

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OAKLAND DIVISION**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 4:19-cv-00872-HSG

SIERRA CLUB, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 4:19-cv-00892-HSG

**DECLARATION OF PAUL ENRIQUEZ**

I, Paul Enriquez, declare as follows:

1. I am the Acquisitions, Real Estate and Environmental Director for the Border Wall

Program Management Office (“Wall PMO”), U.S. Border Patrol Program Management

Office Directorate, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), an agency of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). I have held this position since August 6, 2018. From 2013 to August 2018, I was the Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief for the Border Patrol and Air and Marine Program Management Office (“BPAM”), Facilities Management and Engineering, Office of Facilities and Asset Management (“OFAM”). From 2011 to 2013, I was employed as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the BPAM office. In that role, I performed environmental analyses for various border infrastructure projects. From 2008 to 2011, I was a contractor assigned to the BPAM office and provided environmental support on various border infrastructure projects. Based upon my current and past job duties, I am familiar with past and planned border infrastructure projects that have been executed in support of border security.

2. In my position I am personally aware of the border barrier projects that have been identified as “Yuma Projects 1 and 2 and El Paso Project 1,” (collectively the “Yuma and El Paso Projects”) which will be executed with the assistance of the Department of Defense (“DoD”). This declaration is based on my own personal knowledge and information made available to me in the course of my official duties.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. The Secretary of DHS has determined that United States Border Patrol El Paso Sector (the “El Paso Sector”) and the United States Border Patrol Yuma Sector (the “Yuma Sector”) are areas of high illegal entry. Consequently Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, as amended (“IIRIRA”), requires DHS to construct physical barriers and roads to deter and prevent illegal entry of people and drugs into the United States.

4. To support DHS's action under Section 102 of IIRIRA, the Secretary of DHS requested that the Secretary of Defense, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(7), assist by constructing fences, roads, and lighting within the El Paso and Yuma Sectors. The Acting Secretary of Defense has concluded that the support requested satisfies the statutory requirements of 10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(7) and that DoD will provide such support for the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
5. CBP is the DHS component with primary responsibility for border security. Therefore, CBP constructs, operates, and maintains border infrastructure necessary to deter and prevent illegal entry on the southern border.
6. Within CBP, the Wall PMO has expertise in managing and executing border infrastructure projects. The Wall PMO is directly tasked with managing the schedule, finances, real estate acquisition, environmental planning—including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") and the Endangered Species Act ("ESA")—and construction of the border infrastructure system along the U.S. border. Given its expertise in managing border infrastructure projects, the Wall PMO, on behalf of CBP, is working in close coordination with DoD on the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
7. For the Yuma and El Paso Projects, the Wall PMO, on behalf of CBP will, among other things, review and approve technical specifications, review and approve barrier alignments and locations, and provide feedback and input on other aspects of project planning and execution. In addition, the Wall PMO, on behalf of CBP, is responsible for all environmental planning, including stakeholder outreach and consultation for the Yuma and El Paso Projects.

8. In my capacity as the Acquisitions, Real Estate and Environmental Director, I am responsible for overseeing all environmental planning and compliance activities as well as the real estate acquisition process for projects executed or overseen by the Border Wall PMO, including the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
9. DoD made contract awards for the Yuma and El Paso Projects on April 9, 2019. Environmental planning and consultation for the Yuma and El Paso Projects was initiated on April 8, 2019. The environmental planning and consultation that CBP has and will engage in for the Yuma and El Paso Projects are described in more detail in Paragraphs 19 through 33 below. On April 19, 2019, a protest was filed concerning the contracts for the Yuma and El Paso Projects. Construction on the Yuma and El Paso Projects was scheduled to begin in late-May; however, construction may be delayed due to the pending protests.

**A. Yuma Project 1**

10. Yuma Project 1 will be carried out under a waiver issued by the Secretary of DHS pursuant to Section 102(c) of IIRIRA that was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2019, 84 Fed. Reg. 17187 (April 24, 2019) (the “Yuma Waiver”).
11. The project area for Yuma Project 1 is in Yuma County, Arizona and is situated southeast of the Andrade Port of Entry along the United States border with Mexico. The project area is described in the Yuma Waiver as starting at the Morelos Dam and extending south and generally following the Colorado River for approximately five and one-half (5.5) miles (the “Yuma 1 Project Area”). Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a map depicting the Yuma 1 Project Area.

12. Within the Yuma 1 Project Area approximately five (5) miles of existing vehicle barrier will be replaced with new bollard wall that includes a linear ground detection system. The existing vehicle barrier no longer meets the United States Border Patrol's operational needs. The new bollard wall will be 30-feet tall. The bollards are steel-filled concrete that are approximately six inches in diameter and spaced approximately four inches apart. Yuma Project 1 will also include road improvement or construction and the installation of lighting that will be supported by grid power and includes imbedded cameras. All of the construction activity will occur on land that is owned and controlled by the United States.

**B. Yuma Project 2**

13. Yuma Project 2 will also be carried out under the Yuma Waiver.
14. The project area for Yuma Project 2 is in Yuma County, Arizona and is situated on the Barry M. Goldwater Range ("BMGR") along the United States and Mexico border. The project area is described in the Yuma Waiver as starting two and one-half (2.5) miles east of Border Monument 198 and extending east to Border Monument 197 (the "Yuma 2 Project Area"). Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a map depicting the Yuma 2 Project Area.
15. Within the Yuma 2 Project Area approximately one and one-half (1.5) miles of existing pedestrian barrier will be replaced with new bollard wall that includes a linear ground detection system. The existing pedestrian barrier is a steel mesh design that no longer meets Border Patrol's operational needs. The new bollard wall will be 18-feet tall. The bollards are steel-filled concrete that are approximately six inches in diameter and spaced approximately four inches apart. Yuma Project 2 will also include road improvement or construction and the installation of lighting that will be supported by grid power and

includes imbedded cameras. All of the construction activity will occur on land that is owned and controlled by the United States.

**C. El Paso Project 1**

16. El Paso Project 1 will be carried out under a waiver issued by the Secretary of DHS pursuant to Section 102(c) of IIRIRA that was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2019, 84 Fed. Reg. 17185 (April 24, 2019) (the “El Paso Waiver”).
17. The project area for El Paso Project 1 includes two segments along the United States border with Mexico in Luna County and Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The first segment is west of the Columbus Port of Entry and is described in the El Paso Waiver as starting at Border Monument 31 and extending east to Border Monument 23. The second segment is east of the Columbus Port of Entry and is described in the El Paso Waiver as starting approximately one (1) mile west of Border Monument 20 and extending east to Border Monument 9. Together these two segments represent the “El Paso 1 Project Area.” Attached hereto as Exhibit B are maps depicting the El Paso 1 Project Area.
18. Within the El Paso 1 Project Area up to 46 miles of existing vehicle barrier will be replaced with new bollard wall that includes a linear ground detection system. The existing vehicle barrier no longer meets Border Patrol’s operational needs. The new bollard wall will be 30-feet tall. The bollards are steel-filled concrete that are approximately six inches in diameter and spaced approximately four inches apart. El Paso Project 1 will also include road improvement or construction and the installation of lighting that will be supported by grid power and includes imbedded cameras. All of the construction activity will occur on land that is owned and controlled by the United States.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND CONSULTATION FOR THE YUMA AND EL PASO PROJECTS**

19. CBP has long had a border security presence in the Yuma 1 and 2 and El Paso 1 Project Areas (collectively, the “Project Areas”) and their surrounding areas. Through the planning and development of past projects and activities, CBP has developed a deep understanding and awareness of the natural, biological, historic, and cultural resources in the Projects Areas.
20. To cite just a few examples of CBP’s prior environmental analyses covering actions in and near the Project Areas, in 2008 CBP completed an Environmental Stewardship Plan (“ESP”) covering the construction of approximately eight miles of border infrastructure within the Yuma 1 Project Area and its surrounding area. In 2013, CBP completed an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) for the maintenance and repair of border infrastructure throughout the State of Arizona. The 2013 EA, the validity and sufficiency of which was never challenged in court, was the culmination of years of analysis and consultation with stakeholders concerning the potential environmental impacts from CBP’s repair and maintenance of existing and proposed border infrastructure in Arizona, including infrastructure in the Yuma 1 and Yuma 2 Project Areas.
21. Similarly, in 2006 CBP completed a Programmatic Environmental Assessment of the construction, operation, and maintenance of border infrastructure within the El Paso Sector along the entire United States border in New Mexico, including the El Paso 1 Project Area. In 2008, CBP completed two separate ESPs covering the construction, operation, and maintenance of border infrastructure within the El Paso 1 Project Area and its surrounding area. In 2015, CBP completed an EA regarding the maintenance and repair of border infrastructure throughout the State of New Mexico, including the El Paso

1 Project Area. Like the 2013 EA regarding the maintenance and repair of border infrastructure throughout Arizona, the 2015 EA, the validity and sufficiency of which was never challenged in court, was the culmination of years of analysis and consultation with stakeholders concerning the potential impacts of CBP's repair and maintenance of existing and proposed border infrastructure in New Mexico, including infrastructure in the El Paso 1 Project Area.

22. More recently, in 2018, CBP undertook a project to replace approximately 20 miles of existing vehicle barrier with new bollard wall in a project area that is west of the Santa Teresa Port of Entry in Doña Ana County, New Mexico (the "Santa Teresa Project"). The project area for Santa Teresa Project abuts the segment of the El Paso 1 Project Area that is east of the Columbus Port of Entry. As part of the Santa Teresa Project, CBP prepared an ESP that examined the potential impacts of the Santa Teresa Project (the "Santa Teresa ESP"). A copy of the Santa Teresa ESP is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
23. As a part of its environmental planning process, including environmental planning for projects and activities in the Yuma and El Paso Sectors, CBP conducts biological, cultural, and other natural resource surveys, coordinates with stakeholders, and uses that information to assess environmental impacts.
24. CBP is drawing on its prior experience in the Project Areas as it assesses the potential environmental impacts for the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
25. In addition, CBP is presently engaged in new environmental planning and consultation that is specifically targeted to the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
26. On April 8, 2019, before the Yuma and El Paso Waivers were issued, to better understand the potential impacts of the Yuma and El Paso Projects, CBP sent consultation letters to a



number of stakeholders and potentially interested parties. The consultation letters include information about the Yuma and El Paso Projects and invite input from stakeholders regarding potential impacts. They also inform stakeholders that CBP will be accepting comments and input through May 8, 2019.

27. For the Yuma 1 and 2 Projects, CBP sent 108 separate consultation letters to a range of stakeholders and potentially interested parties, including, among others, the Department of Interior (“DOI”), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”), the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“USEPA”), the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (“USIBWC”), the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (“AZSHPO”), the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, State and local officials, Native American Tribes, and numerous non-governmental organizations.
28. For El Paso Project 1, CBP sent 130 separate consultation letters to a range of stakeholders and potentially interested parties, including, among others, DOI, USFWS, BLM, USEPA, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer (“NMSHPO”), the New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (“NMDGF”), State and local officials, Native American Tribes, and numerous non-governmental organizations.
29. Also on April 8, 2019, CBP posted notices on its website, CBP.gov, notifying the public of the Yuma and El Paso Projects and soliciting the public’s input regarding potential impacts. The notices posted on CBP’s website can be found at <https://www.cbp.gov/document/environmental-assessments/yuma-county-border->

[infrastructure-projects-april-2019](#) and <https://www.cbp.gov/document/environmental-assessments/luna-and-do-ana-counties-border-infrastructure-projects-april>. The notices included a link to the same consultation letters, including information about the Yuma and El Paso Projects, that was sent to every individual stakeholder or potentially interested party.

30. On April 16, 2019, and April 17, 2019, CBP conducted on-site meetings with representatives from DOI, USFWS, USEPA, Bureau of Reclamation, the Cocopah Tribe, and BLM. At the on-site meetings, the parties toured the Project Areas and discussed the Yuma and El Paso Projects and their potential impacts.
31. Within the next 20 days CBP will survey the Project Areas for biological, historical, and cultural resources, and jurisdictional “Waters of the United States.” CBP will use the data and information obtained through those surveys, along with data and information drawn from past environmental surveys and planning that CBP has done in the Project Areas, to prepare biological and cultural resources reports.
32. All of the information and input CBP obtains through stakeholder consultations, the biological and cultural resources reports, and prior environmental planning will inform the project planning and execution of the Yuma and El Paso Projects.
33. Using the information it has compiled and feedback it has received, CBP will prepare an analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Yuma and El Paso Projects. CBP will use that analysis to identify construction Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) or design modifications that will be presented to DoD for incorporation into project planning and execution in order to minimize or avoid potential impacts to the extent practicable. In addition, input from stakeholders and CBP’s own analysis will be used to develop

mitigation measures, which may be implemented after construction to offset or minimize unavoidable impacts.

### **ALLEGED HARMS FROM THE YUMA AND EL PASO PROJECTS**

34. As detailed in the Paragraphs 19 through 33, CBP has not yet completed the environmental planning and consultation process for the Yuma and El Paso Projects. Those processes are on-going. Nevertheless, based on these ongoing consultations, CBP's prior experience in the Project Areas, meetings with various resource experts, and my understanding of the Yuma and El Paso Projects, I find many of plaintiffs' claims concerning the alleged harms that will result from the Yuma and El Paso Projects to be overstated or misplaced.

#### **A. Alleged Procedural Injuries**

35. Plaintiffs have put forth concerns about possible procedural injuries, alleging that construction of the Yuma and El Paso Projects may occur without a review of impacts (Walsh Decl. ¶ 15) or that requiring a NEPA or ESA process for the Yuma and El Paso Projects will "surely redress" the alleged irreparable harms to federally-listed species and other resources that will purportedly result from the Yuma and El Paso Projects (Nagano Decl. ¶ 26).

36. As set forth above, however, CBP is engaging in environmental reviews of the Yuma and El Paso Projects that consider CBP's own data and information, new resource survey data, as well as the input provided by federal and state resource agencies, including USFWS, interest groups, and the public.

37. Through its consultation letters, CBP specifically sought input from numerous parties, including the Sierra Club, the Southern Border Communities Coalition, the Southwest

Environmental Center, and the ACLU. Therefore, a wide range of stakeholders or interested parties, including plaintiffs, will have the opportunity to raise concerns and provide input about the potential environmental impacts of the Yuma and El Paso Projects. CBP will consider that input as it plans for implementation of the Yuma and El Paso Projects.

38. In fact, CBP has a proven track record of responding to concerns or input provided to CBP as a part of its consultation processes. For example, in preparing the Santa Teresa ESP, CBP's Biological Resources Management Plan ("BRMP"), which informed the analysis in the Santa Teresa ESP, was revised to incorporate feedback CBP received from BLM, USFWS, and NMDGF, including incorporation of a discussion regarding proximity of the Santa Teresa project to a population of the Mexican wolf in the United States designated as a non-essential experimental population pursuant to Section 10(j) of ESA. CBP also held a teleconference with BLM to discuss the potential impacts of the Santa Teresa project on the cross-border migration of large mammals, and the BRMP was updated to reflect information received from BLM as a result of this discussion.
39. Similarly, as part of its planning process for border barrier construction in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas ("RGV"), CBP conferred with USFWS. Among other things, USFWS provided CBP with data related to wildlife migration corridors. CBP used that information to modify barrier design and alignment to minimize impacts to wildlife. For barrier construction in RGV, CBP is planning to include gates or gaps in the barrier in known migration corridors. CBP will also use a modified design for levee access ramps that will form a safe island for wildlife in the event of flooding.

40. To the extent that specific recommendations are made for barrier design, alignment modifications, or other measures that will minimize impacts to wildlife, wildlife migration, or other resources for the Yuma and El Paso Projects, CBP will similarly consider and, if feasible, recommend to DoD that those measures be incorporated into project planning and execution.

## **B. Alleged Environmental Harms**

41. In addition to alleged procedural injuries, plaintiffs make a number of allegations regarding purported environmental harms that they assert will result from the Yuma and El Paso Projects, including impacts to federally-listed species, other wildlife, and plaintiffs' recreational or aesthetic interests. As detailed below, I find plaintiffs' claims to be exaggerated or misplaced.

### **1. Federally-Listed Species**

42. Plaintiffs allege that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will have dire consequences for the endangered Northern jaguar. (Bixby Decl. ¶ 9.) For example, plaintiffs claim that a fixed border barrier has the potential to cause "irreparable harm for a jaguar isolated from a mate prior to insemination or a cub separated from its mother" (Hadley Decl. ¶ 13) and that construction of the Yuma and El Paso Projects "would stop jaguar movement through the region, potentially limiting recolonization" (Lasky Decl. ¶ 7).

43. USFWS defines critical habitat as those areas that contain the physical and biological features essential to the conservation of a species. 50 C.F.R. § 424.12(b). Critical habitat is generally limited to those areas that are either occupied by the species or those areas outside the geographic area occupied by the species that are essential to the conservation of the species. *Id.* The only designated critical habitat for jaguar within New Mexico is

found in Hidalgo County. *Final Rule, Designation of Critical Habitat for Jaguar*, 79 Fed. Reg. 12572 (March 5, 2014), available at

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/03/05/2014-03485/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-designation-of-critical-habitat-for-jaguar>. The El Paso 1

Project Area is well to the east of Hidalgo County in Luna and Doña Ana Counties.

According to USFWS’ critical habitat designation, there have only been seven individual jaguars detected in the United States since 1982, with all of them occurring in areas where critical habitat has been designated. *Id.* at 125851. Further, the most recent known breeding event in the United States, according to USFWS, was in 1910. *Id.* at 12586. Thus, plaintiffs’ assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will cause “irreparable harm for a jaguar isolated from a mate prior to insemination or a cub separated from its mother” is exaggerated. Similarly, the only designated critical habitat for jaguar within Arizona is found in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz Counties. *Id.* at 12572. The Yuma 1 and 2 Project Areas are in Yuma County, well to the west of any designated critical habitat for jaguar in Arizona. In light of the above, the evidence does not support plaintiffs’ suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm the jaguar population or jaguar recovery in the United States.

44. Likewise, plaintiffs cite potential threats to the endangered Chiricahua leopard frog.

(Hadley Decl. ¶ 24.) However, there is no designated habitat for Chiricahua leopard frog in Luna County or Doña Ana County, New Mexico where El Paso Project 1 will occur.

*Final Rule, Listing and Designation of Critical Habitat for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog*,

77 Fed. Reg. 16324 (March 20, 2012), available at

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2012-03-20/pdf/2012-5953.pdf>. Nor is there

any critical habitat designated for Chiricahua leopard frog in Yuma County, Arizona where Yuma Projects 1 and 2 will occur. *Id.* Therefore, like their allegations concerning jaguar, plaintiffs' alleged harms concerning this species are misplaced. The evidence does not support plaintiffs' suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm the Chiricahua leopard frog population or its recovery.

45. Plaintiffs express concern about the potential consequences for the white-sided jack rabbit. (Hadley Decl. ¶ 17.) Here again, however, this species only occurs in Hidalgo County, New Mexico. (Traphagen Decl. ¶ 26); *12-Month Finding on the Petition to List the White-Sided Jackrabbit as Threatened or Endangered*, 75 Fed. Reg. 53615, 53618 (September 1, 2010), available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2010-09-01/pdf/2010-21774.pdf#page=1>. As noted above, there will be no construction or other activities in Hidalgo County as a part of the Yuma and El Paso Projects. Therefore, the evidence does not support plaintiffs' suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm the white-sided jack rabbit population or its recovery.
46. Similarly, plaintiffs raises concerns about impacts to ocelot (Bixby ¶ 9; Munro ¶ 7; Vasquez ¶ 12) and pronghorn, (Hadley Decl. ¶ 15; Traphagen Decl. ¶¶ 28, 30-31; Munro Decl. ¶ 7.) Within the United States, ocelot are only known to occur in south Texas and eastern Arizona, areas that will be unaffected by the Yuma and El Paso Projects. *See United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Species Profile for Ocelot*, available at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?spcode=A084>. As such, the evidence does not support plaintiffs' suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm ocelot, the ocelot population, or its recovery. In my discussions with USFWS, I inquired about impacts to pronghorn and USFWS did not express

significant concerns about pronghorn being impacted by the Yuma or El Paso Projects.

Thus, the Yuma and El Paso Projects will not significantly harm the pronghorn population or its recovery.

47. Plaintiffs further allege that El Paso Project 1 will adversely impact the endangered Mexican wolf and Aplomado falcon. (Nagano Decl. ¶ 12; Lasky Decl. ¶ 7.) USFWS has reintroduced both species in New Mexico as non-essential experimental populations pursuant to Section 10(j) of ESA, which means that USFWS has determined that the loss of these entire populations would not be “likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species in the wild.” 50 C.F.R. § 17.80(b).
48. Plaintiffs assert that construction activities associated with El Paso Project 1 present dire risks to both species. (Nagano Decl. ¶ 13.) Plaintiffs allege that construction activities will result in “injury, death, harm, and harassment” to the Mexican wolf and Aplomado falcon. (Nagano Decl. ¶ 13.) Plaintiffs claim that these harms will result from “linear vegetation clearing; road construction; grading and construction of equipment storage and parking areas; off road movement of vehicle[s] and equipment involved in construction; and poisoning from chemical applications (herbicides and pesticides).” (*Id.*) Plaintiffs further allege that these two species may be forced to abandon the El Paso 1 Project Area for essential behaviors such as feeding, resting, and mating and that there could be detrimental impacts caused by exotic species introduced by construction, which will eliminate food sources and habitat for rodents and other mammals utilized by the two species. (*Id.*)
49. Plaintiffs’ claims regarding the potential impacts to the Mexican wolf and Aplomado falcon resulting from construction activities are overstated.



50. Plaintiffs' description of the actual construction activities is not accurate. The areas in and around the barrier footprint and construction staging areas are disturbed and largely devoid of vegetation. Therefore, there will be little to no vegetation clearing required for project execution. Further, there is already an existing border road that parallels the border within the El Paso 1 Project Area. Therefore, any new road construction or improvement will likely be within or adjacent to that existing road footprint. CBP also has construction BMPs, which it plans to present to DoD for consideration and incorporation into project execution, that are designed to address some of the very issues raised by plaintiffs. For example, as a part of the Santa Teresa Project, CBP implemented construction BMPs that included, among other things: (a) measures designed to prevent the entrapment of wildlife species; (b) anti-perch devices to discourage roosting by birds; (c) construction speed limits to minimize the risk of animal collisions; (d) backshields on lighting to minimize light pollution; (e) vehicle cleaning specifications to minimize the spread and establishment of invasive species; and (f) stringent requirements concerning the application of any herbicide or pesticide. Santa Teresa ESP at 4-5- 4-6. In addition, the Santa Teresa Project included species-specific BMPs. For example, to minimize impacts to Aplomado falcon, no construction was allowed to occur within two miles of active falcon nests, noise and light abatement measures were developed, and limits were placed on the removal of larger nests from other varieties of birds that could potentially be utilized by Aplomado falcon. *Id.* at 4-8.

51. USFWS has informed me that the potential impacts described by plaintiffs are unlikely to occur. USFWS informed me that the nearest known Aplomado falcon pair is located roughly seven miles from the El Paso 1 Project Area, in an area known as Simpson Draw

(the “Simpson Draw Pair”). After the Simpson Draw Pair, the nearest known pair are over 100 miles from the El Paso 1 Project Area. USFWS further stated that, while it would be possible for the Simpson Draw Pair to fly to the El Paso 1 Project Area, their risk of being killed, harmed, or harassed are at least as great on New Mexico Highway 9 and in the farm fields that are situated between Simpson Draw and the El Paso 1 Project Area. Relative to the El Paso 1 Project Area, New Mexico Highway 9 is closer to the area where the pair typically nest. Thus, USFWS stated, if the traffic and other activity from New Mexico Highway 9 has not caused the Simpson Draw Pair to abandon the site, it is unlikely that construction activities from El Paso Project 1 will. Further, USFWS has not expressed any concerns about potential construction impacts to Mexican wolf, and transient individual wolves are only rarely found in the El Paso Project Area.

52. This squares with CBP’s prior analysis of construction impacts. As a part of the Santa Teresa Project, CBP concluded that construction activities did not pose a significant risk to either Mexican wolf or Aplomado falcon. Santa Teresa ESP at 3-24-3-25. The analysis in the Santa Teresa ESP was informed by input it received from USFWS and other resource agencies.
53. Regarding Mexican wolf, CBP concluded that Mexican wolf would not be impacted by construction activities because it is a mobile species and would leave the area if disturbed by such activities. *Id.* As to Aplomado falcon, CBP concluded that any impacts to Aplomado falcon from construction activities would be temporary and minor. *Id.* Given the similarity of the two projects and the input CBP has received from USFWS, I would expect that CBP will be able to reach similar conclusions concerning El Paso Project 1.

54. In addition to potential construction impacts, plaintiffs allege that the improved barrier that will be constructed as a part of El Paso Project 1 will have dire consequences for recovery of these species. (Bixby Decl. ¶ 9.) Plaintiffs allege that the project will negatively impact the long-term recolonization or repopulation of the Mexican wolf (Lasky Decl. ¶ 7; Nagano Decl. ¶ 15) because it will prevent connection between wolves in the United States and Mexico (Traphaegen Decl. ¶ 18). Plaintiffs allege that the lack of connectivity will either harm Mexican wolf recovery (Traphagen Decl. ¶ 25) or could actually “eliminate the possibility of recovery” (Nagano Decl. ¶ 15).

55. Despite plaintiffs’ claims to the contrary, the evidence does not support plaintiffs’ suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm the population or recovery of either species. Regarding Mexican wolf, plaintiffs have overstated the potential harms. The recovery criteria for Mexican wolf specifically contemplates “two demographically and environmentally independent populations,” one in the United States and one in Mexico, “such that negative events (e.g. diseases, severe weather, natural disasters) are unlikely to affect both populations simultaneously.”

*United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision* (November 2017) at 24, available at

<https://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/mexicanwolf/pdf/2017MexicanWolfRecoveryPlanRevision1Final.pdf>.

According to USFWS, having two resilient populations provides for redundancy, which in turn provides security against extinction from catastrophic events that could impact a population. *Id.* Recovery criteria also call for achieving a specific genetic target to ensure genetic threats are adequately alleviated. *Id.* USFWS has recognized the benefits of connectivity (wolves naturally dispersing between populations)

to improve genetic diversity but has also stated, “[USFWS] do[es] not expect the level of dispersal predicted between any of the sites (particularly between the United States and northern Sierra Madre Occidental) to provide for adequate gene flow between populations to alleviate genetic threats or ensure *representation* of the captive population’s gene diversity in both populations.” *Id.* (emphasis in original). Therefore, USFWS crafted a recovery strategy for the Mexican wolf that relies on the initial release of wolves from captivity to the wild and the translocation of wolves between populations as a necessary form of management to alleviate genetic threats during the recovery process. *Id.* USFWS specifically stated that “connectivity or successful migrants are not required to achieve recovery” of the Mexican wolf. *Id.* at 15.

56. Similarly, regarding Aplomado Falcon, as noted above, USFWS has informed me that the nearest known Aplomado falcon pair is the Simpson Draw Pair, which is located roughly seven miles from the El Paso 1 Project Area. After the Simpson Draw Pair, the nearest known pair is over 100 miles from the El Paso 1 Project Area. USFWS has further informed me that, in the unlikely event that the Simpson Draw pair is killed or abandoned its nesting area due to El Paso Project 1, the impact to the subspecies survival and recovery would be negligible. According to USFWS, Aplomado falcon pairs likely number into the hundreds and are distributed among three populations and four countries. As such, the Simpson Draw pair likely account for less than 1% of Aplomado falcons. Therefore, even if the proposed construction resulted in the loss of one pair, it is not likely to significantly reduce the subspecies’ survival or recovery probabilities.
57. In addition, it is unlikely that construction activities from El Paso Project 1 will have an appreciable impact on the availability of habitat for either species. USFWS has not

designated any critical habitat for the Aplomado falcon because there is “ample suitable habitat” to support falcons in Arizona and New Mexico. *Final Rule, Establishment of Experimental Population of Northern Aplomado Falcons in New Mexico and Arizona*, 71 Fed. Reg. 42298, 42305 (July 26, 2006), available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/FR-2006-07-26/06-6486>. Similarly, USFWS has not designated any critical habitat for Mexican wolf. USFWS has stated that there is a “large expanse of contiguous high-quality habitat” in central Arizona into west central New Mexico, as well as other patches of high-and-low quality habitat. *Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan*, at 11. Given the large amount of habitat that is already available to these species and in light of the fact that the El Paso 1 Project Area is already heavily disturbed, it is unlikely that the project will have a significant impact on the available habitat for either species.

## 2. Other Wildlife Species

58. In addition to federally-listed species, plaintiffs allege harms to state-listed species such as the Gila monster. (Nagano Decl. ¶¶ 20-25.) While plaintiffs acknowledge “the low number of observations and records of Gila monster west of El Paso and Las Cruces” where the El Paso 1 Project Areas is situated (Nagano Decl. ¶ 23), plaintiffs assert that it is “highly likely that this animal inhabits the area where the border wall is proposed.” (Nagano Decl. ¶ 24.) Based on its purported presence in Luna and Doña Ana Counties, plaintiffs claim that the threats from the border barrier “come in the form of direct effects of wall construction such as their death and injury from construction operations, falling into trenches or other holes then dying of exposure or being buried alive; getting run over by vehicles associated with the project; collected by construction personnel; and indirect

effects in the form of the border wall blocking their movement patterns or reducing the size of an individual's home range and eliminating the available food or shelter resources.” (Nagano Decl. ¶ 25.)

59. Here again, plaintiffs appear to have overstated the potential harms. First, plaintiffs’ claim that Gila monsters are present within the El Paso 1 Project Area is highly speculative. The Recovery Plan for Gila monster states: “The Gila Monster reaches the eastern extent of its range in southwestern New Mexico, but the limits of its range are poorly understood. Its occurrence in Hidalgo and Grant Counties is well established, whereas origins of the small number of specimens and sight records from Luna and Doña Ana Counties have been questioned. The records from Kilborne Hole in Doña Ana County near Deming and Las Cruces are suspected to be released or escaped pets.” *New Mexico Game and Fish, Gila Monster Recovery Plan* (April 5, 2017) at 6, available at <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/conservation/species/amphibians-reptiles/Gila-Monster-Recovery-Plan.pdf>. Second, even if it is accepted that Gila monsters occupy the El Paso 1 Project Area, as detailed above, CBP has construction BMPs, which will be presented to DoD for consideration and incorporation into project execution, that will address some of the issues raised by plaintiffs. These include measures designed to prevent the entrapment of wildlife species and construction speed limits to minimize the risk of animal collisions. Plaintiffs’ assertion that the border barrier will block their movement patterns or reduce the size of an individual's home range and eliminating the available food or shelter resources is also speculative. The standard design of the planned bollard wall includes four-inch spacing between bollards thus allowing for the passage of Gila monsters through the barrier. In light of the above, the evidence does not

support plaintiffs' suggestion or assertion that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will significantly harm the viability of the Gila monster population.

60. Plaintiffs also overstate or exaggerate the risks to other wildlife species. For example, plaintiffs speculate that increased patrol activity will be detrimental to wildlife (Munro Decl. ¶ 9) or will present a specific risk of harm to species such as the Western Narrow-mouthed toad (Traphagen Decl. ¶ 26). However, the Yuma and El Paso Projects are construction projects. Neither contemplates the hiring of additional Border Patrol agents and deploying those agents to patrol within the Project Areas.
61. Finally, plaintiffs put forth generalized fears that the Yuma and El Paso Projects will harm wildlife because they will bisect the habitat of larger species such as bobcats, mountain lions, mule deer, and badger (e.g., Munro Decl. ¶ 7; Bixby Decl. ¶ 8; Lasky Decl. ¶ 6) and smaller species such as lizards (Walsh Decl. ¶ 11), bats, birds, and snakes (Lasky Decl. ¶¶ 9-11). In at least one instance, plaintiffs go so far as to say that the Yuma and El Paso projects will result in "ecological devastation and likely regional extirpation of species." (Walsh Decl. ¶ 15.) Plaintiffs do not provide much in the way of support for these generalized fears. In addition, these assertions are directly at odds with CBP's prior analysis of similar projects, including the recent Santa Teresa Project. In the Santa Teresa ESP, which, as noted, examined the potential impacts of a project that is very similar to the Yuma and El Paso Projects, CBP concluded that the Santa Teresa Project would result only in minor adverse effects to wildlife. Santa Teresa ESP at 3-23. To this same end, in the Yuma 2 Project Area, the conversion from wire mesh fencing to bollard wall will have beneficial impacts for some smaller species, including the Flat-tailed horned lizard. For prior projects where CBP constructed mesh-style fencing, CBP

incorporated into the design small holes in the bottom of the fence that would allow for migration of smaller species such as Flat-tailed horned lizard. CBP incorporated these holes into the design upon the recommendation of USFWS and other resource agencies. The bollard wall will not require such holes because smaller species such as Flat-tailed horned lizard will be able to travel through the four-inch gaps between the bollards.

### **3. Recreational and Aesthetic Injuries**

62. Plaintiffs also put forth a number of claims concerning purported recreational or aesthetic injuries. Plaintiffs allege that they enjoy recreational and aesthetic interests in the areas in and around the Project Areas. (*E.g.*, Bixby Decl. ¶ 6; Walsh Decl. ¶ 12.) These include hiking and camping in the desert scrubland and surrounding peaks or “sky islands” (Bixby Decl. ¶ 6), hunting and other hobbies (Trejo Decl. ¶¶ 6, 8; Vasquez Decl. ¶ 14), and fishing (Del Val Decl. ¶¶ 8-9). Plaintiffs assert not only that Yuma and El Paso Projects puts those interests at risk (Walsh Decl. ¶ 15) but that the consequences could be “devastating” (Bixby Decl. 12).
63. The evidence does not support plaintiffs’ suggestions or assertions the Yuma and El Paso Projects will have significantly harm plaintiffs’ recreational activities or aesthetic interests. The Yuma and El Paso Projects will not affect any change to the existing land use within the Project Areas. The Yuma and El Paso Projects will occur on federally-owned land that is directly adjacent to the border—the vast majority of the construction activity and the project footprints themselves will occur within a 60-foot strip of land that parallels the international border. These areas are heavily disturbed, include existing barriers and roads, and function primarily as a law enforcement zone. The Yuma 2



Project Area is on the BMGR, a military installation and active bombing range where unauthorized entry is prohibited. Given their current condition and use, I would be surprised to learn that any person has or would use the Project Areas for camping, hiking, hunting, or other recreational or aesthetic activities.

64. Further, the Yuma and El Paso Projects will not affect any change to the existing land uses in the areas that surround the Project Areas. Plaintiffs may continue to recreate in and enjoy the natural and undeveloped areas that surround the Project Areas. For example, because the barriers and roads that will be replaced or improved as a part of Yuma Project 1 are directly adjacent to the international border, plaintiffs will continue to be able to access and fish in the canals in and around Yuma, Arizona, including the West Main Canal. (Del Val Decl. ¶¶ 6-8.) Yuma Project 1 is located west of the canal and will not have any impact on the public's access to the canals. Similarly, El Paso Project 1 will not impact plaintiffs' ability to access, use, and enjoy the vast desert and mountains that surround the El Paso 1 Project Area. In fact, there are historical examples where CBP's construction of border barriers has resulted in increased public access and use in areas surrounding the border because barrier construction has reduced illegal traffic and, in turn, made such areas safer for access and use by the public.

This declaration is made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my current knowledge.

Executed on this 25 day of April, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Enriquez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

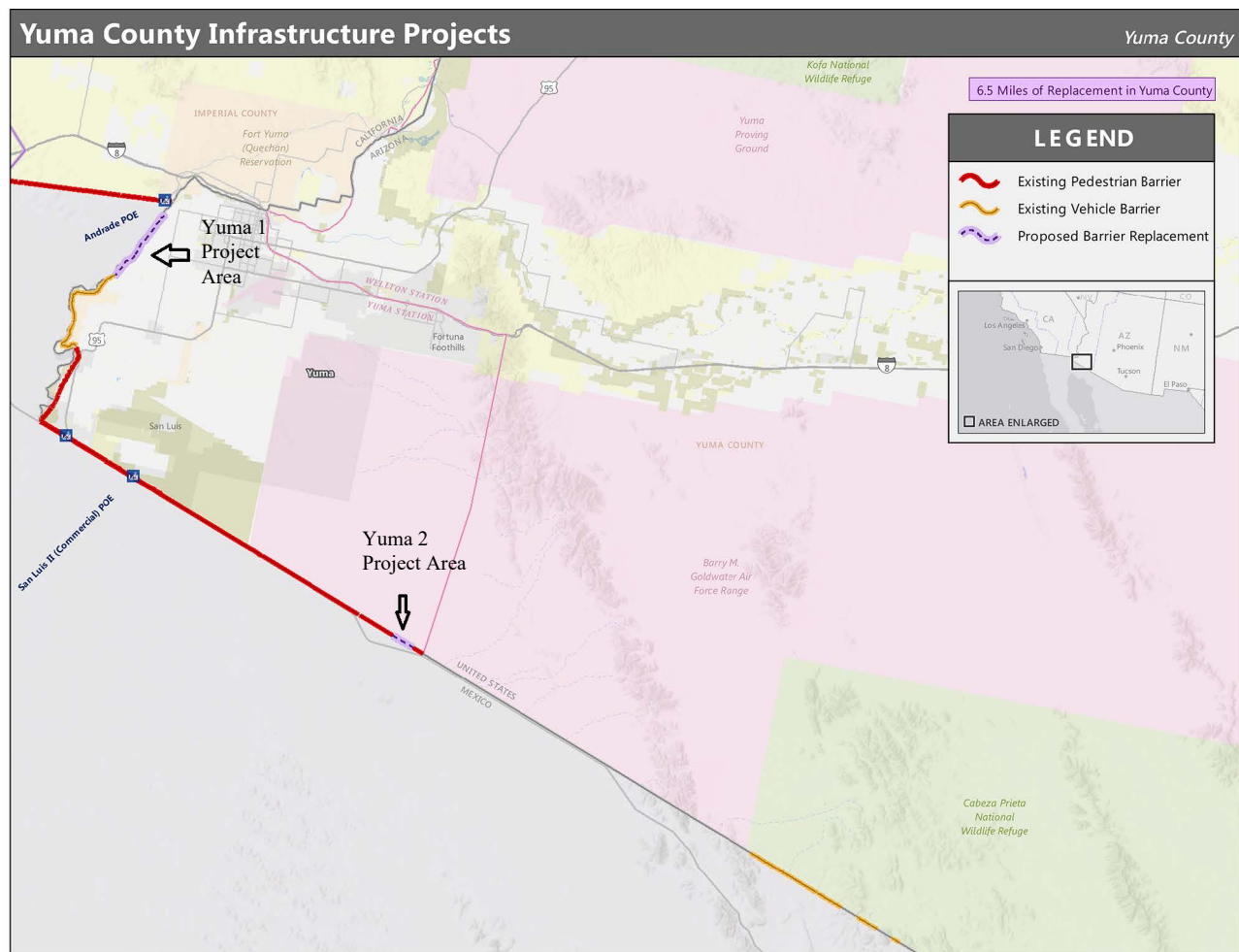
Paul Enriquez  
Acquisitions, Real Estate and Environmental Director  
Border Wall Program Management Office  
U.S. Border Patrol



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

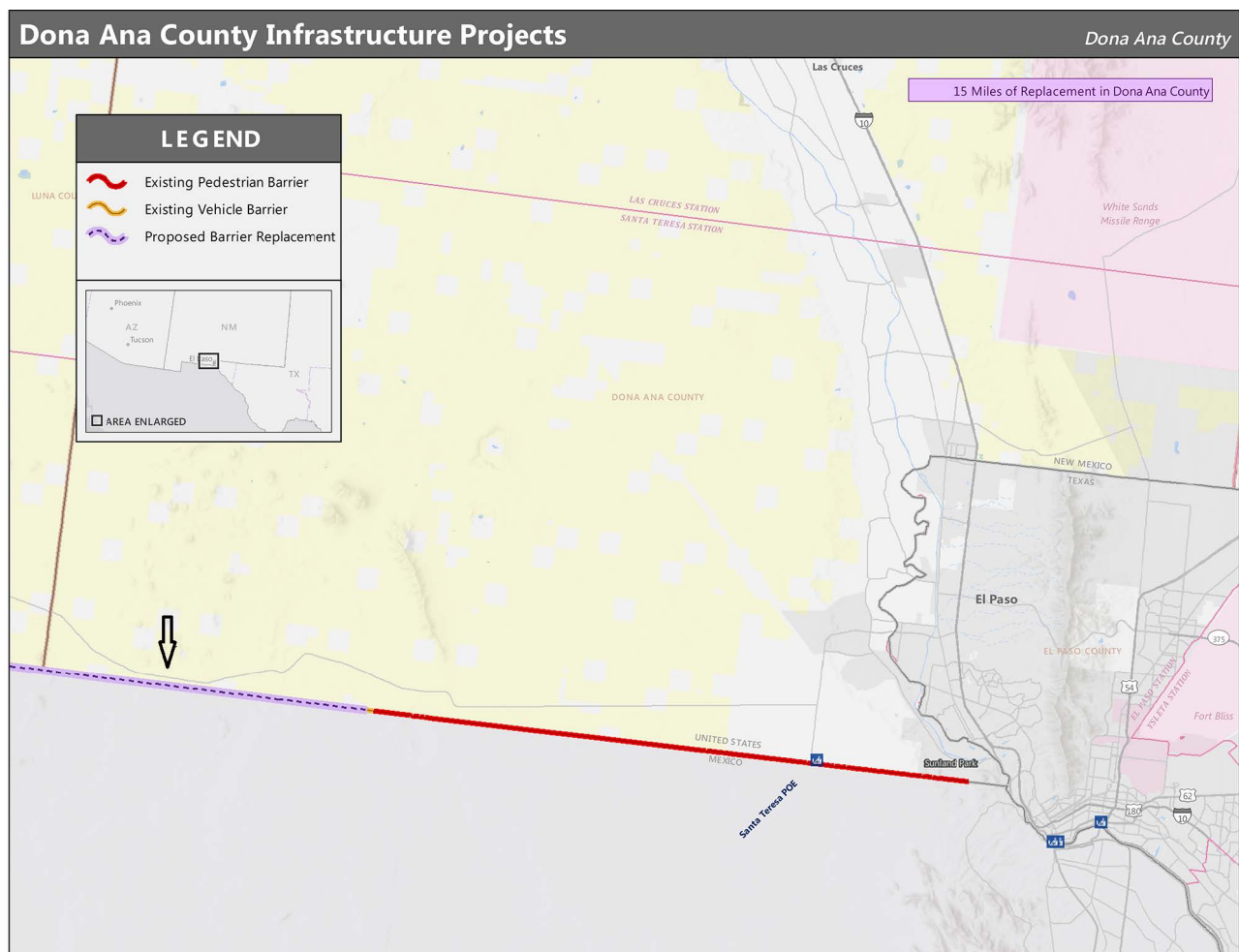
## Exhibit A

### Yuma 1 and 2 Project Areas



## Exhibit B

### El Paso 1 Project Area





# U.S. Customs and Border Protection

