
- Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*) (threatened)
- Broad-billed hummingbird (Cynanthus latirostris) (threatened)
- Violet-crowned hummingbird (Leucolia violiceps) (threatened)
- Least tern (Sternula antillarum) (endangered)
- Neotropic cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) (threatened)
- Brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis) (endangered)
- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) (threatened)
- Common black hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) (threatened)
- Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) (threatened)
- Bell's vireo (Vireo bellii) (threatened)
- Gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) (threatened)
- Baird's sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*) (threatened)
- Varied bunting (Passerina versicolor) (threatened)
- Reticulate Gila monster (Heloderma suspectum suspectum) (endangered)
- Mottled rock rattlesnake (Crotalus lepidus lepidus) (threatened)
- Doña Ana talussnail (Sonorella todseni) (threatened)

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. The project areas are in urban and suburban environments and therefore have very limited biological resources present. Additionally, the project area does not contain suitable habitat for listed species, therefore no impacts to biological resources would occur under the No Action alternative.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The project areas are in urban and suburban environments where the areas of disturbance would be mainly within existing transportation corridors and along roadsides, in previously impacted areas. Because these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> <u>https://bison-m.org/Index.aspx</u>

areas are within ROW that has been previously impacted, the immediate project area has very limited biological resources present. Additionally, the project area does not contain suitable habitat for federal and state listed species potentially occurring within the project area.

All pipeline replacement work would be contained within the existing disturbed ROW. Under Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal agencies must confer with the USFWS if their action will jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species. As a candidate species, the monarch butterfly receives no statutory protection under the ESA. PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have no adverse impacts to state listed species or other biological resources and that there are no indirect or cumulative impacts anticipated as no impacts to habitat or species would occur.

To ensure proposed activities would not have any potential impact to protected species, PHMSA used the USFWS's online IPaC tool to identify listed species that may be within the geographic range of the proposed project areas. As a result, it was determined that the project would be unlikely to have any detrimental effects to federally listed species or critical habitat, and PHMSA determined that the project would have no effect to federally threatened or endangered species. See Appendix F, Biological Resources.

There are numerous state protected species (that are also not federally listed) which may occur within the geographic range of the project areas. However, because all work is limited to previously disturbed ROW in urban and suburban areas, PHMSA has determined there would be no adverse impacts to state listed species. No adverse impacts to other biological resources would result from the proposed project. **Mitigation Measures:** 

Cultural Resources	
Question	Information and Justification
Does the project include any ground disturbing activities, modifications to buildings or structures, or construction or installation of any new aboveground components?	Ground disturbance would be required for trenching and gas line replacement. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 36 in below grade. No modifications to buildings or structures would be required.
Is the project located within a previously identified local, state, or National Register historic district or adjacent to any locally or nationally recognized historic properties? This information can be gathered from the local government and/or State Historic Preservation Office. <sup>12</sup>	No historic properties were identified as listed in or eligible for the State Register or NRHP within the APE.
Does the project or any part of the project take place on tribal lands or land where a tribal cultural interest may exist? <sup>13</sup>	<ul> <li>The TDAT website identified 5 native American tribes</li> <li>with potential interest: <ul> <li>Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, OK</li> <li>Comanche Nation, OK</li> <li>Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, OK</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The City of Las Cruces is responsible for abiding by all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Many SHPOs have an <u>online system</u> at <u>https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm</u> that can tell you previously identified historic properties in your project area. The <u>National Register list</u> at <u>https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm</u> can also be accessed online.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The SHPO may have information on areas of tribal interest, or a good source is the HUD TDAT website at https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT/.

	<ul> <li>Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, NM</li> </ul>
	White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort
	Apache Reservation, AZ.
Are there any nearby properties or resources that	Yes, portions of the project include residential areas
either appear to be or are documented to have been	constructed more than 45 years ago. Several historic
constructed more than 45 years ago? <sup>14</sup> Does there	districts have been identified as potentially eligible
appear to be a group of properties of similar age,	within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive
design, or method of construction? Any designed	Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive
landscapes such as a park or cemetery? Please provide	Neighborhood.
photographs to show the context of the project area	
and adjacent properties.	
Has the entire area and depth of construction for the	Yes, the project segment is to replace the original line
project been previously disturbed by the original	at a similar depth adjacent to the existing line. This
installation or other activities? If so, provide any	segment is to replace the existing gas line and the
documentation of prior ground disturbances.	new line would be installed adjacent to the existing
	line.
Will project implementation require removal or	No.
disturbance of any stone or brick sidewalk, roadway,	
or landscape materials or other old or unique	
features? Please provide photos of the project area	
that include the roadway and sidewalk materials in the	
project and staging areas.	
Conclusion:	

PHMSA must consider the impact of projects for which they provide funding on historic and archeological properties<sup>15</sup> in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the Undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has delineated the APE for this project to encompass the portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4, all parcels fronting those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4, and the footprint of the existing enclosure prepared to receive the new odorization unit, which includes the limits of disturbance. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for the APE.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing conditions would remain, and normal maintenance activities would occur. These activities could result in ground disturbance that might affect historic resources. However, no federal funding would be applied and therefore Section 106 would not be required.

#### **Proposed Action:**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed publicly available information on previously identified

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Local tax and property records or historic maps may indicate dates of construction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Historic property means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the New Mexico Register State Register of Cultural Properties. PHMSA likewise sought additional information from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)) during early coordination for the Undertaking (August 16, 2023). PHMSA does not currently have access to restricted archaeological site information maintained by SHPO in the New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System (NMCRIS). SOI-qualified individuals likewise conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older that may be eligible for the NRHP and completed an archaeological assessment of the APE.

PHMSA staff also conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older and may be eligible for the NRHP. There are several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(I) as eligible within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of these neighborhoods that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. There are no known archaeological sites in the APE and based on the evaluation, and there is low potential for intact significant resources in the APE and no additional survey is needed. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources for additional information about the APE and the properties identified.

PHMSA has determined that there are several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(I) as eligible within the APE. Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, and incorporation of conditions, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified within the APE.

A letter was sent on March 27, 2024, to the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), federally recognized tribes with a potential interest in the project area, and all consulting parties outlining the Section 106 process, including a description of the undertaking, delineation and justification of the APE, identification of historic properties and an evaluation and proposed finding of no historic properties affected. PHMSA requested comments on the Section 106 process, identification of historic properties, and proposed finding within 30 days of receipt of the letter. See Appendix G, Cultural Resources, for additional information. **Mitigation Measures:** 

If, during project implementation, a previously undiscovered archaeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner, all project activities in the vicinity of the discovery will cease and the City of Las Cruces will immediately notify PHMSA. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic property that was not anticipated. PHMSA will notify the State Historic Preservation Office and participating federally recognized tribes and conduct consultation as appropriate in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13. Construction in the area of the discovery must not resume until PHMSA provides further direction.

In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall halt and City of Las Cruces shall immediately contact PHMSA as well as the proper authorities in accordance with applicable state statutes to determine if the discovery is subject to a criminal investigation, of Native American origin, or associated with a potential archaeological resource. At all times human remains must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Human remains and associated artifacts will be left in place and not disturbed. No skeletal remains or materials associated with the remains will be photographed, collected, or removed until PHMSA has conducted the appropriate consultation and developed a plan of action. Project activities shall not resume until PHMSA provides further direction. All work, material, equipment, and staging to remain within the road's existing right-of-way or utility easement or other staging areas as identified in the environmental documentation. If the scope of work changes in any way that may alter the effects to historic properties as described herein, the grant recipient must notify PHMSA, and consultation may be reopened under Section 106.

Section 4(f)	
Question	Information and Justification
Are there Section 4(f) properties within or immediately adjacent to the project area? If yes, provide a list of properties or as an attachment.	No
Will any construction activities occur within the property boundaries of a Section 4(f) property? If so, please detail these activities and indicate if these are temporary or permanent uses of the Section 4(f) property. Further coordination with PHMSA is required for all projects that might impact a Section 4(f) property.	No

#### Conclusion:

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Act of 1966 as amended (Section 4(f)) (49 U.S.C. § 303(c)); is a federal law that applies to transportation projects that require funding or other approvals by the USDOT. Section 4(f) prohibits the Secretary of Transportation from approving any program or project which requires the use of any publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or any land from an historic site of national, state, or local significance unless:

- There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land;
- The program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to such park, recreational area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site, resulting from such use.

PHMSA conducted a review of properties that are located within the Project Area to identify properties that qualify as Section 4(f). No Section 4(f) properties are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no change to existing pipeline infrastructure pursuant to federal funding or approval authorized by the Program. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) property under the No Action alternative.

#### **Proposed Action:**

Under the Proposed Action alternative, construction activities would not occur within or adjacent to 4(f) properties. Therefore, there would be no use of Section 4(f) resources. **Mitigation Measures:** 

#### There are no 4(f) resources identified in the project area and therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

Land Use and Transportation	
Question	Information and Justification
Will the full extent of the project boundaries remain within the existing right-of-way or easements? If no, please describe any right-of-way acquisitions or additional easements needed.	Yes, all work on mains would take place within the existing ROW.
Will the project result in detours, transportation restrictions, or other impacts to normal traffic flow or to existing transportation facilities during construction? Will there be any permanent change to existing transportation facilities? If so, what are the changes, and how would changes affect the public?	Yes, streets would be restricted to local traffic only and detours would be used to route traffic around the active installation sites. Additionally, heavy equipment may be used for the transport and installation of the odorization station adjacent to the roadway, creating periodic short-term traffic delays as vehicles arrive and depart.
Will the project interrupt or impede emergency response services from fire, police, ambulance or any other emergency or safety response providers? If so, describe any coordination that will occur with emergency response providers?	No, the project would not interrupt or impede emergency response services.
Conclusion:	

The project is located within urban and suburban areas comprised of mostly residential neighborhoods and light commercial businesses within the City of Las Cruces in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, leak prone pipes would remain in their current location. No changes to land use would occur. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The pipeline would be installed within the existing infrastructure ROW with all work occurring along the edge of streets within previously disturbed soils. The areas would be restored to pre-existing conditions and contours. Therefore, PHMSA has determined that there would be no permanent change to land use. The project is replacing/upgrading the existing pipe and would not include new pipeline to serve any additional areas. Additionally, PHMSA's assessment is that there are no indirect impacts anticipated as land use remains the same.

During construction potential impacts include an increase in noise, dust, and transportation accessibility, as a result of construction and construction staging. The project would result in streets restricted to local traffic only and detours to route traffic around the active installation sites. Traffic may also be impacted by the transportation and installation of the odorization station. Therefore, because the work consists of the replacement of existing pipeline, would not convert any new areas into a different use, detours are anticipated to be minor and short in duration, and impacts would only occur during construction, PHMSA's assessment is that impacts related to land use are considered minor and temporary.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related

construction projects that could cumulatively impact land use and transportation. The City of Las Cruces does have other capital improvement projects, including street design and re-pavement projects, ongoing within or near the project area.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Las Cruces shall establish traffic control plans that minimize disruption to the community and will coordinate construction schedules with property owners, emergency services, schools, and businesses.

Noise and Vibration	
Question	Information and Justification
Will the project construction occur for longer than a month at a single project location?	No
Will the project location be in proximity (less than 50- ft.) to noise sensitive receivers (residences, schools, houses of worship, etc.)? If so, what measures will be taken to reduce noise and vibration impacts to sensitive receptors?	Yes
Will the project require high-noise and vibration inducing construction methods? If so, please specify.	No, high-noise and vibration inducing construction methods are not required.
Will the project comply with state and local ordinances? If so, identify applicable ordinances and limitations on noise/vibration times or sound levels.	Yes, City of Las Cruces Noise Ordinance Sec. 19-131. <sup>16</sup>
Will construction activities require large bulldozers, hoe ram, or other vibratory equipment within 20 ft of a structure?	No

#### Conclusion:

The project areas are located within urban and suburban areas of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The ambient noise within the project area consists of a combination of environmental noise from road traffic, construction, industry, the built environment, population density and other sources. There are several sensitive noise receptors (residences, schools, etc.) located adjacent to the streets where work would occur.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action, the project would not move forward, and the pipelines identified for replacement would not be replaced at this time. It is likely that these pipelines would be repaired or replaced due to a leak under emergency conditions and only in the immediately affected areas. If replacement or repairs occur under emergency conditions, noise from construction equipment would add to that of the current ambient noise and would be of a shorter duration.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The pipeline replacement project would result in temporary construction noise impacts; however, no vibration impact should occur. Excavators, dump trucks, and other similar construction equipment would be used to excavate a trench, lay pipe, compact soils and restore the area to pre-existing conditions and contours. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>https://library.municode.com/nm/las\_cruces/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeld=PTIIMUCO\_CH19OFMIPR\_ARTIIIOFAGPUPEORSA\_DIV2NO\_S19-131COREDEWO</u>

use of construction equipment would result in temporary noise impacts. Construction for the project is not anticipated to last any longer than one month at any single project location. According to The City of Las Cruces Noise Ordinance Sec. 19-131, *"Construction, repair or demolition work to commercial or residential buildings, roadways, utility facilities or infrastructure may only occur between the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, which work disturbs the comfort or repose of others, shall be deemed a violation of this division except in case of urgent public necessity as determined by the city council."* 

Sensitive noise receptors are likely to experience temporary noise impacts while outdoors in the vicinity of the work; however, PHMSA has determined that the noise impacts would be minor and temporary and no adverse vibration impacts would result from the proposed work.

PHMSA considered the cumulative effects of this action with ongoing and planned transportation related construction projects that could cumulatively have an impact on the noise and vibration impacts within the City of Las Cruces. Urban areas often have paving, drainage improvement, and other construction or maintenance projects on going which could occur within or near the project area which would contribute to increased noise. These construction and maintenance projects could occur at the same time as the Proposed Action alternative and would contribute to an increase in cumulative noise effects during construction. However, adhering to state and local noise ordinances would ensure the project does not cause cumulatively more than minor adverse noise or vibration impacts.

**Mitigation Measures:** 

Environmental Justice			
Question	Information and Justification		
Using the EPA EJScreen or census data <sup>17</sup> , is the project located in an area of minority and/or low-income individuals as defined by USDOT Order 5610.2(c)? If so, provide demographic data for minority and/or low- income individuals within ½ mile from the project area as a percentage of the total population.	Yes, based on review of socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen, the population residing within the general project area contains 43% low income and 69% minority populations.		
Will the project displace existing residents or workers from their homes and communities? If so, what is the expected duration?	No		
Will the project require service disruptions to homes and communities? If so, what is the expected communication and outreach plan to the residents and the duration of the outages?	Yes, advanced notification of service disruptions and construction schedules would be available to the public.		
Are there populations with Limited English Proficiency located in the project area? If so, what measures will be taken to provide communications in other languages?	Yes, outreach would be completed in English and Spanish.		
Conclusion:			

The City of Las Cruces shall adhere to the City of Las Cruces Noise Ordinance Sec. 19-131.

Executive Order (E.O.) 14096—"Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All" was enacted on April 21, 2023. E.O. 14096 on environmental justice does not rescind E.O. 12898 – "Federal Actions"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045222

to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which has been in effect since February 11, 1994 and is currently implemented through DOT Order 5610.2C. This implementation would continue until further guidance is provided regarding the implementation of the new E.O. 14096 on environmental justice.

PHMSA reviewed socioeconomic data using the EPAs EJScreen and found the population residing within the project area contains 43% low income and 69% minority populations. The percentage of these populations is below the Doña Ana County average of 47% low income and 74% minority populations. See Appendix H, Environmental Justice, for socioeconomic data.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing and planned pipeline activities, including construction and maintenance activities, would continue unchanged. The project proponent would continue to use leak prone pipe material that could lead to safety incidents and service disruptions. Additionally, if a pipeline segment is not repaired or replaced prior to failure, it is likely to be associated with even more emissions under the No Action alternative. Thus, emissions benefits to the community associated with repairing or replacing existing pipelines with updated material would not be achieved and the incident risks and leaks would remain. There may be some degree of air pollution associated with construction activity for maintenance and repairs of existing pipelines under the No Action alternative, either through planned repair or replacement efforts or unplanned, emergency repairs or replacements.

#### **Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action alternative would result in an overall reduction in GHG emissions. Construction activities would result in minor temporary air quality impacts. Noise impacts associated with construction are anticipated to be minor. Traffic impacts would be temporary and only minor disruptions would occur. However, removal of leak prone pipe would reduce leaks and the potential for incidents, resulting in an increase in pipeline safety across the system while also improving operation and reliability. Therefore, consistent with Executive Order 12898 and DOT Order 5610.2(c), PHMSA's assessment is that the project would not result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations, or other underserved and disadvantaged communities. PHMSA's assessment is that the project would have an overall beneficial effect on environmental justice populations and would not result in indirect or cumulative impacts.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Las Cruces shall provide advanced public notifications of service disruptions and construction schedules to all affected parties including residents and businesses adjacent to the project area.

Safety			
Question Information and Justification			
Has a risk profile been developed to describe the	Yes, as described in the Distribution Integrity		
condition of the current infrastructure and potential	Management Program (DIMP) developed by Zia		
safety concerns?	Natural Gas Company <sup>18</sup> in New Mexico.		
Has a public awareness program been developed and	Yes, A public awareness program would be		
implemented that follows the guidance provided by the	implemented according to the API recommended		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> <u>https://www.zngc.com/~zngc/?page\_id=205</u>

American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162?	practice 1162.
Does the project area include pipes prone to leakage?	Yes
Will construction safety methods and procedures to protect human health and prevent/minimize hazardous materials releases during construction, including personal protection, workplace monitoring and site- specific health and safety plans, be utilized? If yes, document measures and reference appropriate safety plans.	Yes, safety measures from the Utility Safety Plan would be implemented to protect health and minimize hazardous releases during construction. Safety would include emergency response, personal protection, site monitoring, and site-specific safety plans.
Has an assessment of the project been performed to	Yes, an assessment has been performed to analyze
analyze the risk and benefits of implementation?	the risk and benefit of implementation.
Conclusion:	

The proposed project would replace approximately 13,600 LF of 1980's ABS and PVC plastic pipes. There are many types of natural gas pipelines that are known to leak based on their materials. Some of these leak prone pipes consist of cast iron, bare steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues (PIPES Act of 2020). PHMSA establishes safety regulations for all pipelines (49 CFR Parts 190-199). In 2011, following major natural gas pipeline incidents, DOT and PHMSA issued a Call to Action to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the highest-risk pipeline infrastructure. Among other factors, pipeline age and material are significant risk indicators. Pipelines constructed of cast and wrought iron, as well as bare steel, are among the pipelines that pose the highest risk. This is reflected in the City of Las Cruces's DIMP plan. PHMSA continues to encourage legacy pipeline repair or replacement to increase the safety of these segments of the gas distribution systems. Pipeline incidents can result in death, injury, property damage, and environmental damage.

#### No Action:

Under the No Action alternative, existing leak prone pipes would remain in their current condition. Normal maintenance activities would occur, and pipes would be replaced under failed circumstances. Safety risks resulting from existing leak prone pipes remaining in place would persist until the existing pipes are replaced.

### **Proposed Action:**

Under the Proposed Action, the City of Las Cruces would replace approximately 13,600 LF of ABS and PVC plastic pipes installed in the 1980's. The proposed project is necessary to replace leak prone pipes. This replacement is in alignment with the Zia Natural Gas Company's DIMP plan for Doña Ana County, increasing the overall safety of the community.

The project would reduce the risk profile of existing pipeline systems prone to methane leakage and would also benefit disadvantaged rural and urban communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The project responds to the need to address the potentially unsafe condition of the natural gas distribution system of pipelines. The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of pipelines would be constructed in accordance with industry best practices and would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety.

The abandonment of the existing pipeline would be conducted in accordance with PHMSA requirements found in 49 CRF 192.727 and 195.402(c)(10). These requirements include disconnecting pipelines from all sources

and supplies of gas, purging all combustibles and sealing the facilities left in place. These requirements for purging and sealing abandoned pipelines would ensure that the abandoned pipelines are properly purged and cleaned and pose no risk to safety in their abandoned state. Therefore, PHMSA's assessment is that this replacement project would improve the overall safety of the City of Las Cruces' infrastructure.

#### **Mitigation Measures:**

The City of Las Cruces shall use standard construction safety methods and procedures; and conduct regular safety audits of crews performing work in the field and subsequent follow-up reporting and/or training, as required.

The City of Las Cruces shall ensure their DIMP procedures are updated as necessary, the work is constructed in accordance with industry best practices and the project would comply with all local, state, and federal regulations, including those for safety and any required inspections.

#### III. <u>Public Involvement</u>

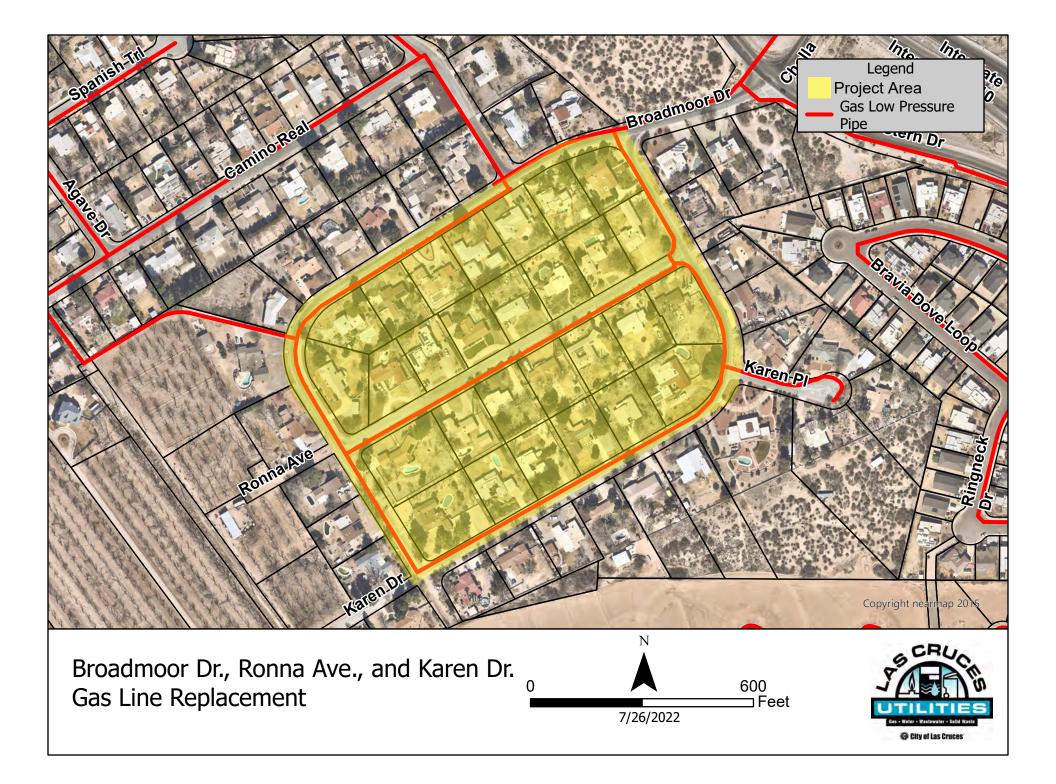
On November 9, 2022, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (87 FR 67748) with a 30-day comment period soliciting comments on the "Tier 1 Nationwide Environmental Assessment for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program." During the 30-day comment period, PHMSA received one comment letter from the APGA on various aspects of the program and air quality related analysis in the EA on December 9, 2022. This APGA letter is available for public review at the Docket No: PHMSA-2022-0123.<sup>19</sup> PHMSA reviewed the comment letter and determined the comments were not substantial and did not warrant further analysis. One comment provided by the APGA indicated that the majority of construction methods used for pipe replacements would be replacement by open trenching and that some may want to abandon the existing pipe rather than removing it for replacement. Any departures from methods described in the Tier 1 EA will require additional documentation from the project proponent, as reflected in this Tier 2.

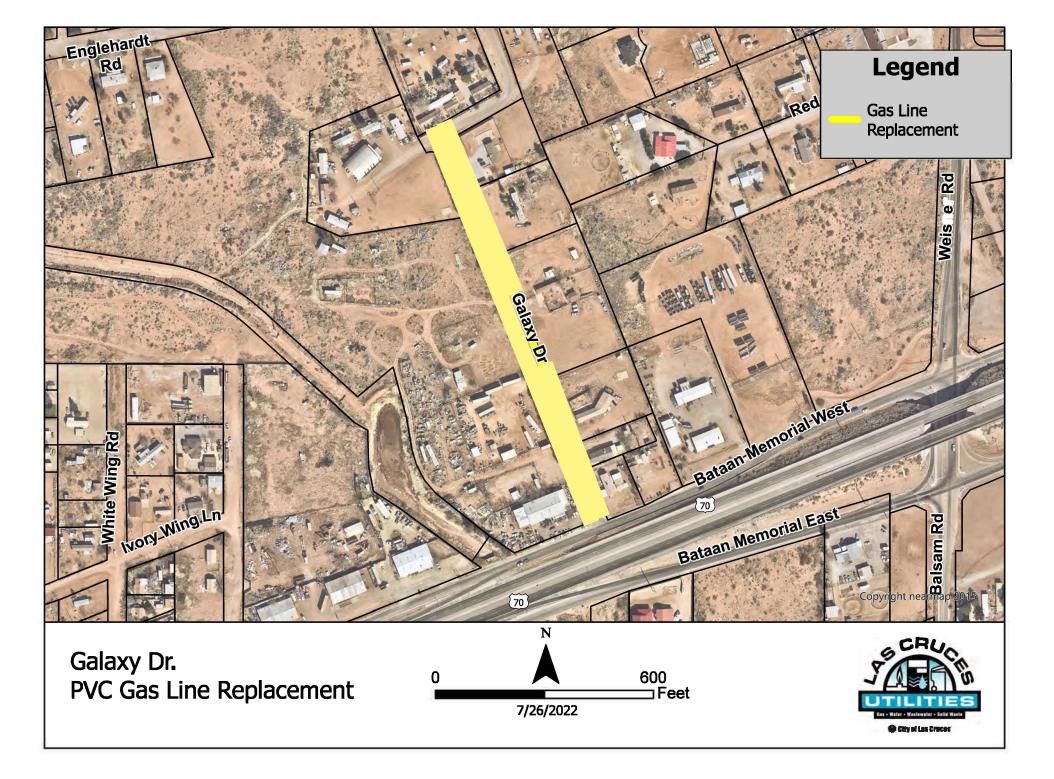
As part of this Tier 2, PHMSA is soliciting public comments through a public comment period. This Tier 2 is available on PHMSA's website where comments can be submitted to the contact noted below. PHMSA will accept public comments for 30 days on this Tier 2. PHMSA will consider comments received and incorporate them in the decision-making process. Consultation with appropriate agencies on related processes, regulations, and permits is ongoing. Please submit all comments to: <u>PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov</u> and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-27 in your response.

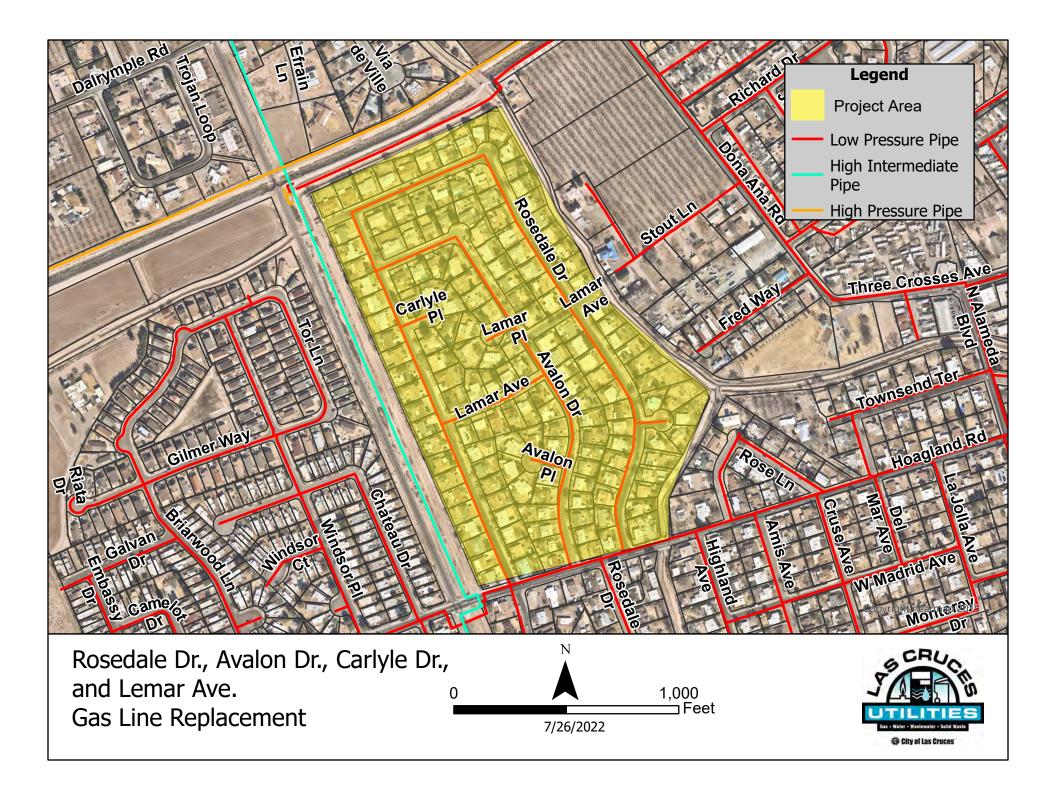
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2022-0123-0002/comment

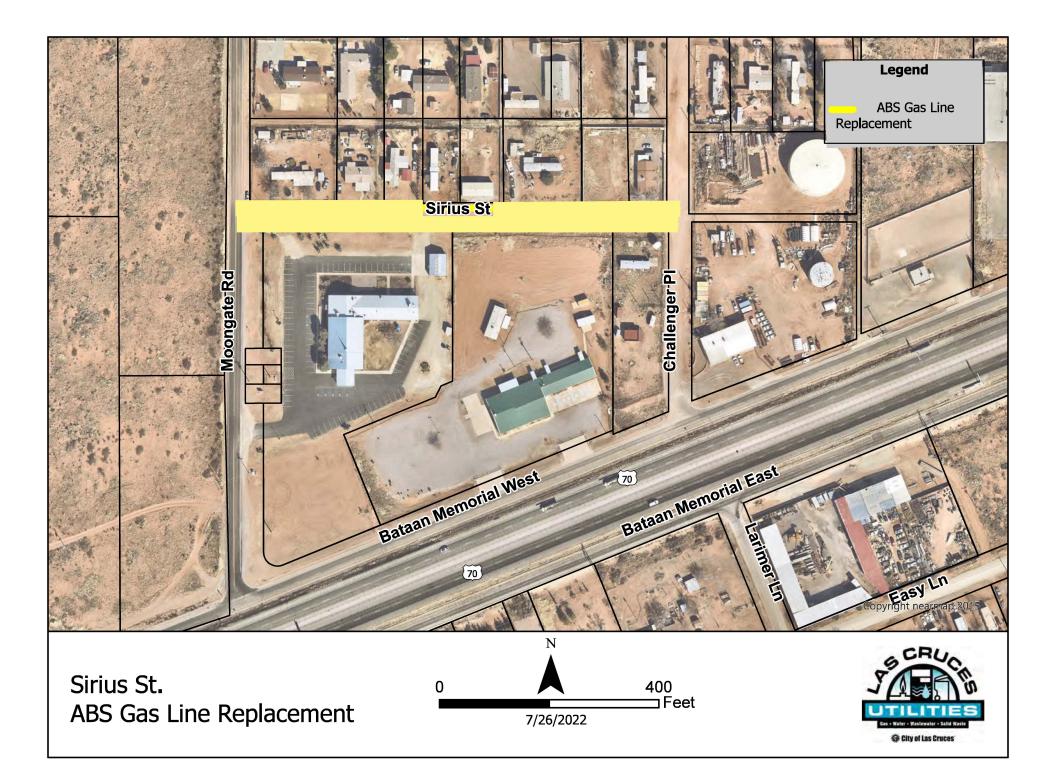
Appendix A

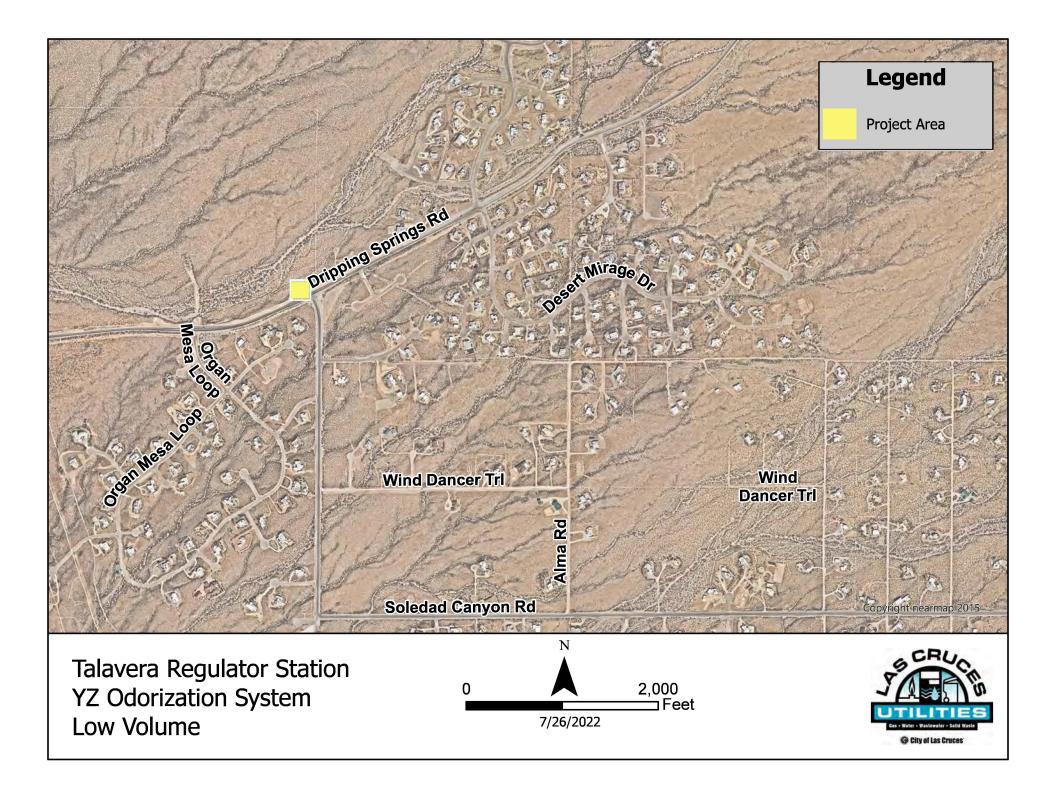
Project Map











## Appendix B

Air Quality (Methane Calculations)

Table 1 Average methane emission factors for natural gas pipelines (adapted from EPA GHG Inventory, Annex 3.6, Table 3.6-2)

Pipeline Material	Pre-1990 Installation (kg/mile)	1990-2020 Installation (kg/mile)	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)
Cast Iron	4,597.40	1,157.30	2,877.35
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	861.3	1,491.80
Protected steel	59.1	96.7	77.90
Plastic	190.9	28.8	109.85

Table 2 No Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	Current Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Cast Iron	4,597.40	0	0
Unprotected steel	2,122.30	0	0
Protected steel	59.1	0	0
Plastic	190.9	2.6	496
Total Annual Methane Leak Rate			496
20-year Methane Emissions			9,927

### Table 3 Proposed Action Leak Rate

Pipeline Material Type	Average Rate (kg/mile/year)	Miles	New Methane Leak Rate (kg/year)
Plastic	28.8	2.6	75
Year 1 Methane Reduction			403
Annual Methane Reduction			421
20-year Methane Reduction			8,429

Equation 1 was used to estimate blowdown emissions in MCF, assuming a pipeline diameter (d) and pressure (P) described in Table 3.

$$E_{blowdown} = V \times \frac{P_{pipe} + P_{atm}}{P_{atm}}$$
(1)

Where the pipeline volume (V) is calculated by multiplying the cross-sectional area of the pipe by the length of pipeline (L):

$$V = \pi \times \frac{d^2}{4} \times L \tag{2}$$

Equation Inputs	Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
Diameter (inches)	2	2	2	2
Blowdown Pressure	15	15	15	15
Length of Blowdown (feet)	7,600	3,800	800	1,400
Blowdown (MCF)	0.33	0.17	0.04	0.06
Total MCF	0.6			
Total kg	18			

Table 4 Proposed Action - Methane Blowdown

Appendix C

Water Resources



### Legend

#### 106°44'47"W 32°16'2"N SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) SUBABILET G Zone A. V. A9 With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS **Regulatory Floodway** 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs OTHER AREAS Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D - — – – Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer GENERAL STRUCTURES LIIII Levee, Dike, or Floodwall Cityof Las Cruces 355332 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD **Coastal Transect** Mase Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study R SO Jurisdiction Boundary **Coastal Transect Baseline** OTHER Profile Baseline 35013C1113G FEATURES Hydrographic Feature eff. 7/6/2016 **Digital Data Available** No Digital Data Available MAP PANELS Unmapped The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. Dona Ana County This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. 350012 The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 7/8/2022 at 3:00 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or TR S0 become superseded by new data over time. This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for 106°44'9"W 32°15'31"N Feet 1:6.000 unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes. 250 500 1,000 1.500 2.000

Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020



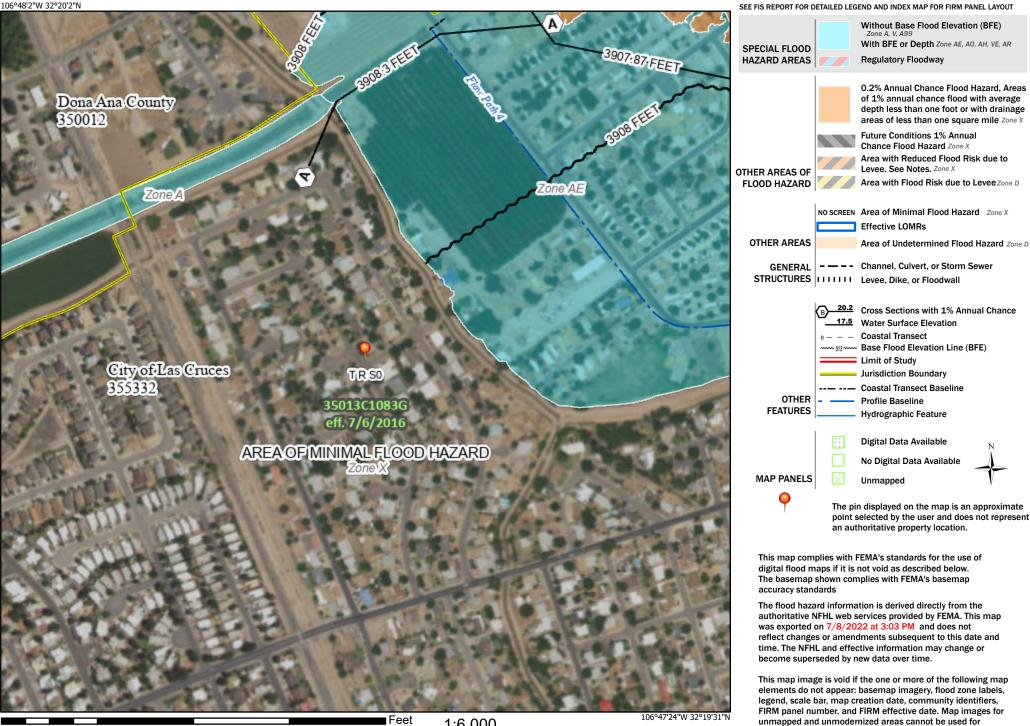
### Legend

#### 106°39'59"W 32°24'37"N SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A. V. A9 With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS **Regulatory Floodway** 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs OTHER AREAS Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D - — – – Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer GENERAL STRUCTURES LIIII Levee, Dike, or Floodwall AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 17.5 Water Surface Elevation Zone X **Coastal Transect** Mase Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Dona Ana County T22S R03E S8 Limit of Study 350012 Jurisdiction Boundary **Coastal Transect Baseline** OTHER **Profile Baseline** 35013C0920G FEATURES Hydrographic Feature eff. 7/6/2016 **Digital Data Available** No Digital Data Available Zone AO MAP PANELS (DEPTH 2 Feet) Unmapped The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. Zone AO (DEPTH 1 Feet) This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 7/8/2022 at 3:09 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and Zone A time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time. This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, T22S R03E S17 FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for 106°39'22"W 32°24'6"N Feet 1:6.000 unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes. 250 500 1,000 1,500 2.000 n

Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020



#### Legend



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Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020

106°47'24"W 32°19'31"N

regulatory purposes.

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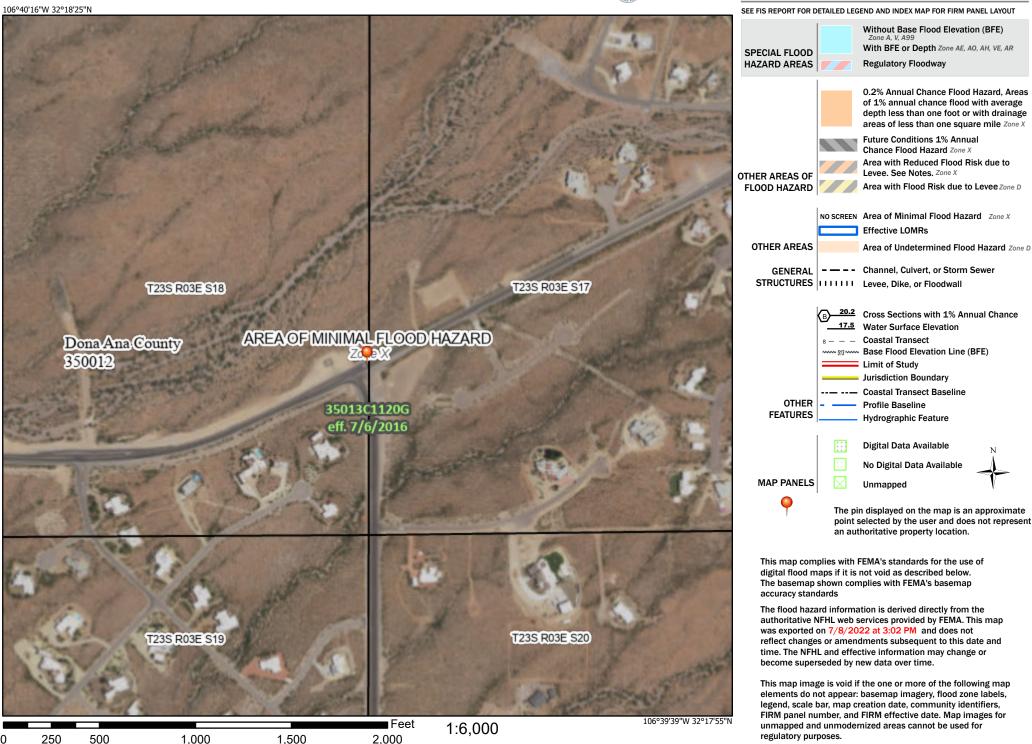
### Legend

#### 106°39'9"W 32°24'52"N SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A. V. A9 With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS **Regulatory Floodway** 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X Effective LOMRs OTHER AREAS Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D - — – – Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer GENERAL AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD STRUCTURES LIIII Levee, Dike, or Floodwall Dona Ana County 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance 350012 17.5 Water Surface Elevation **Coastal Transect** Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study T22S R03E S9 Jurisdiction Boundary T22S R03E S8 **Coastal Transect Baseline** ----OTHER **Profile Baseline** 5013C0920G FEATURES Hydrographic Feature eff. 7/6/2016 **Digital Data Available** No Digital Data Available 4604 MAP PANELS Unmapped The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards The flood hazard information is derived directly from the 4613 FEET authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map Ш 4604 FEF was exported on 7/8/2022 at 3:09 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and E 8 time. The NFHL and effective information may change or Zone AO Zone AE become superseded by new data over time. 4621 (DEPTH 2 Feet) This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for 106°38'31"W 32°24'22"N Feet 1:6.000 unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020



### Legend

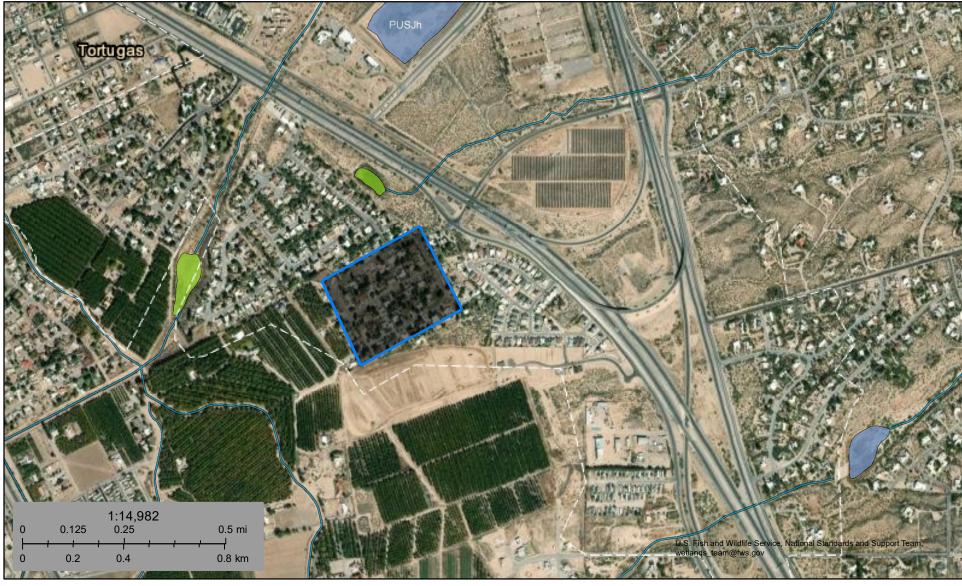


Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020



### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **National Wetlands Inventory**

### **Broadmoor Segment**



#### October 12, 2023

#### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- **Freshwater Pond**

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Lake Other Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.



## **Galaxy Segment**



#### October 12, 2023

#### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- rine Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

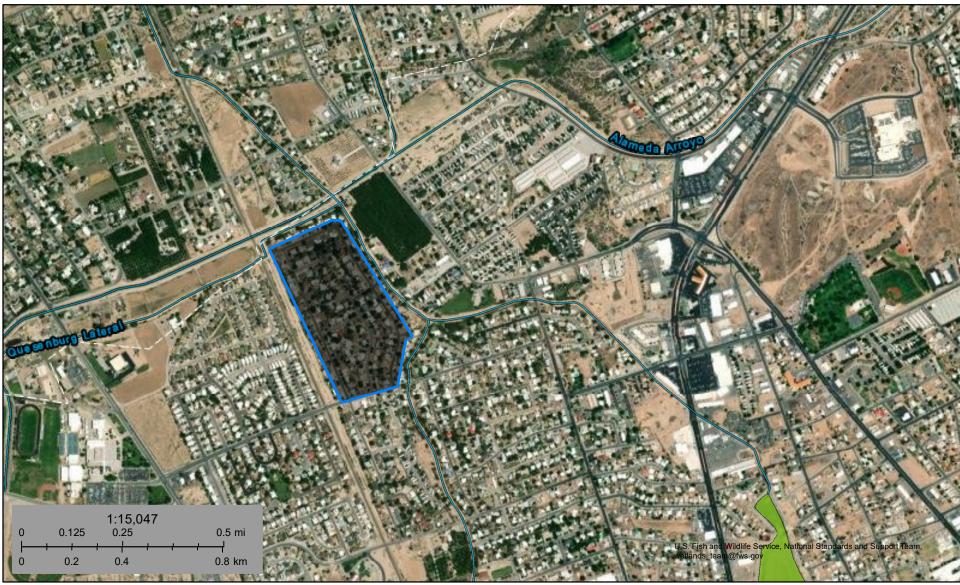
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



# **Rosedale Segment**



#### February 13, 2024

#### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- **Freshwater Pond**

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



# Sirius Segment



#### October 12, 2023

#### Wetlands

- Tatuanin a and Marina
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Freshwater Pond

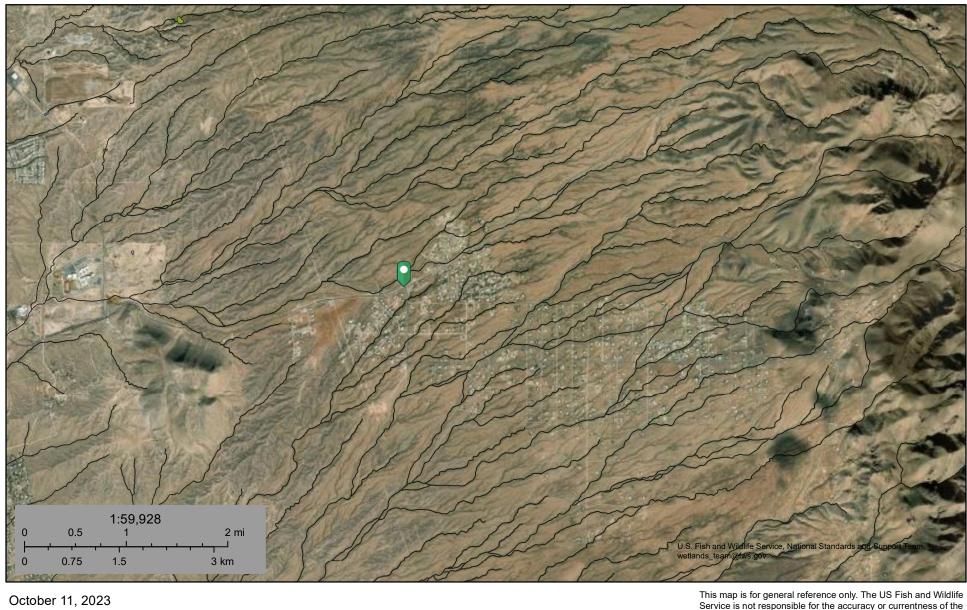
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



### **Talavera Odorization Station**



#### Wetlands



Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

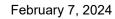
Lake Other Riverine

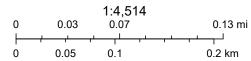
Appendix D

**Hazardous Materials** 

### Broadmoor

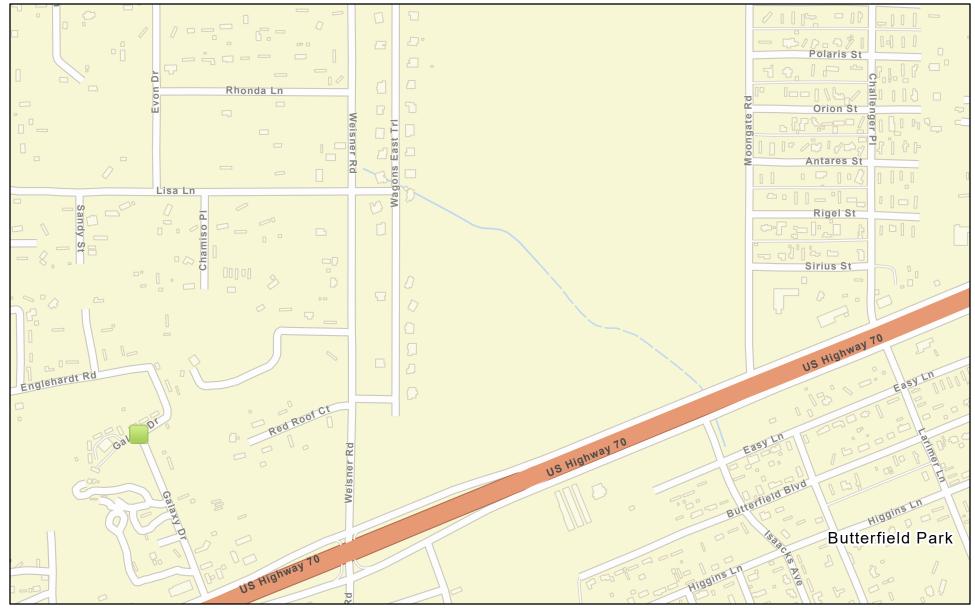


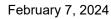




Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, City of Las Cruces GIS, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri,

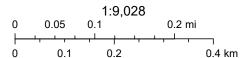
# Galaxy and Sirius





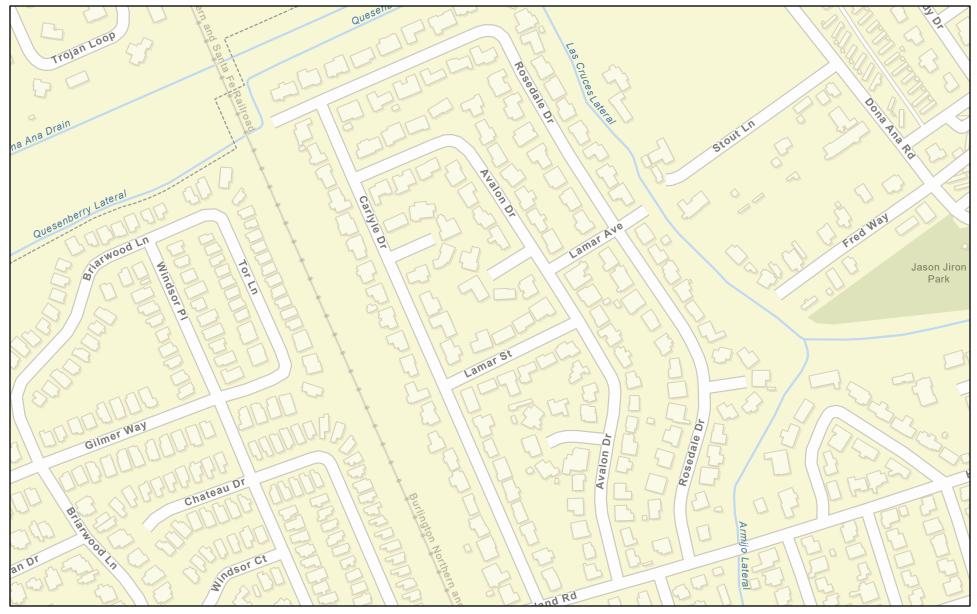


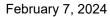
Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)

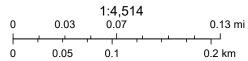


Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin,

# Rosedale

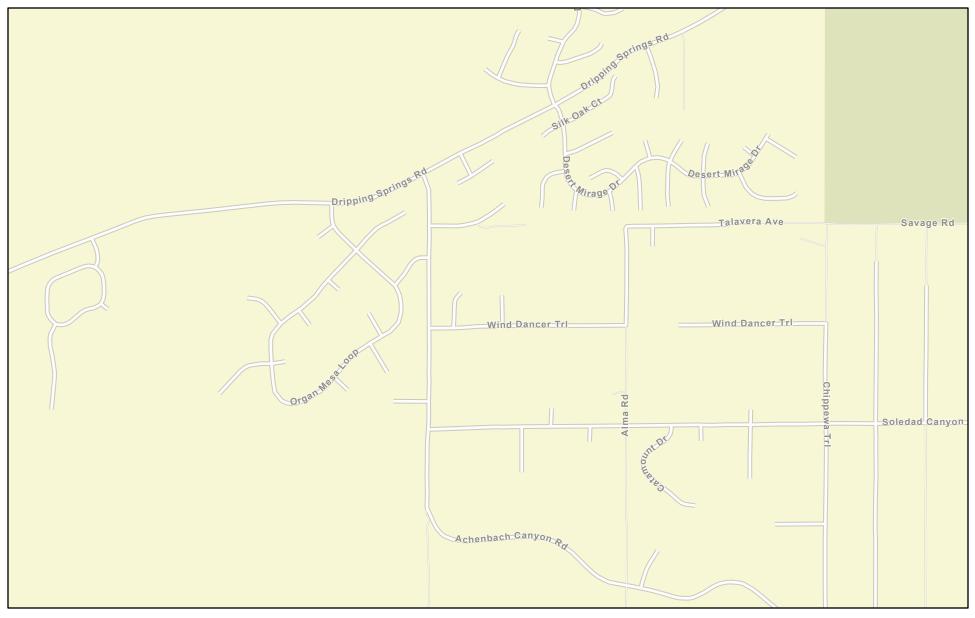


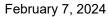


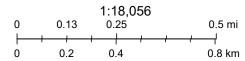


Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, City of Las Cruces GIS, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri,

# **Talavera Odorization**







Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ Appendix E

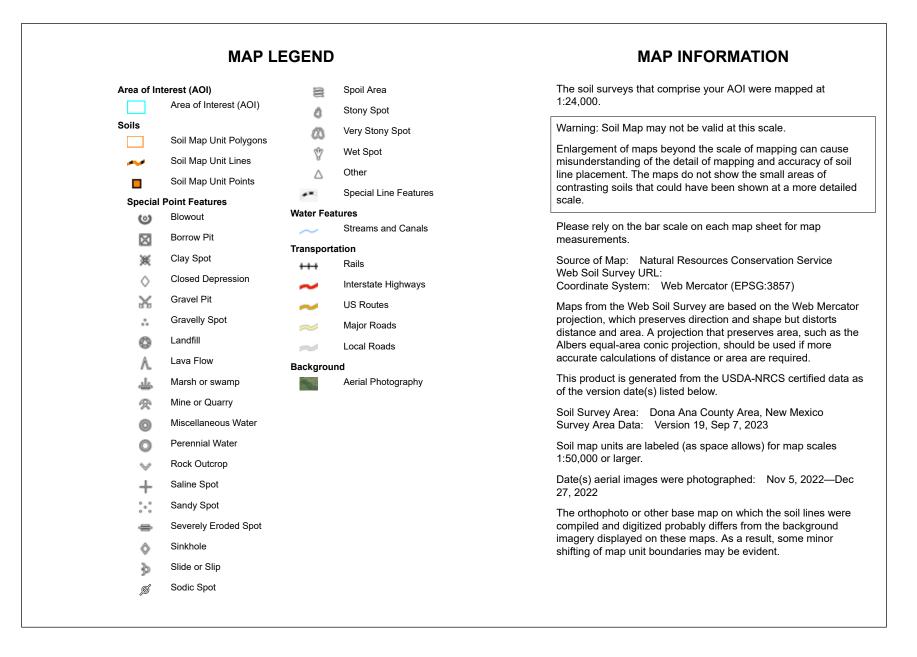
Soils Report



National Cooperative Soil Survey

**Conservation Service** 

Page 1 of 3





### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol Map Unit Name		Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI		
Bm	Bluepoint loamy sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes	21.4	100.0%		
Totals for Area of Interest		21.4	100.0%		



Page 1 of 3

**Conservation Service** 

Web Soil Survey National Cooperative Soil Survey

MAP LEGEND			
Spoil Area Stony Spot Very Stony Spot Wet Spot Other Special Line Features Streams and Canals ation Rails Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads	© © © © C Water Feat C Transporta ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓	MAP LE MAP LE Marea of Interest (AOI) Area of Interest (AOI) Soil Map Unit Polygons Soil Map Unit Lines Soil Map Unit Points Soil Map Unit Points (Aap Unit Points Borrow Pit Clased Depression Gravel Pit Closed Depression G	Soils
	Stony Spot Very Stony Spot Wet Spot Other Special Line Features Streams and Canals tion Rails Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads	<ul> <li>Spoil Area</li> <li>Stony Spot</li> <li>Very Stony Spot</li> <li>Very Stony Spot</li> <li>Very Stony Spot</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Special Line Features</li> </ul> Water Features Streams and Canals Transportation Fransportation Interstate Highways US Routes US Routes Major Roads Local Roads Background	Area of Interest (AOI) Stony Spot   Soil Map Unit Polygons Very Stony Spot   Soil Map Unit Lines Other   Soil Map Unit Points Special Line Features   Blowout Streams and Canals   Borrow Pit Transportation   Clay Spot Interstate Highways   Gravel Pit US Routes   Gravelly Spot Local Roads   Landfill Iotal Photography   Marsh or swamp Image Aerial Photography   Mine or Quarry Miscellaneous Water   Perennial Water Fork Outcrop   Saline Spot Sandy Spot



### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol Map Unit Name		Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
BJ	Berino-Bucklebar association	6.3	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest		6.3	100.0%	



**Conservation Service** 

MAF	LEGEND	MAP INFORMATION
Area of Interest (AOI) Area of Interest (AOI) Soils	Spoil Area	The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000. Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.
<ul> <li>Soil Map Unit Polygor</li> <li>Soil Map Unit Lines</li> <li>Soil Map Unit Points</li> <li>Special Point Features</li> </ul>	S Very Stony Spot Very Stony Spot Wet Spot △ Other Special Line Features Water Features	Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.
<ul> <li>Blowout</li> <li>Borrow Pit</li> <li>Clay Spot</li> <li>Closed Depression</li> </ul>	Streams and Canals         Transportation         HI         Rails         Interstate Highways	Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements. Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)
Gravel Pit Gravelly Spot Landfill Lava Flow	US Routes Major Roads Local Roads Background	Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercato projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.
<ul> <li>Marsh or swamp</li> <li>Mine or Quarry</li> <li>Miscellaneous Water</li> <li>Perennial Water</li> </ul>	Aerial Photography	This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data a of the version date(s) listed below. Soil Survey Area: Dona Ana County Area, New Mexico Survey Area Data: Version 19, Sep 7, 2023 Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales
<ul> <li>Rock Outcrop</li> <li>Saline Spot</li> <li>Sandy Spot</li> <li>Severely Eroded Spot</li> <li>Sinkhole</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>1:50,000 or larger.</li> <li>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Nov 5, 2022—Dec 27, 2022</li> <li>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Slide or Slip</li><li>Sodic Spot</li></ul>		

### Map Unit Legend

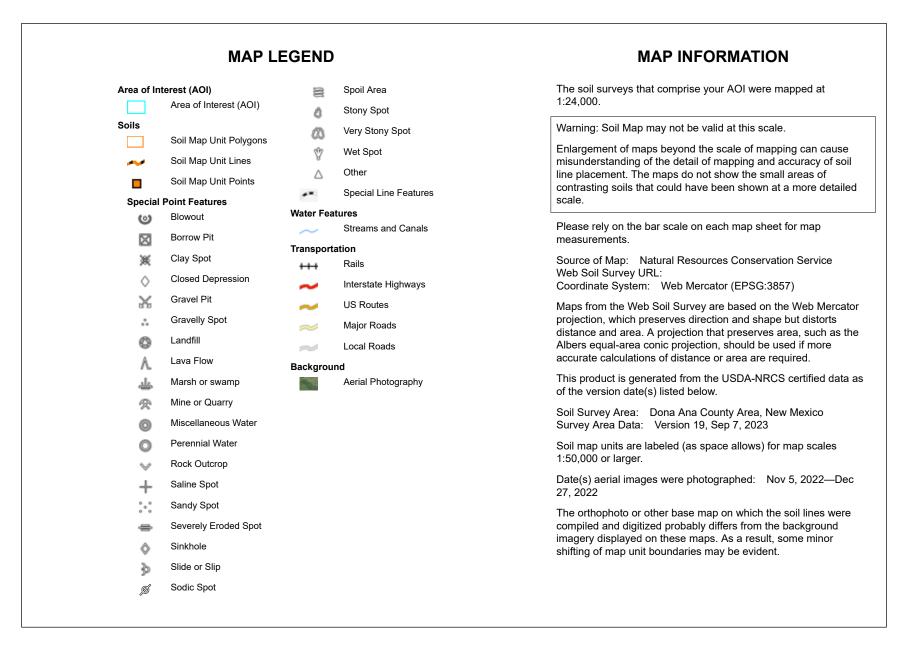
Map Unit Symbol Map Unit Name		Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
TF Terino-Casito association		0.2	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest		0.2	100.0%	



National Cooperative Soil Survey

**Conservation Service** 

Page 1 of 3



USDA

### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Symbol Map Unit Name		Percent of AOI		
Ао	Anapra clay loam	1.5	3.5%		
Ax	Armijo clay	0.3	0.7%		
Bg	Belen clay	32.2	74.7%		
Gf	Glendale clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	1.8	4.3%		
Vf	Vinton variant fine sandy loam	7.3	16.9%		
Totals for Area of Interest		43.1	100.0%		



USDA Natural Resources

**Conservation Service** 

Area of Inte		MAP LEGEND		MAP INFORMATION		
◎⊠ ※ ◇ ※ ☆ ≪ ◎ ◎ ◇ + ∵	rest (AOI) Area of Interest (AOI) Soil Map Unit Polygons Soil Map Unit Lines Soil Map Unit Points oint Features Blowout Borrow Pit Clay Spot Closed Depression Gravel Pit Gravelly Spot Landfill Lava Flow Marsh or swamp Mine or Quarry Miscellaneous Water Perennial Water Rock Outcrop Saline Spot Sandy Spot	Constraints of the second seco	Streams and Canals tation Rails Interstate Highways US Routes Major Roads Local Roads	<ul> <li>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.</li> <li>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</li> <li>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</li> <li>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</li> <li>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL:</li> <li>Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</li> <li>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</li> <li>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data at of the version date(s) listed below.</li> <li>Soil Survey Area: Dona Ana County Area, New Mexico Survey Area Data: Version 19, Sep 7, 2023</li> <li>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</li> <li>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Nov 5, 2022—Dec 27, 2022</li> <li>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background</li> </ul>		
+ :: = \$	Saline Spot Sandy Spot			<ul><li>1:50,000 or larger.</li><li>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Nov 5, 2022—Dec 27, 2022</li><li>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were</li></ul>		



### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol Map Unit Name		Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
BJ	Berino-Bucklebar association	2.6	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest	·	2.6	100.0%	

Appendix F

**Biological Resources** 





#### Federal or State Threatened/Endangered Species Dona Ana

<u>Taxonomic Group</u> Birds	<u># Species</u> 19	Taxonomic Group Lepidoptera; moths and butterflies			<u>#S</u>	à <b>pecies</b> 1
Mammals	4	Molluscs				1
Reptiles		~				
	TOTAL SPECIES:	21		Critical		
Common Name	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>NMGF</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	Habitat	<u>SGON</u>	<u>Photo</u>
Western Yellow Bat	Dasypterus xanthinus	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
<u>Spotted Bat</u>	Euderma maculatum	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Penasco Least Chipmunk	Neotamias minimus atristriatus	E	Р		Y	<u>View</u>
Organ Mountains Colorado Chipmunk	Neotamias quadrivittatus austral	is T			Y	<u>View</u>
Common Ground Dove	Columbina passerina	E			Y	<u>View</u>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (western pop)	Coccyzus americanus occidentalis	\$	Т	Y	Y	<u>View</u>
Buff-collared Nightjar	Antrostomus ridgwayi	E				No Photo
Costa's Hummingbird	Calypte costae	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Cynanthus latirostris	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Violet-crowned Hummingbird	Leucolia violiceps	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Least Tern	Sternula antillarum	E			Y	<u>View</u>
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis	E				<u>View</u>
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Common Black Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Mexican Spotted Owl	Strix occidentalis lucida		Т	Y	Y	<u>View</u>
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis	E	E		Y	<u>View</u>
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax traillii extimus	E	E	Υ	Y	<u>View</u>
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
<u>Gray Vireo</u>	Vireo vicinior	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Baird's Sparrow	Centronyx bairdii	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Varied Bunting	Passerina versicolor	Т			Y	<u>View</u>
Reticulate Gila Monster	Heloderma suspectum suspectun	n E			Y	<u>View</u>

### Federal or State Threatened/Endangered Species Dona Ana

<u>Common Name</u> Mottled Rock Rattlesnake	<u>Scientific Name</u> Crotalus lepidus lepidus	<u>NIMGF</u> ⊤	<u>USFWS</u>	Oritical <u>Habitat</u>	<u>SGON</u> Y	<u>Photo</u> <u>View</u>
Dona Ana Talussnail	Sonorella todseni	Т			Y	No Photo
Monarch Butterfly	Danaus plexippus		С			<u>View</u>



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office 2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0046066 Project Name: City of Las Cruces February 07, 2024

# Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq*.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf</a>.

#### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program: <u>https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/</u>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: <u>nhnm.unm.edu</u>

#### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html</u>, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

#### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do</a>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021">https://www.fws.gov/</a> media/birds-conservation-concern-2021) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <a href="https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds</a> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at <u>nmesfo@fws.gov</u>, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

#### New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 346-2525

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0046066Project Name:City of Las CrucesProject Type:Operations and Maintenance - Natural Gas Distribution FacilitiesProject Description:Broadmoor SegmentProject Location:Vertice Content of Co

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@32.26279015,-106.74142826149227,14z</u>



Counties: Doña Ana County, New Mexico

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

#### MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Wolf <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> Population: U.S.A. (portions of AZ and NM)see 17.84(k) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3916</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
BIRDS NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis septentrionalis Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</u>	Threatened
INSECTS NAME	STATUS

NAME Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>

Candidate

#### FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME

Sneed Pincushion Cactus *Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4706</u>

#### **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

STATUS

Endangered

#### **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Department of TransportationName:Shelby HancheraAddress:220 BinneyCity:CambridgeState:MAZip:02142Emailshelby.hanchera@dot.govPhone:8572708603

#### LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office 2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0046070 Project Name: City of Las Cruces February 07, 2024

# Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq*.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf</a>.

### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program: <u>https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/</u>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: <u>nhnm.unm.edu</u>

### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html</u>, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do</a>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021">https://www.fws.gov/</a> media/birds-conservation-concern-2021) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <a href="https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds</a> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at <a href="mailto:nmesfo@fws.gov">nmesfo@fws.gov</a>, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

### New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 346-2525

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0046070Project Name:City of Las CrucesProject Type:Operations and Maintenance - Natural Gas Distribution FacilitiesProject Description:Galaxy SegmentProject Location:Facilities

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@32.405694600000004,-106.66110491789955,14z</u>



Counties: Doña Ana County, New Mexico

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Wolf <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> Population: U.S.A. (portions of AZ and NM)see 17.84(k) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3916</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
BIRDS NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis septentrionalis Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</u>	Threatened
INSECTS NAME	STATUS

NAME Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>

Candidate

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME

Sneed Pincushion Cactus *Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4706</u>

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

STATUS

Endangered

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Department of TransportationName:Shelby HancheraAddress:220 BinneyCity:CambridgeState:MAZip:02142Emailshelby.hanchera@dot.govPhone:8572708603

## LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office 2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0046091 Project Name: City of Las Cruces February 07, 2024

# Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq*.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

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If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf</a>.

### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

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Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

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New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program: <u>https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/</u>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: <u>nhnm.unm.edu</u>

### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html</u>, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do</a>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021">https://www.fws.gov/</a> media/birds-conservation-concern-2021) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <a href="https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds</a> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at <u>nmesfo@fws.gov</u>, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

### New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 346-2525

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0046091Project Name:City of Las CrucesProject Type:Operations and Maintenance - Natural Gas Distribution FacilitiesProject Description:Rosedale SegmentProject Location:Facilities

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@32.32936615,-106.79557895233629,14z</u>



Counties: Doña Ana County, New Mexico

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Wolf <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> Population: U.S.A. (portions of AZ and NM)see 17.84(k) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3916</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
BIRDS NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis septentrionalis Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</u>	Threatened
INSECTS NAME	STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>

Candidate

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME

Sneed Pincushion Cactus *Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4706</u>

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

STATUS

Endangered

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Department of TransportationName:Shelby HancheraAddress:220 BinneyCity:CambridgeState:MAZip:02142Emailshelby.hanchera@dot.govPhone:8572708603

## LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office 2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0046094 Project Name: City of Las Cruces February 07, 2024

# Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq*.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf</a>.

### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program: <u>https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/</u>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: <u>nhnm.unm.edu</u>

### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html</u>, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do</a>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021">https://www.fws.gov/</a> media/birds-conservation-concern-2021) to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <a href="https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds</a> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at <a href="mailto:nmesfo@fws.gov">nmesfo@fws.gov</a>, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

### New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 346-2525

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0046094Project Name:City of Las CrucesProject Type:Operations and Maintenance - Natural Gas Distribution FacilitiesProject Description:Sirius SegmentProject Location:Vertice Content of Conte

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@32.410171500000004,-106.64737400715038,14z</u>



Counties: Doña Ana County, New Mexico

# **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 4 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon <i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i> Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</u>	Threatened

### INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus	Candidate
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>	
FLOWERING PLANTS	

NAME	STATUS
Sneed Pincushion Cactus Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii	Endangered
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.	
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4706	

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Department of TransportationName:Shelby HancheraAddress:220 BinneyCity:CambridgeState:MAZip:02142Emailshelby.hanchera@dot.govPhone:8572708603

## LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office 2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542



In Reply Refer To: Project Code: 2024-0046103 Project Name: City of Las Cruces February 07, 2024

# Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your recent request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of New Mexico wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as amended (16 USC 701-715), and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as amended (16 USC 668-668(c)). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area, and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and

the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq*.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 USC 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at <a href="https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf">https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf</a>.

### **Candidate Species and Other Sensitive Species**

A list of candidate and other sensitive species in your area is also attached. Candidate species and other sensitive species are species that have no legal protection under the ESA, although we recommend that candidate and other sensitive species be included in your surveys and considered for planning purposes. The Service monitors the status of these species. If significant declines occur, these species could potentially be listed. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided.

Lists of sensitive species including State-listed endangered and threatened species are compiled by New Mexico State agencies. These lists, along with species information, can be found at the following websites.

Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M): www.bison-m.org

New Mexico State Forestry. The New Mexico Endangered Plant Program: <u>https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/rare-plants/</u>

New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, New Mexico Rare Plants: nmrareplants.unm.edu

Natural Heritage New Mexico, online species database: <u>nhnm.unm.edu</u>

### WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value.

We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's NWI program website, <u>www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html</u>, integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the ESA, there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Service (50 CFR 10.12 and 16 USC 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do">https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do</a>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a Federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no Federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. We also recommend review of the Birds of Conservation Concern list (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds">https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds</a>. This list identifies migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent top conservation priorities for the Service, and are potentially threatened by disturbance, habitat impacts, or other project development activities.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 thereby provides additional protection for both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. Please visit <a href="https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds">https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds</a> for information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding State protected and at-risk species fish, wildlife, and plants.

For further consultation with the Service we recommend submitting inquiries or assessments electronically to our incoming email box at <a href="mailto:nmesfo@fws.gov">nmesfo@fws.gov</a>, where it will be more promptly routed to the appropriate biologist for review.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

Official Species List

# **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

### New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

2105 Osuna Road Ne Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001 (505) 346-2525

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

Project Code:2024-0046103Project Name:City of Las CrucesProject Type:Operations and Maintenance - Natural Gas Distribution FacilitiesProject Description:Talavera OdorizationProject Location:Vertice Content of Content of

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@32.303633950000005,-106.66485150751934,14z</u>



Counties: Doña Ana County, New Mexico

## **ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES**

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. <u>NOAA Fisheries</u>, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Wolf <i>Canis lupus baileyi</i> Population: U.S.A. (portions of AZ and NM)see 17.84(k) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3916</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
BIRDS NAME	STATUS
Northern Aplomado Falcon Falco femoralis septentrionalis Population: U.S.A (AZ, NM) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1923</u>	Experimental Population, Non- Essential
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus Population: Western U.S. DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911</u>	Threatened
INSECTS NAME	STATUS

NAME Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</u>

Candidate

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME

Sneed Pincushion Cactus *Coryphantha sneedii var. sneedii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <u>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4706</u>

## **CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

STATUS

Endangered

# **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency:Department of TransportationName:Shelby HancheraAddress:220 BinneyCity:CambridgeState:MAZip:02142Emailshelby.hanchera@dot.govPhone:8572708603

## LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Appendix G

**Cultural Resources** 



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Dr. Jeff Pappas State Historic Preservation Officer New Mexico Historic Preservation Division DCA – Historic Preservation Division 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236 Santa Fe, NM 87501

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Pappas:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106).

#### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 13,600 linear feet (LF) of failing 1980s-era Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, which would enhance safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las Cruces' natural gas transmission system and would include modernization and interim safety enhancement measures. All work will be completed in modestly developed locations in the City of Las Cruces that include a mixture of paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, churches, and suburban residential properties. Project location maps are enclosed in Attachment A and photographs representing the general character of the project area are included in Attachment B.

The Undertaking has been organized into five (5) segments described in **Table 1** below. All replacement lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (ft) below grade by means of open trenching. It is anticipated that all new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right-of-way (ROW) within 5 ft of the existing line. However, depending on location specific conditions including the siting of other utilities, some new replacement pipe may be installed in the existing ROW on the opposite side of the road from the existing pipe. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 inches (in) and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

#### Table 1. Project Segments

Segment Name	Action	Location	Length	Pipe Diameter	Installation Location	Width of Roadway
(Number) Rosedale Drive Neighborhood (1)	Replacement	Rosedale Dr, Avalon Dr, Carlyle Dr, Lamar Ave	7,600 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood (2)	Replacement	Broadmoor Dr, Ronna Ave, Karen Dr	3,800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Sirius Street (3)	Replacement	Sirius St	800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the unpaved roadway	NA
Galaxy Drive (4)	Replacement	Galaxy Dr	1,400 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Talavera Odorization Station	Installation of additional odorization unit	Northwest of the Dripping Springs Rd (C077)- Soledad Canyon Rd Intersection	NA	NA	Within the existing prepared enclosure	NA

As part of the Undertaking, service lines will be replaced for all properties served by the newly installed pipelines by means of open trenching. The service line replacements will begin in the existing road ROW, proceed into existing utility easements, and continue to the existing gas meters. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the service line replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade.

This undertaking likewise includes the installation of an additional odorization unit to maintain the required level of natural gas odorization for the Talavera subdivision service area. The equipment will be installed inside an existing enclosure already prepared to receive the new infrastructure (**Table 1**).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

#### Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has determined that the APE for this undertaking to encompass:

- Those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4;
- All parcels fronting on those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4; and
- The footprint of the existing enclosure prepared to receive the new odorization unit.

The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 3 ft below grade in segments 1 through 4. No ground disturbance is anticipated in association with the installation of the odorization unit within the prepared enclosure. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved and unpaved public roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, suburban residential properties, and community buildings. The APE is depicted on maps included in **Attachment A**.

#### **Identification and Evaluation**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed publicly available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the New Mexico Register State Register of Cultural Properties. PHMSA likewise sought additional information from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) during early coordination for the Undertaking (August 16, 2023). PHMSA does not currently have access to restricted archaeological site information maintained by SHPO in NMCRIS. SOI-qualified individuals likewise conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older that may be eligible for the NRHP and completed an archaeological assessment of the APE.

#### Historic Architecture

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines and service lines within the existing ROW and utility easements as well as the installation of odorization equipment within an existing prepared enclosure, the identification effort for above-ground historic properties focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to any limited effects of the Undertaking and could experience diminished integrity. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking, which will not produce any physical changes to buildings or lasting visual or audible impacts to their surroundings. Likewise, a review of the NRHP database and the State Register of Cultural Properties identified no historic properties in the APE listed in or eligible for the State Register or NRHP.

According to prior SHPO correspondence (September 13, 2023), the areas of the APE associated with the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood segments have not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties; but, as the neighborhoods were developed in the early 1960s and early 1970s respectively, they may constitute unidentified historic districts potentially eligible for the NRHP. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for these segments.

Likewise, that portion of the APE associated with the Sirius Street segment has not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties, but surveys conducted nearby have identified no historic properties in the vicinity. Accordingly, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for this segment.

With regard to that portion of the APE associated with the Galaxy Drive segment, SHPO noted that it too had not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and indicated that no new survey was necessary for this segment.

Finally, SHPO noted that the area of the APE associated with the Talavera Odorization Station had been previously surveyed and that no historic properties had been identified. Accordingly, the SHPO called for no additional work at this location prior to construction.

### Archaeology

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In prior correspondence with PHMSA, SHPO noted that no additional work to identify and evaluate historic properties was necessary in any portion of the APE. However, SHPO did comment that surveys conducted near the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and Galaxy Drive segments had identified but did not evaluate several prehistoric archaeological sites. Consequently, SHPO requested that contractors be made aware that cultural materials or unmarked human burials could be discovered during construction at these locations, and that a "discovery clause" be included as a condition of any finding of no historic properties affected for the Undertaking.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In light of SHPO's comments, and due to the limited scope of work of the Undertaking and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

PHMSA has determined that there may be several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood or the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to these resources or their contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the resources.

Additionally, previously unidentified archaeological resources may be present in or around the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and/or Galaxy Drive segments of the APE. Accordingly, the City of Las Cruces or their contractor will monitor all ground disturbing activities during construction and if any potential archaeological resources or human remains are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify PHMSA and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the attached Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols (Attachment C).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified withing the APE.

### **Consulting Party Outreach**

PHMSA identified parties that may be interested in the Project and its effects on historic properties. PHMSA invites the individuals/organizations copied on this letter to participate as Section 106 consulting parties. Invited parties should indicate their willingness to participate as a consulting party and provide comments on the enclosed form (Attachment D) within 30 calendar days from the date on this letter. Note that a non-response is considered to be a declination to participate; however, interested parties can request to join consultation at any time in the process. If any invited party expresses concern about the Project's potential effects to historic properties, PHMSA will consult with the party to resolve those concerns prior to project implementation.

PHMSA will also invite the following federally recognized tribes to participate in consultation by separate letter:

- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico
- White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

Based on the information presented above, PHMSA has determined that the Undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect to properties that are either in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. PHMSA is submitting this Undertaking to your office for your review and comment. PHMSA requests your concurrence with this determination of effect within 30 calendar days of the date of this letter. Should you need additional information please contact Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at <u>PHMSASection106@dot.gov</u> or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF /ba

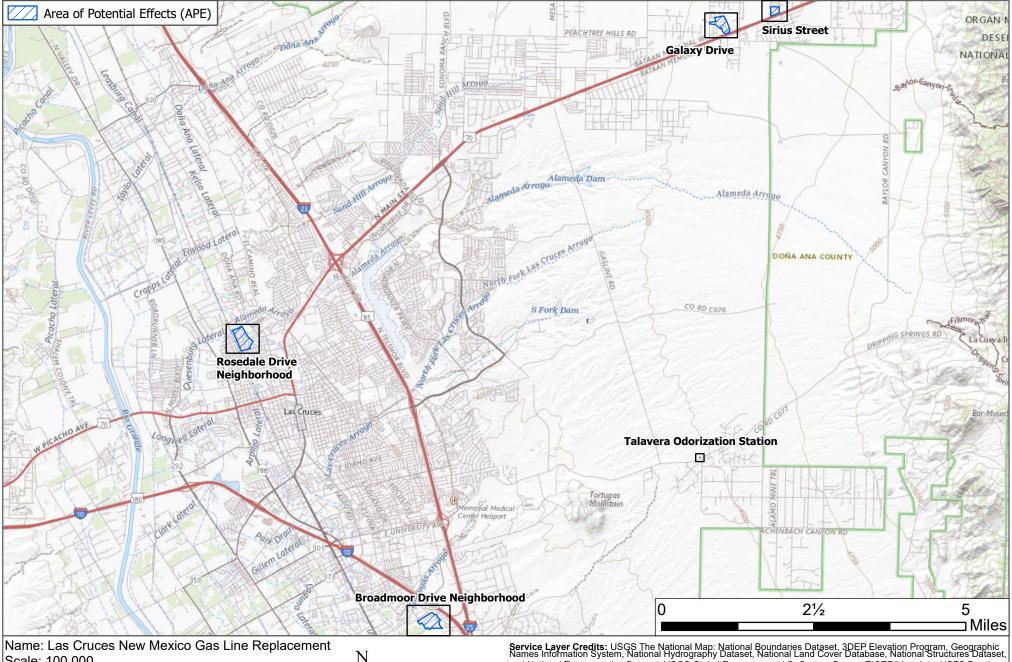
cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist Susan Gonzales, City of Las Cruces Grant Manager Doña Ana County Historical Society

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment B: Project Area Photographs Attachment C: Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols Attachment D: Consulting Party Response Form

## ATTACHMENT A

**Project Location and APE Maps** 



Scale: 100,000 Total Acreage: 129.6 USGS Basemap: Las Cruces, Tortugas Mountain, Organ Peak NW Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County

Service Layer Credits: USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State HIU; NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information



Name: Las Cruces New Mexico Gas Line Replacement Scale: 4,000 Total Acreage: 129.6 Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County Rosedale Drive Neighborhood

Ν

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, City of Las Cruces GIS, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar



Name: Las Cruces New Mexico Gas Line Replacement Scale: 3,000 Total Acreage: 129.6 Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood



Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, City of Las Cruces GIS, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar



Name: Las Cruces New Mexico Gas Line Replacement Scale: 2,000 Total Acreage: 129.6 Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County Sirius Street

Ν

Service Layer Credits: Maxar, Microsoft, Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, Dona Ana County, Texas Parks & Wildlife, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



Name: Las Cruces New Mexico Gas Line Replacement Scale: 3,000 Total Acreage: 129.6 Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County Galaxy Drive

N

Service Layer Credits: Esri Community Maps Contributors, New Mexico State University, Dona Ana County, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, Maxar



Total Acreage: 129.6 Las Cruces, NM, Doña Ana County Talavera Odorization Station



### ATTACHMENT B

**Project Area Photographs** 

Segment 1: Rosedale Drive Neighborhood





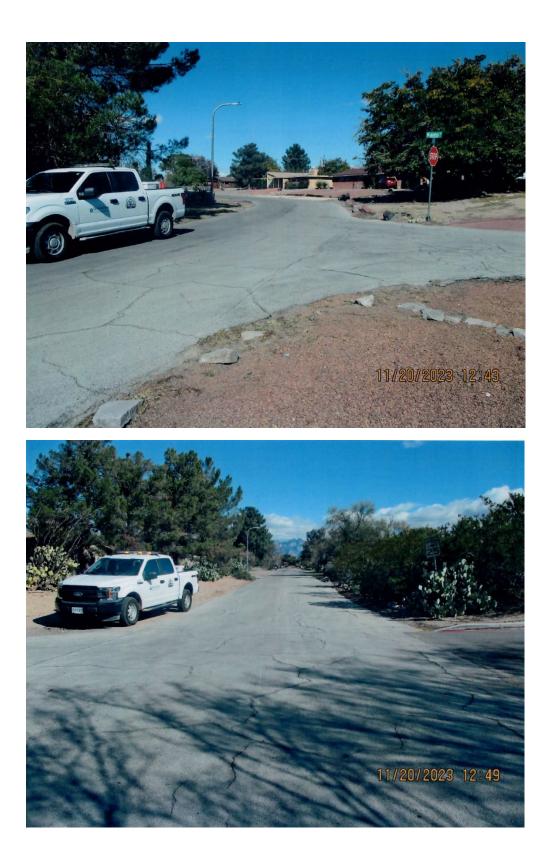


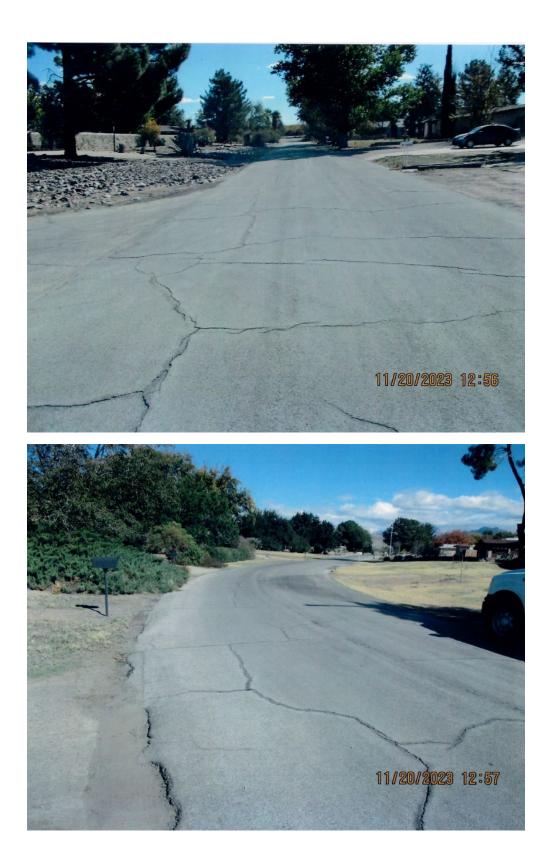


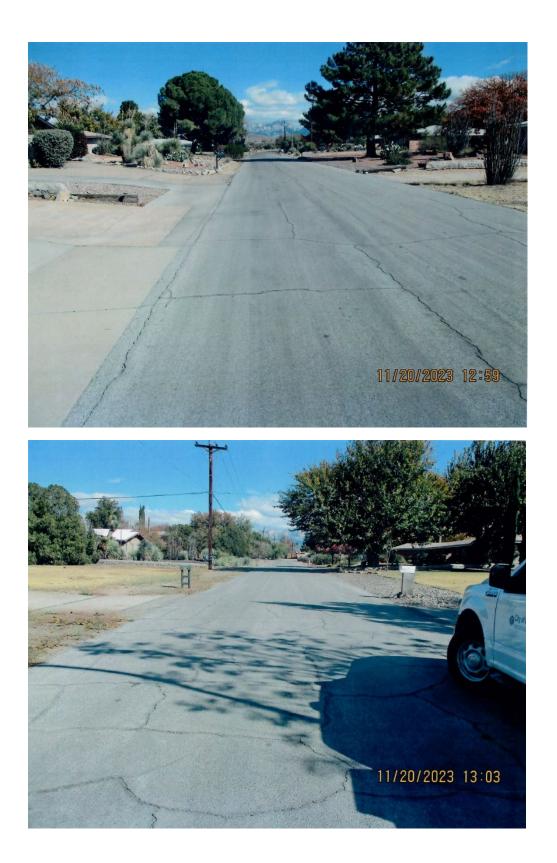




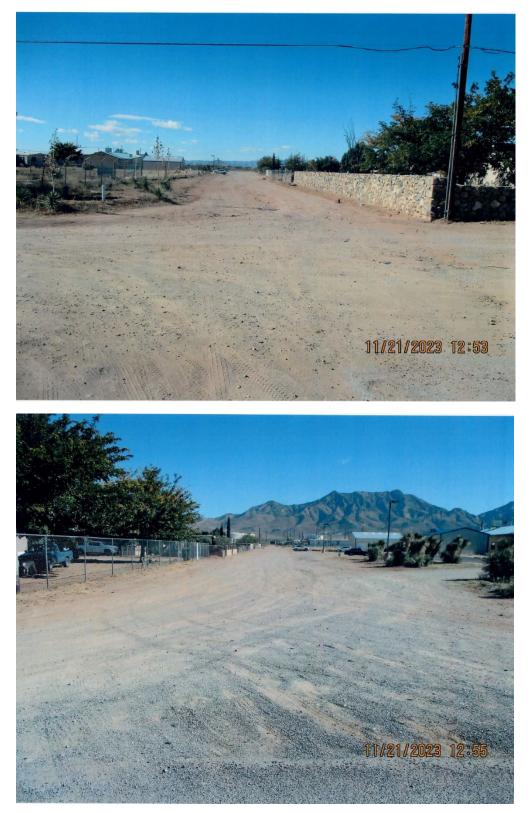
Segment 2: Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood







Segment 3: Sirius (Venus) Street



Segment 4: Galaxy Drive



**Talavera Odorization Station** 



## ATTACHMENT C

**Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols** 

## PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (PHMSA) UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES PROTOCOLS

### A. Unexpected Discoveries, Previously Unidentified Properties, or Unexpected Effects:

In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13, if a previously undiscovered archeological or cultural resource that is or could reasonably be a historic property is encountered or a previously known historic property will be affected in an unanticipated manner during construction, the Grant Recipient will implement the following procedures. This may include discovery of cultural features (e.g., foundations, water wells, trash pits, etc.) and/or artifacts (e.g., pottery, stone tools and flakes, animal bones, etc.) or damage to a historic property that was not anticipated. We advise construction personnel to cease construction and for the Grant Recipient to consult with PHMSA to address post-review concerns. Each step within these procedures will be completed within seven (7) days unless otherwise specified:

- 1. The person or persons encountering such properties or effects shall immediately stop construction in the area of the discovery and notify the Grant Recipient, who will contact PHMSA and the Section 106 point of contact (POC; contact information listed below). Upon notification by the Grant Recipient of a discovery, PHMSA shall immediately notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at (505) 827-6320, participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s), and other consulting parties that may have an interest in the discovery, previously unidentified property or unexpected effects, and consult to evaluate the discovery for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and/or the effects of the undertaking on historic properties.
- 2. The Grant Recipient will take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the property until PHMSA has completed consultation with the SHPO, participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s), and any other consulting parties. They will require the contractor to immediately cease all ground disturbing and/or construction activities within a 100-foot radius buffer zone of the discovery, which PHMSA may reduce or expand based on SHPO standards. For any discovered archeological resources, the Grant Recipient will also halt work in surrounding areas where additional subsurface remains are reasonably expected to be present.
- 3. The Grant Recipient will ensure that no excavation, operation of heavy machinery, or stockpiling occurs within the buffer zone. The Grant Recipient will secure the buffer zone through the installation of protective fencing. The Grant Recipient will not resume ground disturbing and/or construction activities within the buffer zone until the specified Section 106 process is complete. Work in all other Project areas may continue.
- 4. Following notification of an unanticipated discovery or effect, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, the Section 106 POC, and consultants as appropriate, will investigate the discovery site and evaluate the resource(s). The Grant Recipient or their consultant will prepare and submit a written document containing a proposed determination of National Register eligibility for the resource and/or, if relevant, an assessment of the Undertaking's effects on historic properties. PHMSA may elect to assume eligibility and/or adverse effects for expediency.
- 5. If the unanticipated discovery is determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register and/or adverse effects cannot be avoided, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will propose in writing to SHPO and participating Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and consulting parties, treatment measures to resolve adverse effects.
- 6. If it is necessary to develop treatment measures, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will implement the approved treatment measures. The Grant Recipient will ensure construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until consultation with SHPO, Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and other consulting parties concludes with: 1) a determination that the resource is not National Register-eligible or there are no new adverse effects; 2) the agreed upon treatment

measures have been implemented; or 3) it has been agreed that the treatment measures can be completed within a specified time period after construction-related activities have resumed.

### B. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

If the unanticipated discovery includes what is or suspected to be human remains, the Grant Recipient will implement the following procedures. At all times human remains must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Human remains or associated artifacts will be left in place and not disturbed. No skeletal remains or materials associated with the remains will be photographed, collected or removed until appropriate consultation has taken place and a plan of action has been developed. We advise construction personnel to cease construction and for the Grant Recipient to consult with the PHMSA to address post-review concerns. Each step within these procedures will be completed within seven (7) days unless otherwise specified:

- 1. If marked or unmarked graves, human skeletal remains, or skeletal remains believed to be human are encountered during development, all potential disturbance to the graves, skeletal remains, or associated items (e.g., artifacts, headstones, etc.) must cease and law enforcement be notified in accordance with applicable State statute(s) and to determine if the discovery is subject to a criminal investigation. The Grant Recipient will notify PHMSA and the Section 106 POC within twenty-four (24) hours of the initial discovery.
- 2. Work in the general area of the discovery will stop immediately and the Grant Recipient will immediately secure and protect the human remains and any associated artifacts in place in such a way that minimizes further exposure or damage from the elements, looting, and/or vandalism. The Grant Recipient will ensure a perimeter with a 100-foot radius buffer zone around the discovery is established where there will be no excavation, operation of heavy machinery, or stockpiling. PHMSA may reduce or expand this buffer zone based on SHPO standards. The Grant Recipient will secure the buffer zone through the installation of protective fencing at minimum. The Grant Recipient will not resume ground disturbing and/or construction activities within the buffer zone until the specified Section 106 process is complete. Work in all other Project areas may continue.
- 3. If a criminal investigation is not appropriate, the Grant Recipient will ensure compliance with any applicable State and local laws pertaining to human remains, funerary objects, and cemeteries. Discoveries of human remains on Federal or Tribal lands shall be subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 USC §3001-3013, 18 USC § 1170); and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) (14 USC § 470), as applicable. PHSMA, in coordination with the Grant Recipient, will consult with the appropriate Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and consulting parties.
- 4. In the event the human remains encountered are of Native American origin, PHMSA, in coordination with the Grant Recipient, will consult with the appropriate Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and SHPO to determine treatment measures for the avoidance, recovery or reburial of the remains and any associated artifacts. When applicable, PHMSA and the Grant Recipient will follow the principles within the ACHP's Policy Statement on Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects, dated March 1, 2023.
- 5. If the remains are not of Native American origin, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will consult with the SHPO and participating consulting parties to determine if the discovery is a historic property, take into account the effects on the historic property, and resolve adverse effects, as appropriate.
- 6. If it is necessary to develop treatment measures, the Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will implement the approved treatment measures. The Grant Recipient will ensure ground disturbing and construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until consultation with the SHPO, consulting Tribe(s)/Nation(s) and participating consulting parties

concludes with: 1) a finding that the resource is not National Register-eligible or there are no new adverse effects; 2) the agreed upon treatment measures have been implemented; or 3) it has been agreed that the treatment measures can be completed within a specified time period after construction-related activities have resumed.

7. The Grant Recipient, in coordination with PHMSA, will also ensure ground disturbing and construction-related activities within the buffer zone do not proceed until the Grant Recipient has complied with all applicable State or local cemetery or burials laws.

Points of contact are as follows:

- PHMSA: Matt Fuller (217) 707-8169; Matt.Fuller@dot.gov
- o Section 106 POC (Volpe): Brian M. Albright (856) 381-6233; PHMSA106@dot.gov

## ATTACHMENT D

**Consulting Party Response Form** 

## Section 106 Consulting Party Response Form

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program

## **Project Name/Location:**

Date:	Organization:	
Name:	Affiliation:	
Address:	Phone Number:	
	E-mail:	

Please check one of the following:

Yes, I, or my organization, would like to participate in consultation on the project's potential effects to historic properties. I, or my organization, has a legal or economic relation to the project or affected properties or have a concern with the project's effects on historic properties.

**No,** I, or my organization, do(es) not wish to participate as a consulting party for the project.

Do you know of any other potential consulting parties that should be contacted? If so, please list the name, email, or other contact information below.

Comments:

Please return by:

Please return to: Brian M. Albright USDOT Volpe Center 220 Binney Street, Cambridge, MA E-mail: PHMSASection106@dot.gov



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Kasey Velasquez Chairman White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona 201 East Walnut Street White River, Arizona 85941

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana

Dear Chairman Velasquez:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Undertaking to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Undertaking, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 13,600 linear feet (LF) of failing 1980s-era Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, which would enhance safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las Cruces' natural gas transmission system and would include modernization and interim safety enhancement measures. All work will be completed in modestly developed locations in the City of Las Cruces that include a mixture of paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, churches, and suburban residential properties. Project location maps are enclosed in Attachment B.

The Undertaking has been organized into five (5) segments described in **Table 1** below. All replacement lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (ft) below grade by means of open trenching. It is anticipated that all new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right-of-way (ROW) within 5 ft of the existing line. However, depending on location specific conditions including the siting of other utilities, some new replacement pipe may be installed in the existing ROW on the opposite side of the road from the existing pipe. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 inches (in) and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than

3 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

Table 1. Project Segments

Segment Name (Number)	Action	Location	Length	Pipe Diameter	Installation Location	Width of Roadway
Rosedale Drive Neighborhood (1)	Replacement	Rosedale Dr, Avalon Dr, Carlyle Dr, Lamar Ave	7,600 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood (2)	Replacement	Broadmoor Dr, Ronna Ave, Karen Dr	3,800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Sirius Street (3)	Replacement	Sirius St	800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the unpaved roadway	NA
Galaxy Drive (4)	Replacement	Galaxy Dr	1,400 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Talavera Odorization Station	Installation of additional odorization unit	Northwest of the Dripping Springs Rd (C077)- Soledad Canyon Rd Intersection	NA	NA	Within the existing prepared enclosure	NA

As part of the Undertaking, service lines will be replaced for all properties served by the newly installed pipelines by means of open trenching. The service line replacements will begin in the existing road ROW, proceed into existing utility easements, and continue to the existing gas meters. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the service line replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade.

This undertaking likewise includes the installation of an additional odorization unit to maintain the required level of natural gas odorization for the Talavera subdivision service area. The equipment will be installed inside an existing enclosure already prepared to receive the new infrastructure (**Table 1**).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

### Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has determined that the APE for this undertaking to encompass:

- Those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4;
- All parcels fronting on those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4; and
- The footprint of the existing enclosure prepared to receive the new odorization unit.

The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 3 ft below grade in segments 1 through 4. No ground disturbance is anticipated in association with the installation of the odorization unit within the prepared enclosure. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved and unpaved public roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, suburban residential properties, and community buildings. The APE is depicted on maps included in **Attachment A**.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed publicly available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the New Mexico Register State Register of Cultural Properties. PHMSA likewise sought additional information from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) during early coordination for the Undertaking (August 16, 2023). PHMSA does not currently have access to restricted archaeological site information maintained by SHPO in NMCRIS. SOI-qualified individuals likewise conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older that may be eligible for the NRHP and completed an archaeological assessment of the APE.

### Historic Architecture

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines and service lines within the existing ROW and utility easements as well as the installation of odorization equipment within an existing prepared enclosure, the identification effort for above-ground historic properties focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to any limited effects of the Undertaking and could experience diminished integrity. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking, which will not produce any physical changes to buildings or lasting visual or audible impacts to their surroundings. Likewise, a review of the NRHP database and the State Register of Cultural Properties identified no historic properties in the APE listed in or eligible for the State Register or NRHP.

According to prior SHPO correspondence (September 13, 2023), the areas of the APE associated with the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood segments have not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties; but, as the neighborhoods were developed in the early 1960s and early 1970s respectively, they may constitute unidentified historic districts potentially eligible for the NRHP. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for these segments.

Likewise, that portion of the APE associated with the Sirius Street segment has not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties, but surveys conducted nearby have identified no historic properties in the vicinity. Accordingly, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for this segment.

With regard to that portion of the APE associated with the Galaxy Drive segment, SHPO noted that it too had not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and indicated that no new survey was necessary for this segment.

Finally, SHPO noted that the area of the APE associated with the Talavera Odorization Station had been previously surveyed and that no historic properties had been identified. Accordingly, the SHPO called for no additional work at this location prior to construction.

### Archaeology

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In prior correspondence with PHMSA, SHPO noted that no additional work to identify and evaluate historic properties was necessary in any portion of the APE. However, SHPO did comment that surveys conducted near the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and Galaxy Drive segments had identified but did not evaluate several prehistoric archaeological sites. Consequently, SHPO requested that contractors be made aware that cultural materials or unmarked human burials could be discovered during construction at these locations, and that a "discovery clause" be included as a condition of any finding of no historic properties affected for the Undertaking.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In light of SHPO's comments, and due to the limited scope of work of the Undertaking and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

PHMSA has determined that there may be several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood or the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to these resources or their contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the resources.

Additionally, previously unidentified archaeological resources may be present in or around the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and/or Galaxy Drive segments of the APE. Accordingly, the City of Las Cruces or their contractor will monitor all ground disturbing activities during construction and if any potential archaeological resources or human remains are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify PHMSA and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the attached Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols (Attachment C).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified withing the APE.

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at <u>PHMSASection106@dot.gov</u> or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ba

cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
 Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
 Mark Altaha, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort
 Apache Reservation, Arizona

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment B: Project Area Photographs Attachment C: Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Wamblee Smith Acting Environmental Director Apache Tribe of Oklahoma PO Box 1330 Anadarko, OK 73005

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana

Dear Director Smith:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Undertaking to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Undertaking, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 13,600 linear feet (LF) of failing 1980s-era Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, which would enhance safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las Cruces' natural gas transmission system and would include modernization and interim safety enhancement measures. All work will be completed in modestly developed locations in the City of Las Cruces that include a mixture of paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, churches, and suburban residential properties. Project location maps are enclosed in Attachment B.

The Undertaking has been organized into five (5) segments described in **Table 1** below. All replacement lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (ft) below grade by means of open trenching. It is anticipated that all new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right-of-way (ROW) within 5 ft of the existing line. However, depending on location specific conditions including the siting of other utilities, some new replacement pipe may be installed in the existing ROW on the opposite side of the road from the existing pipe. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 inches (in) and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than

3 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

Table 1. Project Segments

Segment Name (Number)	Action	Location	Length	Pipe Diameter	Installation Location	Width of Roadway
Rosedale Drive Neighborhood (1)	Replacement	Rosedale Dr, Avalon Dr, Carlyle Dr, Lamar Ave	7,600 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
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Galaxy Drive (4)	Replacement	Galaxy Dr	1,400 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Talavera Odorization Station	Installation of additional odorization unit	Northwest of the Dripping Springs Rd (C077)- Soledad Canyon Rd Intersection	NA	NA	Within the existing prepared enclosure	NA

As part of the Undertaking, service lines will be replaced for all properties served by the newly installed pipelines by means of open trenching. The service line replacements will begin in the existing road ROW, proceed into existing utility easements, and continue to the existing gas meters. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the service line replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade.

This undertaking likewise includes the installation of an additional odorization unit to maintain the required level of natural gas odorization for the Talavera subdivision service area. The equipment will be installed inside an existing enclosure already prepared to receive the new infrastructure (**Table 1**).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

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Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has determined that the APE for this undertaking to encompass:

- Those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4;
- All parcels fronting on those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4; and
- The footprint of the existing enclosure prepared to receive the new odorization unit.

The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 3 ft below grade in segments 1 through 4. No ground disturbance is anticipated in association with the installation of the odorization unit within the prepared enclosure. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved and unpaved public roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, suburban residential properties, and community buildings. The APE is depicted on maps included in **Attachment A**.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed publicly available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the New Mexico Register State Register of Cultural Properties. PHMSA likewise sought additional information from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) during early coordination for the Undertaking (August 16, 2023). PHMSA does not currently have access to restricted archaeological site information maintained by SHPO in NMCRIS. SOI-qualified individuals likewise conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older that may be eligible for the NRHP and completed an archaeological assessment of the APE.

### Historic Architecture

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines and service lines within the existing ROW and utility easements as well as the installation of odorization equipment within an existing prepared enclosure, the identification effort for above-ground historic properties focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to any limited effects of the Undertaking and could experience diminished integrity. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking, which will not produce any physical changes to buildings or lasting visual or audible impacts to their surroundings. Likewise, a review of the NRHP database and the State Register of Cultural Properties identified no historic properties in the APE listed in or eligible for the State Register or NRHP.

According to prior SHPO correspondence (September 13, 2023), the areas of the APE associated with the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood segments have not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties; but, as the neighborhoods were developed in the early 1960s and early 1970s respectively, they may constitute unidentified historic districts potentially eligible for the NRHP. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for these segments.

Likewise, that portion of the APE associated with the Sirius Street segment has not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties, but surveys conducted nearby have identified no historic properties in the vicinity. Accordingly, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for this segment.

With regard to that portion of the APE associated with the Galaxy Drive segment, SHPO noted that it too had not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and indicated that no new survey was necessary for this segment.

Finally, SHPO noted that the area of the APE associated with the Talavera Odorization Station had been previously surveyed and that no historic properties had been identified. Accordingly, the SHPO called for no additional work at this location prior to construction.

### Archaeology

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In prior correspondence with PHMSA, SHPO noted that no additional work to identify and evaluate historic properties was necessary in any portion of the APE. However, SHPO did comment that surveys conducted near the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and Galaxy Drive segments had identified but did not evaluate several prehistoric archaeological sites. Consequently, SHPO requested that contractors be made aware that cultural materials or unmarked human burials could be discovered during construction at these locations, and that a "discovery clause" be included as a condition of any finding of no historic properties affected for the Undertaking.

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In light of SHPO's comments, and due to the limited scope of work of the Undertaking and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

PHMSA has determined that there may be several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood or the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to these resources or their contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the resources.

Additionally, previously unidentified archaeological resources may be present in or around the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and/or Galaxy Drive segments of the APE. Accordingly, the City of Las Cruces or their contractor will monitor all ground disturbing activities during construction and if any potential archaeological resources or human remains are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify PHMSA and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the attached Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols (Attachment C).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified withing the APE.

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at <u>PHMSASection106@dot.gov</u> or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ba

cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment B: Project Area Photographs Attachment C: Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Mark Woommavovah Chairman Comanche Nation, Oklahoma 584 Nw Bingo Road Elgin, OK 73538

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana

Dear Chairman Woommavovah:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Undertaking to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Undertaking, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 13,600 linear feet (LF) of failing 1980s-era Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, which would enhance safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las Cruces' natural gas transmission system and would include modernization and interim safety enhancement measures. All work will be completed in modestly developed locations in the City of Las Cruces that include a mixture of paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, churches, and suburban residential properties. Project location maps are enclosed in Attachment B.

The Undertaking has been organized into five (5) segments described in **Table 1** below. All replacement lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (ft) below grade by means of open trenching. It is anticipated that all new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right-of-way (ROW) within 5 ft of the existing line. However, depending on location specific conditions including the siting of other utilities, some new replacement pipe may be installed in the existing ROW on the opposite side of the road from the existing pipe. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 inches (in) and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than

3 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

Table 1. Project Segments

Segment Name (Number)	Action	Location	Length	Pipe Diameter	Installation Location	Width of Roadway
Rosedale Drive Neighborhood (1)	Replacement	Rosedale Dr, Avalon Dr, Carlyle Dr, Lamar Ave	7,600 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
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Talavera Odorization Station	Installation of additional odorization unit	Northwest of the Dripping Springs Rd (C077)- Soledad Canyon Rd Intersection	NA	NA	Within the existing prepared enclosure	NA

As part of the Undertaking, service lines will be replaced for all properties served by the newly installed pipelines by means of open trenching. The service line replacements will begin in the existing road ROW, proceed into existing utility easements, and continue to the existing gas meters. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the service line replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade.

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The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 3 ft below grade in segments 1 through 4. No ground disturbance is anticipated in association with the installation of the odorization unit within the prepared enclosure. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved and unpaved public roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, suburban residential properties, and community buildings. The APE is depicted on maps included in **Attachment A**.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

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Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ba

cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist Martina Minthorn, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma

Enclosures:

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U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Lori Gooday Ware Chairwoman Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma 3 Miles North of Apache On Highway 281 Apache, OK 73006

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana

Dear Chairwoman Ware:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Undertaking to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Undertaking, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

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### **Determination of Effect**

PHMSA has determined that there may be several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood or the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to these resources or their contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the resources.

Additionally, previously unidentified archaeological resources may be present in or around the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and/or Galaxy Drive segments of the APE. Accordingly, the City of Las Cruces or their contractor will monitor all ground disturbing activities during construction and if any potential archaeological resources or human remains are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify PHMSA and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the attached Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols (Attachment C).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified withing the APE.

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at <u>PHMSASection106@dot.gov</u> or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ba

cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist Michael Darrow, Tribal Historian, Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment B: Project Area Photographs Attachment C: Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols



U.S. Department of Transportation **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration** 

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

March 27, 2024

Eddie Martinez President Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico 108 Central Avenue Mescalero, NM 88340

Section 106 Consultation: PHMSA Pipeline Replacement Project in the City of Las Cruces Grant Recipient: City of Las Cruces Project Location: City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana

Dear President Martinez:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provides funds authorized under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. PHMSA proposes to provide funds to the City of Las Cruces (Grant Recipient) for the replacement of pipeline (Undertaking). PHMSA is initiating consultation for the above referenced Undertaking in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the associated implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (Section 106). The purpose of this letter is to initiate Section 106 consultation for the Undertaking to determine if there are historic properties of cultural or religious significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be affected by the Undertaking, to determine if you want to be a consulting party, and to notify your Tribe/Nation of PHMSA's intention to make a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. PHMSA is also available for Government-to-Government consultation on this Program.

### **Project Description/Background**

The Undertaking consists of the replacement of 13,600 linear feet (LF) of failing 1980s-era Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipeline with Polyethylene (PE) pipe, which would enhance safety, improve operations, and reduce methane emissions of natural gas of Las Cruces' natural gas transmission system and would include modernization and interim safety enhancement measures. All work will be completed in modestly developed locations in the City of Las Cruces that include a mixture of paved and unpaved roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, churches, and suburban residential properties. Project location maps are enclosed in Attachment B.

The Undertaking has been organized into five (5) segments described in **Table 1** below. All replacement lines would be installed at a depth of 3 feet (ft) below grade by means of open trenching. It is anticipated that all new replacement pipe will be installed in existing right-of-way (ROW) within 5 ft of the existing line. However, depending on location specific conditions including the siting of other utilities, some new replacement pipe may be installed in the existing ROW on the opposite side of the road from the existing pipe. No new ROW or utility easements will be required. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the pipeline replacement is 18 inches (in) and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than

3 ft below grade. Existing pipe will be capped, purged, and abandoned in place.

Table 1. Project Segments

Segment Name (Number)	Action	Location	Length	Pipe Diameter	Installation Location	Width of Roadway
Rosedale Drive Neighborhood (1)	Replacement	Rosedale Dr, Avalon Dr, Carlyle Dr, Lamar Ave	7,600 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood (2)	Replacement	Broadmoor Dr, Ronna Ave, Karen Dr	3,800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Sirius Street (3)	Replacement	Sirius St	800 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the unpaved roadway	NA
Galaxy Drive (4)	Replacement	Galaxy Dr	1,400 LF	2 in	In the existing ROW within the paved roadway	20 ft
Talavera Odorization Station	Installation of additional odorization unit	Northwest of the Dripping Springs Rd (C077)- Soledad Canyon Rd Intersection	NA	NA	Within the existing prepared enclosure	NA

As part of the Undertaking, service lines will be replaced for all properties served by the newly installed pipelines by means of open trenching. The service line replacements will begin in the existing road ROW, proceed into existing utility easements, and continue to the existing gas meters. The anticipated width of ground disturbance for the service line replacement is 18 in and the anticipated depth of disturbance would be no more than 3 ft below grade.

This undertaking likewise includes the installation of an additional odorization unit to maintain the required level of natural gas odorization for the Talavera subdivision service area. The equipment will be installed inside an existing enclosure already prepared to receive the new infrastructure (**Table 1**).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

### Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as the geographic area(s) within which the undertaking may directly or indirectly affect historic resources. Based on the proposed scope of work, PHMSA has determined that the APE for this undertaking to encompass:

- Those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4;
- All parcels fronting on those portions of the existing ROW that encompass segments 1 through 4; and
- The footprint of the existing enclosure prepared to receive the new odorization unit.

The APE is anticipated to extend downward no more than 3 ft below grade in segments 1 through 4. No ground disturbance is anticipated in association with the installation of the odorization unit within the prepared enclosure. The Undertaking does not have the potential to cause visual, vibrational, or audible effects after the completion of construction. The APE encompasses paved and unpaved public roadways and sidewalks, large open undeveloped areas, light industrial properties, suburban residential properties, and community buildings. The APE is depicted on maps included in **Attachment A**.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

To identify historic properties in the APE, individuals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's (SOI) Professional Qualification Standards reviewed publicly available information on previously identified historic properties in the APE included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the New Mexico Register State Register of Cultural Properties. PHMSA likewise sought additional information from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]) during early coordination for the Undertaking (August 16, 2023). PHMSA does not currently have access to restricted archaeological site information maintained by SHPO in NMCRIS. SOI-qualified individuals likewise conducted research to determine if there are any previously unidentified properties within the APE that are 45 years of age or older that may be eligible for the NRHP and completed an archaeological assessment of the APE.

### Historic Architecture

Due to the scale and nature of the Undertaking, which is limited to the replacement of pipelines and service lines within the existing ROW and utility easements as well as the installation of odorization equipment within an existing prepared enclosure, the identification effort for above-ground historic properties focused on identifying properties that are susceptible to any limited effects of the Undertaking and could experience diminished integrity. A review of the APE found no potentially significant above-ground resources that have the potential to be affected by the Undertaking, which will not produce any physical changes to buildings or lasting visual or audible impacts to their surroundings. Likewise, a review of the NRHP database and the State Register of Cultural Properties identified no historic properties in the APE listed in or eligible for the State Register or NRHP.

According to prior SHPO correspondence (September 13, 2023), the areas of the APE associated with the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood segments have not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties; but, as the neighborhoods were developed in the early 1960s and early 1970s respectively, they may constitute unidentified historic districts potentially eligible for the NRHP. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for these segments.

Likewise, that portion of the APE associated with the Sirius Street segment has not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties, but surveys conducted nearby have identified no historic properties in the vicinity. Accordingly, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and recommended that no additional work was necessary for this segment.

With regard to that portion of the APE associated with the Galaxy Drive segment, SHPO noted that it too had not been previously surveyed to identify and evaluate historic properties. However, SHPO observed that the Undertaking was unlikely to affect historic properties and indicated that no new survey was necessary for this segment.

Finally, SHPO noted that the area of the APE associated with the Talavera Odorization Station had been previously surveyed and that no historic properties had been identified. Accordingly, the SHPO called for no additional work at this location prior to construction.

### Archaeology

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In prior correspondence with PHMSA, SHPO noted that no additional work to identify and evaluate historic properties was necessary in any portion of the APE. However, SHPO did comment that surveys conducted near the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and Galaxy Drive segments had identified but did not evaluate several prehistoric archaeological sites. Consequently, SHPO requested that contractors be made aware that cultural materials or unmarked human burials could be discovered during construction at these locations, and that a "discovery clause" be included as a condition of any finding of no historic properties affected for the Undertaking.

The proposed Undertaking will include replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. Replacement lines will not exceed the depth of the previously installed pipeline. Areas of pipeline placement will occur in areas previously disturbed by installation of other utility lines including gas, water, sewer, and communication lines. Due to ground disturbance caused by previous utility installation, including the existing pipelines and construction of roads and sidewalks, it is likely that any archaeological deposits that may be within the ROW lack subsurface integrity.

In light of SHPO's comments, and due to the limited scope of work of the Undertaking and previous disturbance of the APE, an archaeological survey of the APE is not recommended at this time.

### **Determination of Effect**

PHMSA has determined that there may be several historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(1) within the APE, including the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood and the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood. However, the Undertaking will not alter any of the character-defining features of the Rosedale Drive Neighborhood or the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood that could qualify them for inclusion in the NRHP or diminish their integrity. The work associated with the Undertaking consists of the replacement of pipelines within the existing ROW and the replacement of service lines within existing utility easements. No alterations to existing buildings are anticipated and the work will have no lasting physical, visual, or audible effects to these resources or their contributing features. The Undertaking also does not include land acquisition, nor would it limit access to or change the use of the resources.

Additionally, previously unidentified archaeological resources may be present in or around the Broadmoor Drive Neighborhood and/or Galaxy Drive segments of the APE. Accordingly, the City of Las Cruces or their contractor will monitor all ground disturbing activities during construction and if any potential archaeological resources or human remains are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify PHMSA and the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the attached Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols (Attachment C).

Staging areas for the Undertaking are currently unknown. If staging cannot be confined to paved areas, geotextile fabric or other similar protective measures (such as pressure distributing mats) will be laid in any affected unpaved area to minimize ground disturbance, prevent soil compaction, and protect archaeological features and artifacts.

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, incorporation of conditions, and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.5, the Undertaking will have No Adverse Effect on historic properties identified withing the APE.

### **Request for Section 106 Concurrence**

PHMSA requests that you provide any information you have regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to your Tribe/Nation that may be present in the APE and affected by the Undertaking. If your Tribe/Nation is unaware of any historic properties beyond what we have identified to date, PHMSA is notifying your Tribe/Nation of our intention to make a No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties finding. Please notify us within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter if you have any concerns about the project's effects to historic properties. Should you need additional information please contact Brian M. Albright, Section 106 specialist, at <u>PHMSASection106@dot.gov</u> or 856-381-6233.

Sincerely,

Mart Tult

Matt Fuller Senior Environmental Protection Specialist

MF/ba

cc: Travis Mast, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDOT Volpe Center
 Dana White, PHMSA Grant Specialist
 Holly Houghton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero
 Reservation, New Mexico

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Project Location and APE Maps Attachment B: Project Area Photographs Attachment C: Unanticipated Discoveries Protocols

# Appendix H

**Environmental Justice** 

# **EJScreen Community Report**

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

# Las Cruces, NM



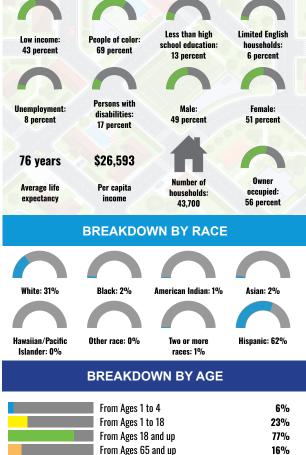
### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	61%
Spanish	34%
Arabic	1%
Other and Unspeci ed	1%
Total Non-English	39%

### City: Las Cruces Population: 109,834 Area in square miles: 77.03

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**€PA**



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

Speak Spanish	73%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	4%
Speak Asian-Paci c Island Languages	7%
Speak Other Languages	15%

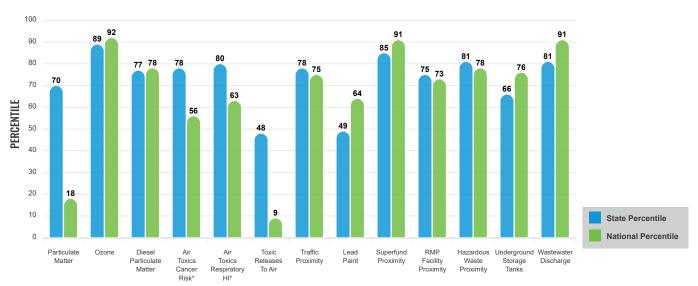
Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

### **Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes**

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen re ecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

### **EJ INDEXES**

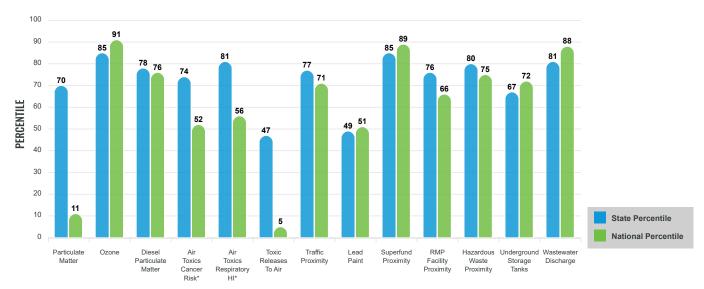
The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.



### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemploved, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator,



### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for City: Las Cruces

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## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
POLLUTION AND SOURCES					
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	5.56	5.16	56	8.08	5
Ozone (ppb)	69.2	64.7	87	61.6	92
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.242	0.194	70	0.261	56
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	21	18	34	25	5
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.27	0.21	29	0.31	4
Toxic Releases to Air	0.3	29	39	4,600	3
Tra c Proximity (daily tra c count/distance to road)	110	84	77	210	60
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.14	0.19	56	0.3	40
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.36	0.14	91	0.13	92
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.17	0.15	73	0.43	51
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.97	0.73	73	1.9	60
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	3.2	3.3	73	3.9	68
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.22	0.47	80	22	86
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					- -
Demographic Index	56%	51%	59	35%	79
Supplemental Demographic Index	18%	17%	59	14%	72
People of Color	69%	62%	58	39%	77
Low Income	43%	40%	56	31%	73
Unemployment Rate	8%	7%	67	6%	73
Limited English Speaking Households	6%	6%	68	5%	77
Less Than High School Education	13%	14%	57	12%	67
Under Age 5	6%	5%	66	6%	63
Over Age 64	16%	19%	44	17%	50
Low Life Expectancy	20%	19%	51	20%	51

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:	
Superfund	I
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	\$
. 564	ł
Air Pollution	;
Brown elds	!
Toxic Release Inventory E	i

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools	36
Hospitals	4
Places of Worship	63

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	No
Impaired Waters	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands*	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community	Yes
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community	Yes

Report for City: Las Cruces

## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

HEALTH INDICATORS							
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE		
Low Life Expectancy	20%	19%	51	20%	51		
Heart Disease	5.7	6.2	35	6.1	44		
Asthma	10	10.3	46	10	52		
Cancer	5.3	5.7	40	6.1	31		
Persons with Disabilities	15.9%	16.6%	49	13.4%	70		

CLIMATE INDICATORS							
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE		
Flood Risk	9%	9%	66	12%	63		
Wild re Risk	44%	58%	37	14%	85		

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS							
INDICATOR HEALTH VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE							
Broadband Internet	17%	22%	47	14%	66		
Lack of Health Insurance	8%	9%	50	9%	60		
Housing Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Footnotes

Report for City: Las Cruces

www.epa.gov/ejscreen

# **EJScreen Community Report**

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

# Doña Ana County, NM



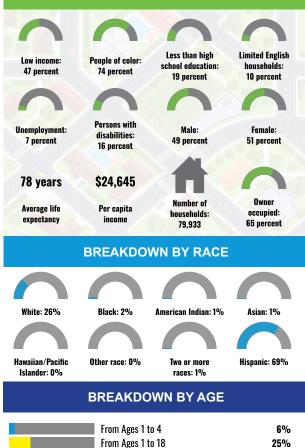
### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	52%
Spanish	46%
Other and Unspeci ed	1%
Total Non-English	48%

### County: Doña Ana Population: 218,157 Area in square miles: 3814.96

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION** 

**€PA**



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN

From Ages 18 and up

From Ages 65 and up

Speak Spanish	91%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	1%
Speak Asian-Paci c Island Languages	3%
Speak Other Languages	5%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

75%

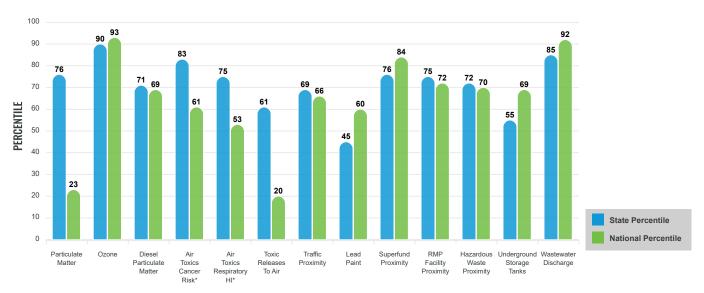
16%

### **Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes**

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen re ecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the EJScreen website.

### **EJ INDEXES**

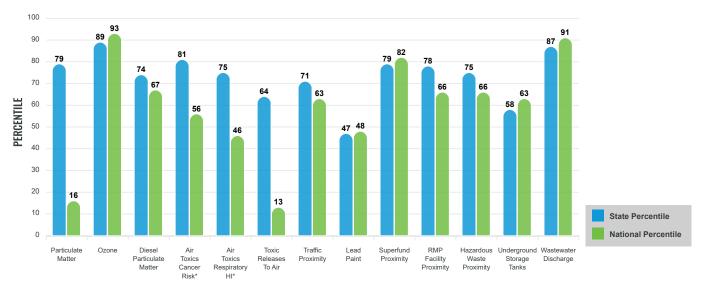




### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education percent unemployed and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator



### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION

These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for County: Doña Ana

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### **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA		
POLLUTION AND SOURCES							
Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	5.66	5.16	64	8.08	6		
Ozone (ppb)	69	64.7	87	61.6	91		
Diesel Particulate Matter (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.182	0.194	63	0.261	40		
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	30	18	34	25	5		
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.24	0.21	29	0.31	4		
Toxic Releases to Air	8.5	29	50	4,600	8		
Tra c Proximity (daily tra c count/distance to road)	71	84	69	210	48		
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.11	0.19	51	0.3	36		
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.21	0.14	86	0.13	86		
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.21	0.15	79	0.43	58		
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.6	0.73	66	1.9	52		
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	2.1	3.3	64	3.9	59		
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.47	0.47	90	22	89		
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS							
Demographic Index	60%	51%	64	35%	82		
Supplemental Demographic Index	20%	17%	67	14%	79		
People of Color	74%	62%	64	39%	80		
Low Income	47%	40%	61	31%	77		
Unemployment Rate	7%	7%	64	6%	72		
Limited English Speaking Households	10%	6%	81	5%	85		
Less Than High School Education	19%	14%	71	12%	80		
Under Age 5	6%	5%	66	6%	62		
Over Age 64	16%	19%	45	17%	51		
Low Life Expectancy	18%	19%	33	20%	37		

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update.

Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:	
Superfund . Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities	
Water Dischargers	
 Air Pollution	2160
	154
Brown elds	
Toxic Release Inventory	14

# Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands\* No Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community Yes Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community Yes

Report for County: Doña Ana

#### Other community features within defined area:

Schools	81
Hospitals	6
Places of Worship	92

#### Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment	Yes
Impaired Waters	Yes

## **EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data**

HEALTH INDICATORS							
INDICATOR HEALTH VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE							
Low Life Expectancy	18%	19%	33	20%	37		
Heart Disease	6	6.2	44	6.1	50		
Asthma	10.2	10.3	55	10	58		
Cancer	5.1	5.7	33	6.1	27		
Persons with Disabilities	15.2%	16.6%	45	13.4%	66		

CLIMATE INDICATORS						
INDICATOR HEALTH VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE						
Flood Risk	9%	9%	66	12%	63	
Wild re Risk	33%	58%	35	14%	84	

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS							
INDICATOR HEALTH VALUE STATE AVERAGE STATE PERCENTILE US AVERAGE US PERCENTILE							
Broadband Internet	20%	22%	53	14%	73		
Lack of Health Insurance	11%	9%	65	9%	70		
Housing Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		

Footnotes

Report for County: Doña Ana

www.epa.gov/ejscreen