



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

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Bernard F Barcena Jr.  
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas  
PO Box 5218  
McAllen, TX 78502  
EMAIL: [bbarcena@lipanapache.org](mailto:bbarcena@lipanapache.org)

VIA EMAIL and MAIL

**SUBJECT: Proposed Projects to Address Life, Safety, Environmental, and Remediation Requirements (Make Safe Activities) for Border Barrier Projects in San Diego County, CA, Imperial County, CA, Yuma County, AZ, Hidalgo County, NM, and Luna County, NM**

Dear Chairman Barcena:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking your input concerning proposed border barrier remediation projects in San Diego County, CA, Imperial County, CA, Yuma County, AZ, Hidalgo County, NM, and Luna County, NM. The information provided will inform the environmental planning process concerning the proposed projects, including planning and analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*

Los materiales en español están disponibles en línea en:  
<https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>

In December 2022, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas authorized CBP to move forward with activities necessary to address life, safety, environmental, and remediation requirements for border barrier projects previously undertaken by the Department of Defense (DoD) pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2808. The Department of Homeland Security Border Wall Plan Pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 10142 and associated Plan Amendment authorized the use of prior year border barrier funds for remediation work at the former DoD § 2808 project sites.

The project sites are located within the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) San Diego, Yuma, and El Paso Sectors. Maps of the proposed project areas are on CBP.gov at:  
<https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>

The current conditions at these locations create potential safety risks to migrants, USBP agents, and surrounding communities. There is also potential risk of further environmental degradation absent remediation. The proposed remediation projects that are being considered by CBP include:

- Completing or installing drainage to prevent flooding;

- Installing and completing permanent erosion control and slope stabilization measures;
- Completing prior construction of patrol, maintenance, and access roads by adding guardrails, signage, and integrating existing roadways to address safety concerns;
- Remediating temporary use areas such as staging areas, haul roads, and project areas impacted by construction;
- Disposing of residual materials;
- Closing small gaps and installing gates that were only partially installed or incomplete;
- Completing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Best Management Practices (BMP) repairs;
- Installing small wildlife passages;
- Completing and repairing electrical systems and fiber optic concrete boxes to ensure they are at grade or marked to prevent accidents; and
- Installing and completing fiber optic cable, power, light poles infrastructure (to exclude operational lighting), electrical equipment enclosures and cameras.

CBP is initiating the environmental planning process for the proposed remediation projects, including planning under NEPA. CBP is seeking input that will inform the environmental planning process, including input from stakeholders, impacted landowners, tribal, state, and local elected officials, and federal agencies.

Comments should include data or information that could help inform CBP's analysis of potential impacts. Helpful comments are fact-based, include links to data or research, and provide specific information concerning potential impacts to biological, cultural, and natural resources. If known, your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting, or other requirements that CBP should consider.

Specifically, CBP is looking for input to the following questions:

- Are you aware of threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the area of construction? If so, where?
- Are you aware of recreational activities that take place in the area of construction?
- Are you aware of historical sites or areas of cultural significance located within the area of construction? If so, where?
- Are you aware of any studies, data, or other information available that would aid in the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the project area?
- Do you have any recommendations for practices the construction contractor should follow to avoid or minimize impacts?

CBP will be accepting comments until Thursday, June 22, 2023. Comments can be emailed to CBP at [CommentsEnv@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CommentsEnv@cbp.dhs.gov) or mailed to:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Border Patrol HQ  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW 6.5E  
Mail Stop 1039

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Attn: *Michelle Barnes*

Please include “San Diego, Yuma, El Paso Make Safe Activities” in the subject line. Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become a part of the public record.

We appreciate your feedback and help evaluating the potential impacts of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelly Barnes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Shelly Barnes  
Environmental Planning Lead  
Infrastructure Portfolio  
Program Management Directorate Office  
U.S. Border Patrol