

**APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE**



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

The Honorable Terri Parton, President
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, OK 73005

MAR 12 2015

Dear President Parton:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Per DHS Directive 023-1, Environmental Planning Program, we will provide your agency with a copy of the official Draft EA of OTIA's RVSS Upgrade project for your review and comment. Please let us know if additional copies are needed.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)

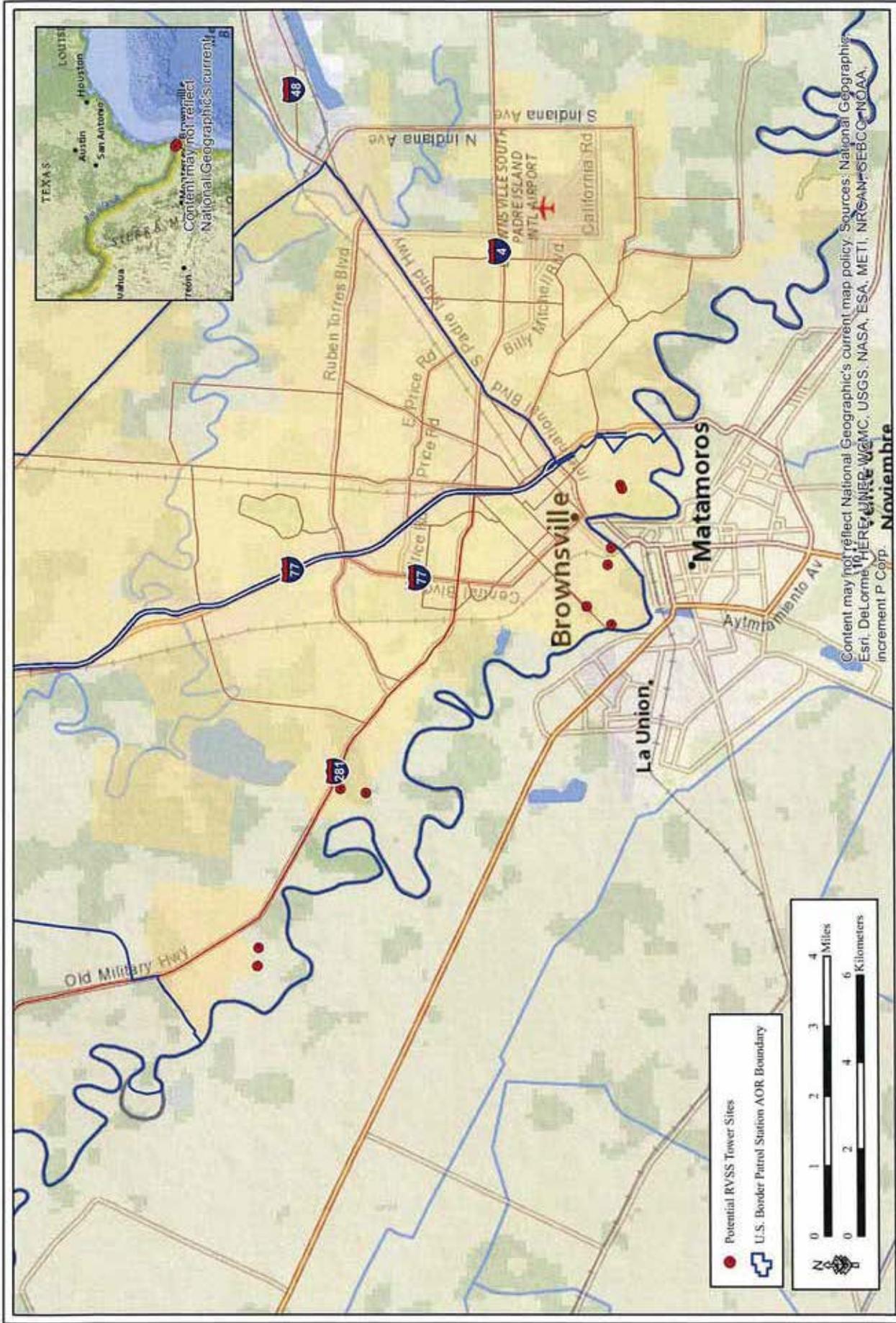


Figure 1. Proposed Action in Brownsville Station's AOR

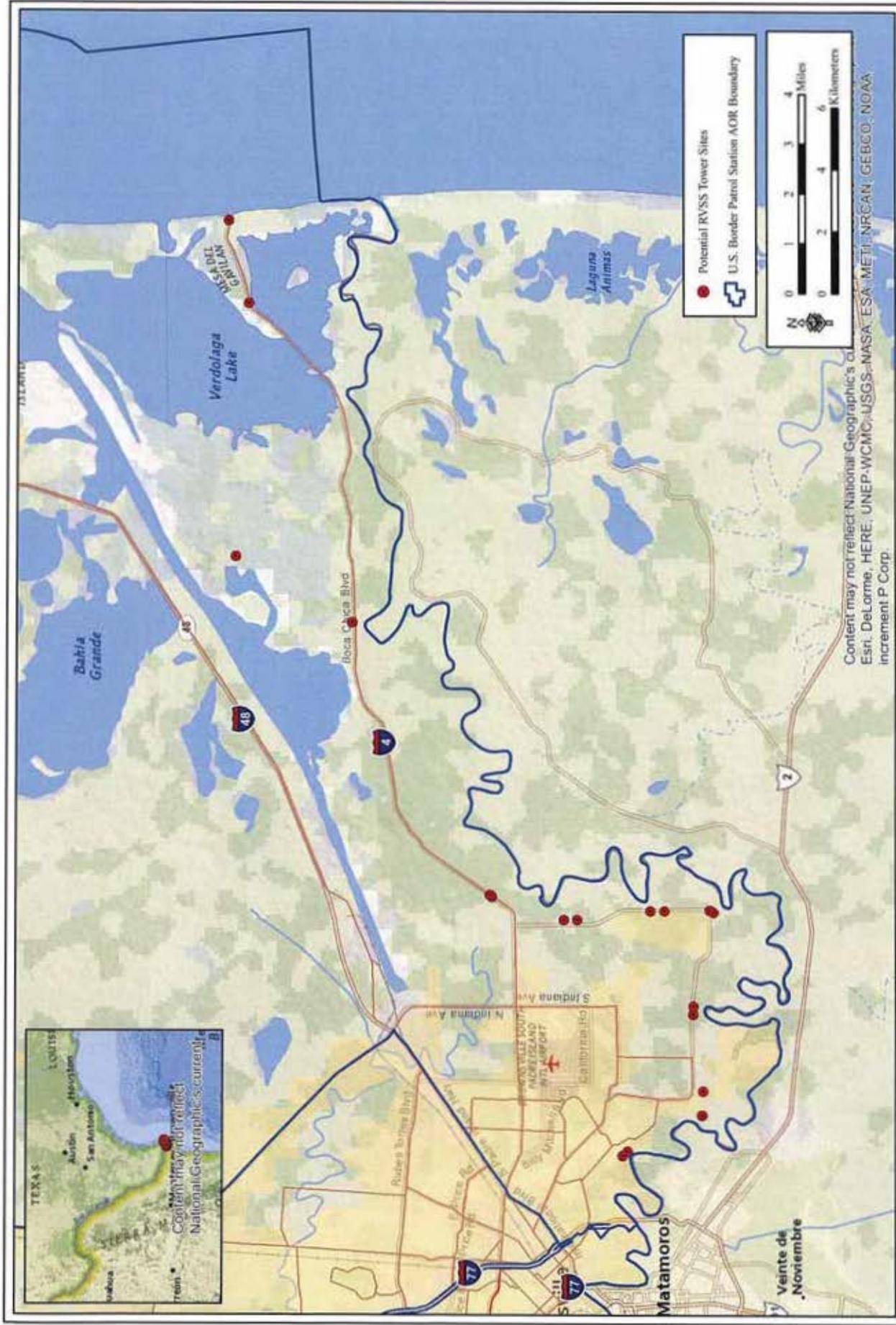


Figure 2. Proposed Action in Fort Brown Station's AOR

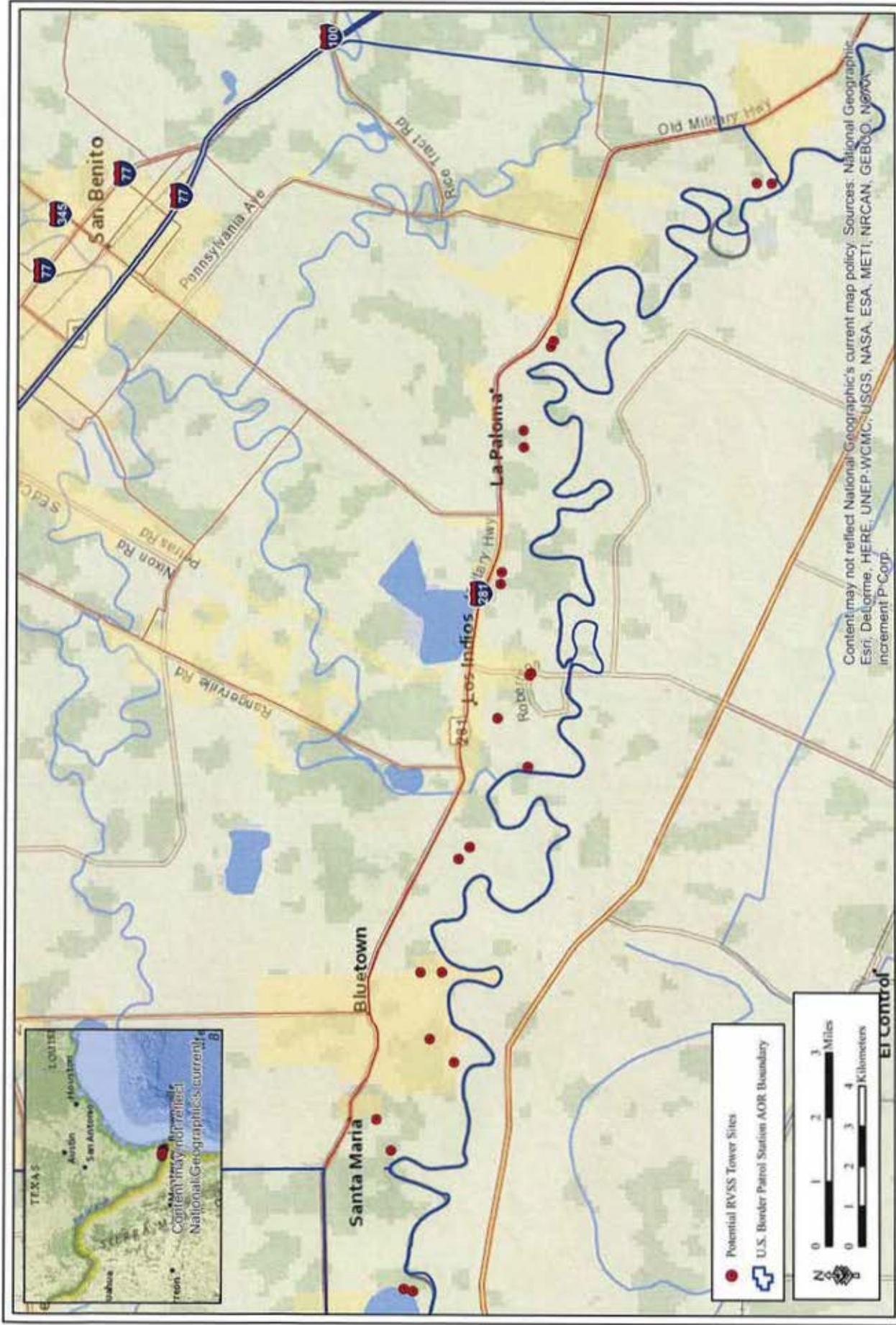


Figure 3. Proposed Action in Harlingen Station's AOR

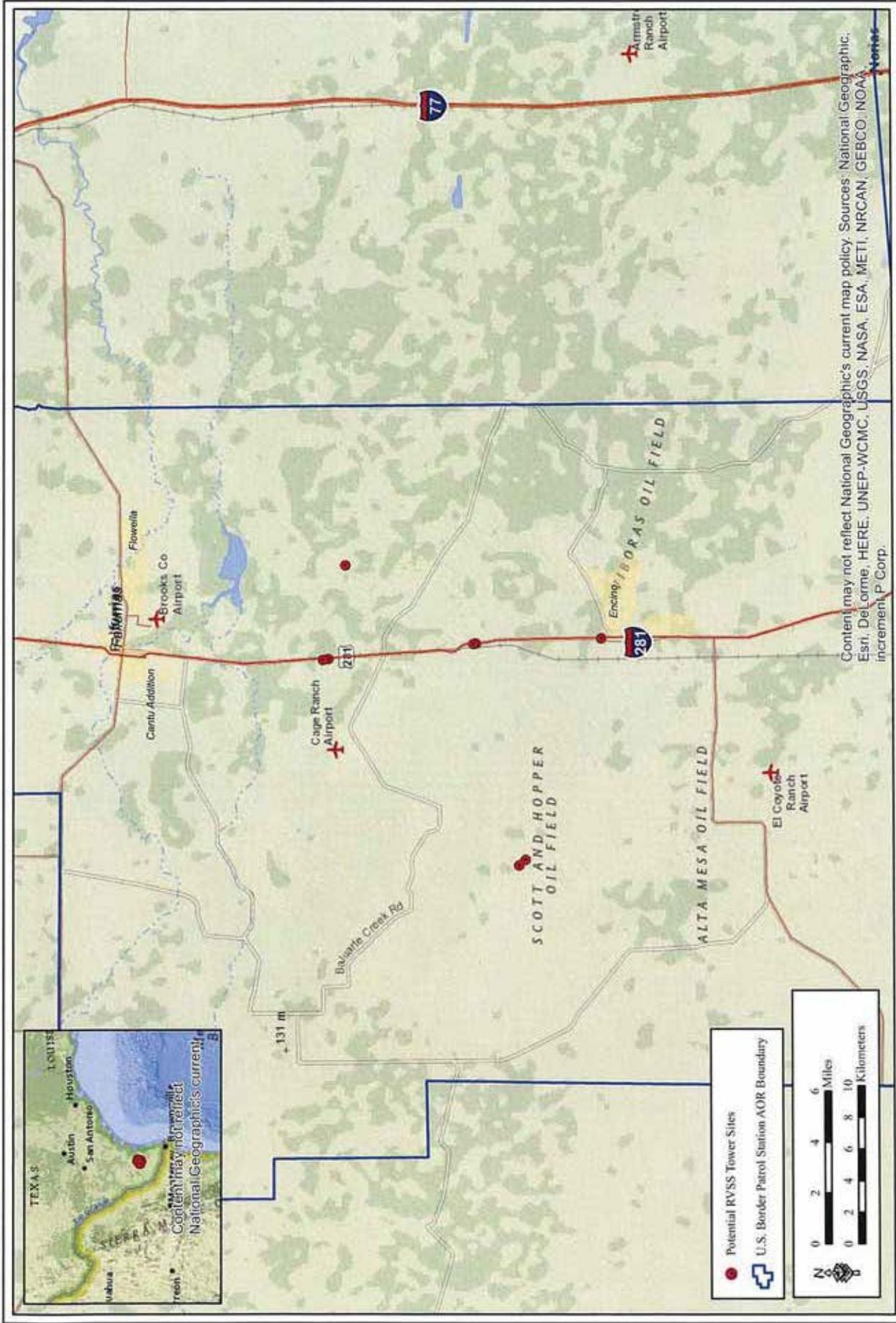
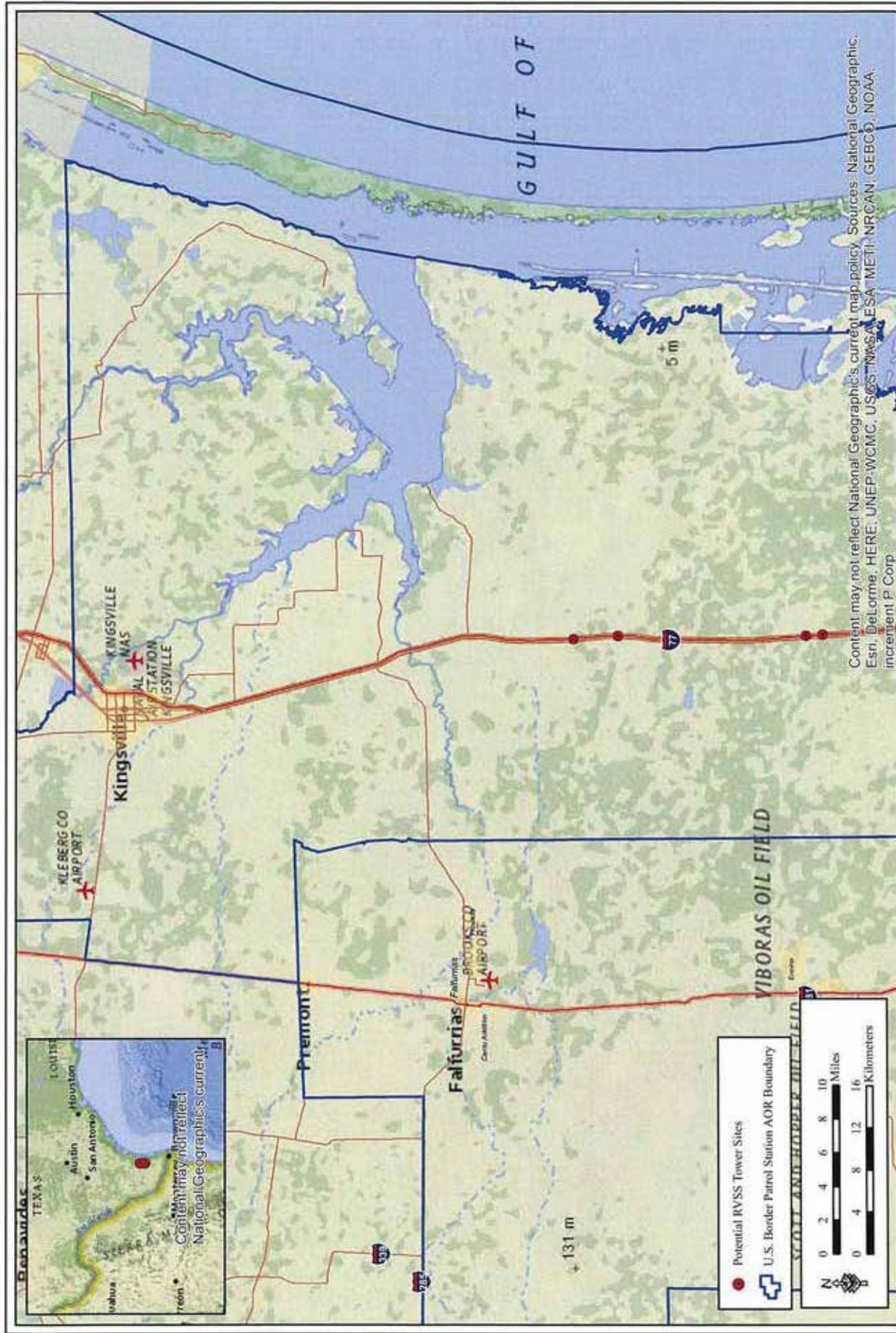


Figure 4. Proposed Action in Falfurrias Station's AOR



Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.

Figure 5. Proposed Action in Kingsville Station's AOR



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

Mr. Jose A. Nunez, Principal Engineer
International Boundary and Water Commission
United States Section
4171 North Mesa, Suite C-100
El Paso, TX 79902

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Nunez:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Mr. Jose A. Nunez
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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Ms. Kate Zultner
Coastal Coordination Council Secretary / Consistency Review Coordinator
Coastal Resources
Texas General Land Office
1700 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

MAR 12 2015

Dear Ms. Zultner:

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Mr. Toribio Garza Jr.
Texas Department of Transportation
Pharr District
600 W U.S. Expressway 83
Pharr, TX 78577

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Garza:

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Mr. Toribio Garza Jr.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Ms. Kathy Boydson
Wildlife Diversity Program
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

MAR 12 2015

Dear Ms. Boydson:

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Ms. Dawn Gardiner
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services, Corpus Christi Field Office
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5837
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

MAR 12 2015

Dear Ms. Gardiner:

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Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

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**U.S. Customs and
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Mr. Robert Jess
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3325 Green Jay Road
Alamo, TX 78516

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Jess:

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Mr. Robert Jess

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**U.S. Customs and
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Mr. Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St
Austin, TX 78701

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

Mr. Mark Wolfe

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The EA will analyze the potential for significant adverse impacts and beneficial effects on the environment from the proposed action and one alternative (the no action alternative). The proposed action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of an upgraded RVSS that provides sufficient coverage to affect control of the Station AORs while meeting the purpose and need of the project. CBP is currently analyzing 64 field sensor tower locations—consisting of 32 primary and 32 alternate tower locations—as well as several communication relay towers within the various AORs for use within the RVSS Upgrade Project (see enclosed Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

CBP is gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by, or otherwise have an interest in, this proposed action. Since your agency or organization may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from CBP's proposed action, your input is sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action. Your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which CBP would have to comply during project siting, construction, and operation.

Per DHS Directive 023-1, Environmental Planning Program, we will provide your agency with a copy of the official Draft EA of OTIA's RVSS Upgrade project for your review and comment. Please let us know if additional copies are needed.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Mr. Ron Curry, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Curry:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Mr. Jaime A. Garza, Regional Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 15
1804 W. Jefferson Avenue
Harlingen, TX 78550

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Garza:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Ms. Lisa Hanf
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Federal Activities
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

MAR 12 2015

Dear Ms. Hanf:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Ms. Lisa Hanf

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Mr. Jon Andrew
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS-3428
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Andrew:

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Mr. Jon Andrew
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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Ms. Kim McLaughlin, Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District Regulatory Branch
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, TX 77550

MAR 12 2015

Dear Ms. McLaughlin:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

Mr. Kelvin Solco
Federal Aviation Administration
Southwest Region, Regional Administrator
2601 Meacham Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76137

MAR 12 2015

Dear Mr. Solco:

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Mr. Kelvin Solco
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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Imelda Barrera-Arevalo
Brooks County Judge
100 East Miller Street
Falfurrias, TX 78355

MAR 12 2015

Dear Judge Barrera-Arevalo:

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CBP is gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by, or otherwise have an interest in, this proposed action. Since your agency or organization may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from CBP's proposed action, your input is sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action. Your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which CBP would have to comply during project siting, construction, and operation.

Per DHS Directive 023-1, Environmental Planning Program, we will provide your agency with a copy of the official Draft EA of OTIA's RVSS Upgrade project for your review and comment. Please let us know if additional copies are needed.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Carlos H. Cascos
Cameron County Judge
1100 E. Monroe Street
Dancy Building, Second Floor
Brownsville, TX 78520

MAR 12 2015

Dear Judge Cascos:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Louis E. Turcotte III
Kenedy County Judge
151 N. Mallory
Sarita, TX 78385

MAR 12 2015

Dear Judge Turcotte:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Ronnie Thomas, Chairman
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Thomas:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Wallace Coffey, Chairman
The Comanche Nation
584 NW Bingo Road
Lawton, OK 73507

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Coffey:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Geoffrey Standing Bear
Principal Chief
The Osage Nation
627 Grandview Avenue
Pawhuska, OK 74056

MAR 12 2015

Dear Principal Chief Bear:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Danny H. Breuninger, Jr., President
Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation
101 Central Avenue
Mescalero, NM 88340

MAR 12 2015

Dear President Breuninger:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Donald Patterson, President
Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
1 Rush Buffalo Road
Tonkawa, OK 74653-4449

MAR 12 2015

Dear President Patterson:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Jeffrey Haozous, Chairman
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
43187 US Highway 281
Apache, OK 73006

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Haozous:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

The EA will analyze the potential for significant adverse impacts and beneficial effects on the environment from the proposed action and one alternative (the no action alternative). The proposed action includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of an upgraded RVSS that provides sufficient coverage to affect control of the Station AORs while meeting the purpose and need of the project. CBP is currently analyzing 64 field sensor tower locations—consisting of 32 primary and 32 alternate tower locations—as well as several communication relay towers within the various AORs for use within the RVSS Upgrade Project (see enclosed Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

CBP is gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by, or otherwise have an interest in, this proposed action. Since your agency or organization may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from CBP's proposed action, your input is sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action. Your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which CBP would have to comply during project siting, construction, and operation.

Per DHS Directive 023-1, Environmental Planning Program, we will provide your agency with a copy of the official Draft EA of OTIA's RVSS Upgrade project for your review and comment. Please let us know if additional copies are needed.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Ronnie Lupe, Chairman
White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation
201 East Walnut Street
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Lupe:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Tarpie Yargee, Chief
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
101 East Broadway
Wetumka, OK 74883

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chief Yargee:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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The RVSS would communicate with the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' Command and Control (C2) facilities and would provide enhanced surveillance coverage along approximately 116 miles of U.S./Mexico border, 40 coastal miles along the Gulf of Mexico, and 28 intercoastal miles, as well as surveillance for over 3,000 square miles within the FLF and KIN AORs. Infrastructure to be considered within CBP's plan includes improvements to existing, and construction of new roads to access RVSS towers, as well as support utilities.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Lyman Guy, Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
511 E. Colorado
Anadarko, OK 73005

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Guy:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
17675 South Muskogee Avenue
Tahlequah, OK 74464

MAR 12 2015

Dear Principal Chief Baker:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Lovelin Poncho, Chairman
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
1940 C.C. Bel Road
Elton, LA 70532

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Poncho:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Tiger Hobia, Town King
Kialegee Tribal Town
623 East Highway 9
Wetumka, OK 74883

MAR 12 2015

Dear Town King Hobia:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Gilbert Salazar, Chairman
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 70
McCloud, OK 74851

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Salazar:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Per DHS Directive 023-1, Environmental Planning Program, we will provide your agency with a copy of the official Draft EA of OTIA's RVSS Upgrade project for your review and comment. Please let us know if additional copies are needed.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Amber Toppah, Lady Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015

MAR 12 2015

Dear Lady Chairman Toppah:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

A lack of infrastructure and difficult terrain within the RGV Sector affects response time and enforcement operations, thereby creating a need for a year-round, continuous technology-based surveillance capability that can effectively collect, process, and distribute information among USBP agents. The RVSS Upgrade will allow USBP agents to maintain constant surveillance over large areas, contributing to agent safety and increasing operational effectiveness as they detect, identify, and classify incursions/illegal-entry at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Buford L. Rolin, Chairman
Poarch Band of Creeks
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Rolin:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable John Berrey, Chairman
The Quapaw Tribe of Indians
5681 South 630 Road
Quapaw, OK 74364

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Berrey:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector—currently these areas include BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. As you may be aware, pre-project planning is also underway to perform similar RVSS upgrades within the USBP McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs; those upgrades are being addressed in a separate EA and are not part of the proposed action. Potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the RGV Sector will be addressed in both EAs.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Leonard M. Harjo, Principal Chief
The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

MAR 12 2015

Dear Principal Chief Harjo:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable George Scott, Town King
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okemah, OK 74859

MAR 12 2015

Dear Town King Scott:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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The Honorable George Scott

Page 2

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Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)



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

The Honorable Joey P. Barbry, Chairman
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
151 Melacon Drive
Marksville, LA 71351

MAR 12 2015

Dear Chairman Barbry:

Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). BPFTI is preparing this EA on behalf of the Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA), which is the subcomponent of CBP charged with ensuring that CBP's technology efforts are properly focused on the mission and integrated across CBP. OTIA is the CBP proponent office for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs RVSS Upgrade Project.

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Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joseph Zidron at (949) 643-6392 or via email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosure(s)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

March 26, 2015

Joseph Zidron
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
24000 Avila Road – suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Re: Comments for the proposed Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure, Remote Video Surveillance Systems within the USBP Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' Areas of Responsibility (USCBP; Track #201506725)

Dear Mr. Zidron:

Thank you for providing us the notification and information regarding the future construction and operation of 64 field sensor towers in the Rio Grande Valley Sector. We look forward in the opportunity to comment on the official Draft Environmental Assessment. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If we can be of further assistance, please contact David Camarena Garcés at 512/463-6252 or david.camarena@thc.state.tx.us.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CORPUS CHRISTI REGULATORY FIELD OFFICE
5151 FLYNN PARKWAY, SUITE 306
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78411-4318

February 18, 2015

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Corpus Christi Regulatory Field Office

SUBJECT: Project No. SWG-2015-00013 – Request for Comment

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection
Office of Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management

ATTN: Joseph Zidron
24000 Avila Road
Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, California 92677

Dear Mr. Zidron:

This is in reference to your request dated December 18, 2014, for comment regarding the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) detailing the proposed upgrade of Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the United States Border Patrol (USBP) Rio Grande City (RGC), McAllen, and Weslaco Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). The proposed project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately forty-two (42) field sensor tower sites within the various AORs. Work could include improvements to existing, and construction of new, roads to access the RVSS towers, as well as appurtenant support utilities. The maps you submitted are enclosed in three (3) sheets.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has determined that project sites may contain jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specifically, there may be navigable waters of the U.S., subject to jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) (Section 10), and/or wetland areas, subject to jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (Section 404). The Corps regulates construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters, or any work which would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, under Section 10. Additionally, the Corps regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including navigable waters, under Section 404. Therefore, construction, excavation, and the placement and/or the discharge of dredged or fill material into these waters of the U.S. requires a Department of the Army permit.

Please note the Corps has not delineated the extent of the waters of the U.S. within the proposed project sites. If a delineation of the waters of the U.S. is required, we recommend that you hire an environmental consultant to perform the delineation. Upon its completion, please submit the delineation report to the Corps for verification. A list of consultants is enclosed.

Corps determinations are conducted to identify the limits of the Corps RHA and CWA jurisdiction for particular sites. This determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your

tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should request a certified wetland determination from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

Please note, this is **not authorization to begin work in jurisdictional areas**. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Mannie at 361-814-5847 ext. 1005. To assist us in improving our service to you, please complete the survey found at http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=136:4:0.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Laskowski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nicholas Laskowski
Supervisor
Corpus Christi Regulatory Field Office

Enclosures

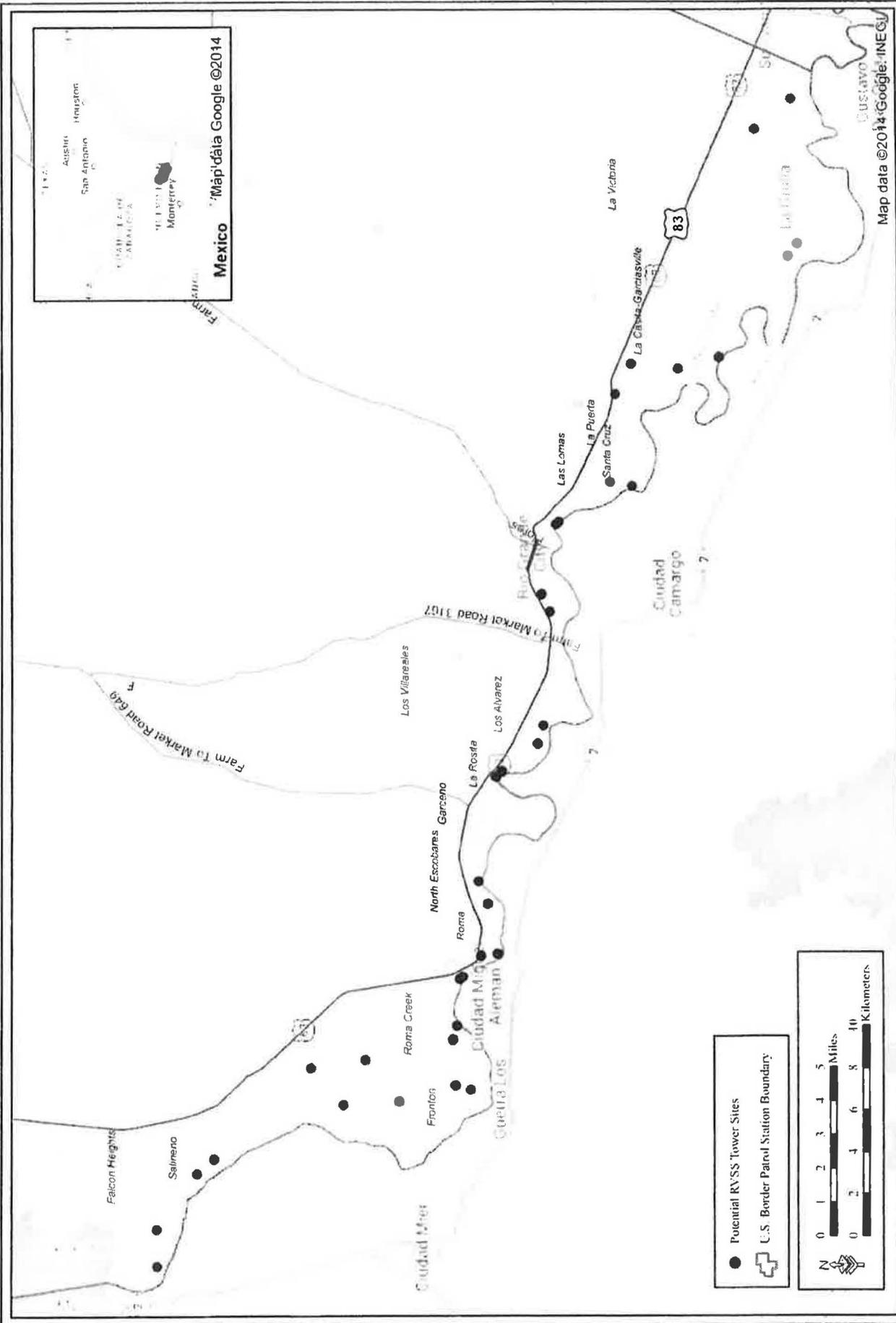
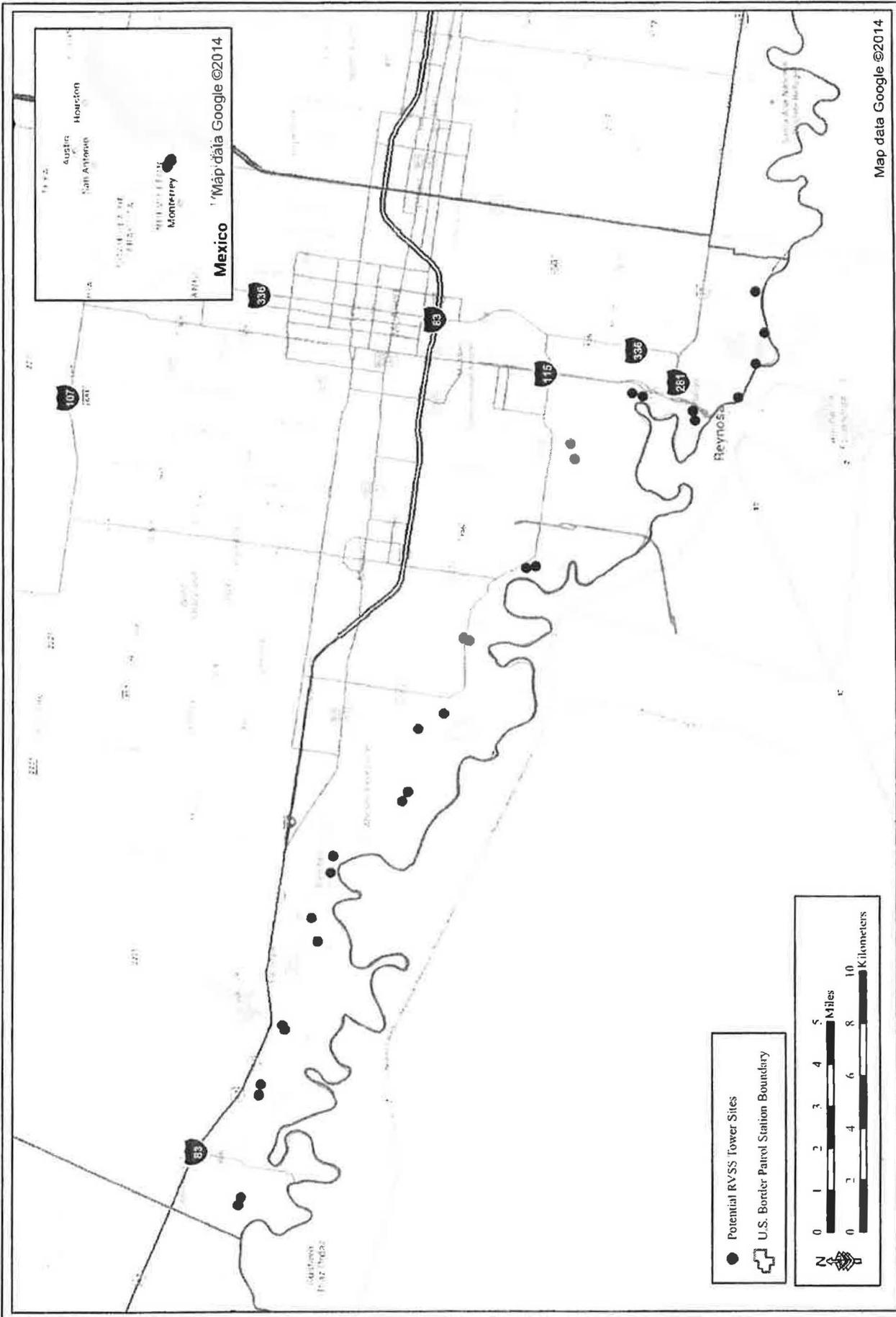


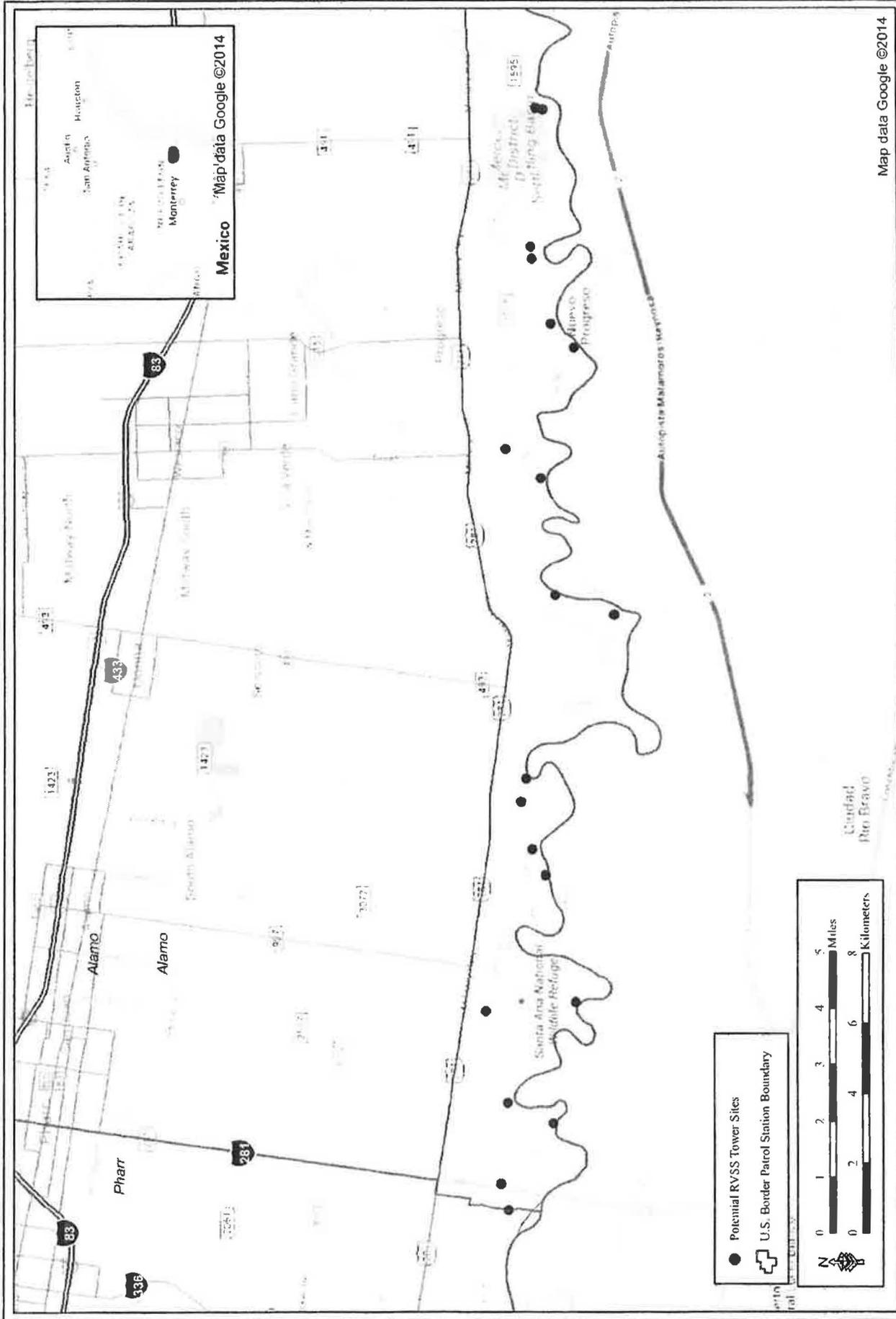
Figure 1. Potential RVSS Tower Sites within Rio Grande City AOR.



Map data Google ©2014



Figure 2. Potential RVSS Tower Sites within McAllen AOR.



Map data Google ©2014

Figure 3. Potential RVSS Tower Sites within Weslaco AOR

Galveston District Environmental Consultant List

Company Name	Point of Contact	Address	Telephone Number	Fax Number	Electronic Mail Address	Website
A. & M. Wetland Consulting Services, L.L.C.	Andy R. Bouse or Michael Christley	502 Vivit, Angleton, Texas 77515	281.595.2118 or 281.627.2659	N/A	andy@texaswetland.com; mike@texaswetland.com	TexasWetland.com
AECOM	Vanessa Pina Tobias	19219 Katy Freeway, Suite 100 Houston, Texas 77094	281.646.2400	281.646.2401	vanessa.pina@aecom.com	www.aecom.com
Allen Plumer Associates, Inc.	Loretta E. Mokry	10060 N Dowling RD College Station, TX 77845	979.694.7619	979.694.7619	lmokry@apalenv.com	www.apalenv.com
Allen Plumer Associates, Inc.	Jason Voight	1320 South University Drive, Suite 300 Fort Worth, TX 76107	817.806.1700	817.870.2536	jvoight@apalenv.com	www.apalenv.com
AMEC	Dawn Johnson, PhD	3520 Executive Center DR Suite 200 Austin TX 78731	805.252.4370	512.795.8423	dawn.johnson@amec.com	www.amec.com
Apex TITAN, Inc.	Robin Laine	1601 Rio Grande St., Suite 420 Austin, TX 78701	512.473.8313	512.473.8314	rlaine@apexcos.com	www.apexenv.com
Arcadis U.S. Inc.	Lori K Magyar	2929 Briarpark Drive, Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77042	713.953.4708	N/A	lori.magyar@arcadis-us.com	www.arcadis-us.com
Atwell, LLC	Chris Haas, Project manager Natural Resources	143 Union Blvd, Suite 700 Lakewood, CO 80228	303.825.7110 Cell: 970.471.5141	303.825.7110	chaas@atwell-group.com	www.atwell-group.com
Aviles Engineering Corporation	Shou Ting Hu, P. E.	5790 Windfern Road, Houston TX 77041	713.895.7645	713.895.7943	kfrench@avilesengineering.com	www.avilesengineering.com
Belaire Environmental, Inc	Charlie Belaire	P.O. Box 741 Rockport TX 78381-0741	361.729.2948	361.729.2970	estuary423@aol.com	www.belaireenv.com
Belaire Environmental, Inc	Laura Fox	P.O. Box 741 Rockport TX 78381-0741	361.729.9800	361.729.9800	bellaura@sbcglobal.net	www.belaireenv.com
Belaire Environmental, Inc	Andi Binion	P.O. Box 741 Rockport TX 78381-0741	361.729.1241	361.729.1441	ab_bei@sbcglobal.net	www.belaireenv.com
Belaire Environmental, Inc	B.J. Hill	P.O. Box 741 Rockport TX 78381-0741	361.729.1241	361.729.1441	bh_bei@sbcglobal.net	www.belaireenv.com
Benchmark Ecological Services, Inc.	Brett Soutar or Bob Davidson	P.O. Box 158 Katy, TX 77492	281.934.3403	281.934.3404	bsoutar@benchmarkeco.com or bbdavidson@benchmarkeco.com	www.benchmarkeco.com
Biological Systems Consultants, Inc.	Jessie Robinson, Senior Project Manager	P.O. Box 54954 Lexington, KY 40509	859.263.4142	N/A	jesse@biologicalsystemsconsultants.com	www.biologicalsystemsconsultants.com
Bio-West, Inc	Dyer Schiltzkus	1018 Frost ST Rosenberg TX 77471	832.595.9064	832.595.9054	dschiltzkus@bio-west.com	www.bio-west.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Jason Schindler	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 117	512.264.1531	schindler@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Don Blanton	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 112	512.264.1531	dblanton@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Kim Johnson	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 120	512.264.1531	kjohnson@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Dean Tesmer	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 124	512.264.1531	dtesmer@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Mark Kainer	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 119	512.264.1531	mkainer@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Dave Severinson	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 118	512.264.1531	dseverinson@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Rick Phillips	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095 Ext. 115	512.264.1531	rphillips@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com

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Galveston District Environmental Consultant List

Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Cecilia Green	5 Lakeway Centre court, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78734	512.264.1095	512.264.1531	cecilia.green@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Jim Thompson	1200 Smith Street, Suite 1600 Houston, TX 77002	713.353.8879	713.353.4601	jthompson@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blanton & Associates, Inc.	Velma Danielson	300 Convent St., Suite 1330 San Antonio, TX 78205	210.901.5071	210.901.5001	velma.danielson@blantonassociates.com	www.blantonassociates.com
Blue Ox Environmental Planning Services, LLC	Gregg Hamilton	2851 Johnston Street, # 1803 Lafayette, LA 70503-3243	832.377.7317 cell:337.315.7101	337.534.0370	gregg@blueoxenvironmental.com	www.blueoxenvironmental.com
Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.	Jim Gregory, Director	10777 Westheimer Rd., Suite 400, Houston, TX 77042	281.558.8700	281.558.9701	jgregory@browning.com	www.browning.com
Brown and Caldwell	Brett Massoni or Bryan Mason	10777 Westheimer RD Suite 925 Houston TX 77042	713.759.0999	713.308.3886	bmassoni@brwnclld.com or bmason@brwnclld.com	www.brownandcaldwell.com
Cardno Entrix	Robert Ganzczak & Bob Nailon	5252 Westchester ST, Suite 250 Houston, Texas 77005	713.666.6223	713.666.5227	robert.ganzczak@cardno.com bob.nailon@cardno.com	www.carnoentrix.com
C-K Associates, LLC	Melissa Denena	616 FM 1960, Suite 575, Houston, TX 77090	281.397.9016	281.397.6637	melissa.denena@c-ka.com	www.c-ka.com
Coast & Harbor Engineering, Inc.	Hugo Bermudez	3410 Far West Blvd Suite 210 Austin TX 78731	512.342.9516	512.342.9708	hugo@coastharboreng.com	www.coastharboreng.com
Coastal Environments Inc.	Sean R Nash RPA	525 S. Carancahua Corpus Christi, Texas 78401	361.854.4885	361.884.1844	snash@coastalenv.com	www.coastalenv.com
Coastal Resource Biologists	Buddy Ortega	P.O. BOX 922, Sweeny, TX 77480	979.482.6916	979.265.9940	budcorebios@gmail.com	N/A
Coastal Surveying of Texas, Inc.	Sidney Bouse	P.O. Box 2742 Crystal Beach TX 77650	409.684.6400	409.684.6112	sid@surveygalveston.com	www.surveygalveston.com
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates	Charles E. Jones	5551 Corporate Boulevard Suite 200 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808	225.296.6585 Direct 225.247.3352 Mobile	225.952.2978	cjones@crworld.com	www.crworld.com
Cox/McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.	Larry Cox	6010 Balcones Drive, Suite 210 Austin, TX 78731	512.338.2223	512.338.2225	larry@coxmcclain.com	www.coxmcclain.com
CRC, LLC International Archeology & Ecology Consultants	Bob D'Aigle, MA	30 N. Wilde Yaupon Circle Spring, TX 77381	832.592.9549	979.530.0331	rdaigle@culturalresource.com	www.culturalresource.com
Crouch Environmental Services, Inc	Kay Crouch - President	402 Tettshorn ST Houston TX 77009	713.868.1043	N/A	kay@crouchenvironmental.com	www.crouchenvironmental.com
Crouch Environmental Services, Inc	Matthew Chastain, P.W.S.	402 Teetshorn St Houston TX 77009	713.868.1043	713.863.1043	matt@crouchenvironmental.com	www.crouchenvironmental.com
CSA International, Inc.	Jeffery Landgraf	11757 Katy Freeway Suite 1300 Houston TX 77079	361.563.4457	771.219.3010	jlandgraf@conshelf.com	www.csaintl.com
DCH Environmental Consultants LP	David C. Hamren	204 Brooks Street, Sugar Land TX 77478	281.980.9600	281.980.9622	dhamren@dch- environmental.com	www.dch-environmental.com/
DESCO Environmental Consultants, LP	Justin Rowland and David Young	P.O. Box 1490 Magnolia, TX 77353	281.252.9799	281.789.1003	jrowland@descoenv.com dyoung@descoenv.com	www.descoenv.com
Disorbo Consulting, LLC	Holly Fuitts	1010 Travis ST, Suite 916 Houston, Texas 77062	713.955.1214	713.955.1201	hfuits@disorboconsult.com	www.disorboconsult.com
E Sciences, Inc.	Richard Earp	34 E Pine Street, Orlando, FL 32801	407.481.9006	407.481.9627	rearp@esciencesinc.com	www.esciencesinc.com
Ecological, Inc.	Anne Profflet	4901 Welford Bellaire TX 77401	713.432.7253	713.432.7253	anne.profflet@att.net	N/A
Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, LLC	Sonny Kaiser	350 N. Sam Houston PKWY E. Suite 290 Houston, Texas 77060	Office: 832.399.3400 Cell: 832.257.4452	919.388.0789	skaiser@eprusa.net	eprusa.net
ELOS Environmental1	Ron Ventola, Luke Watkins or Jay Prather	43177 E. Pleasant Road Hammond, LA 70403	985.662.5501 or 504.228.0008	985.662.5504	rventola@elosenv.com	N/A

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Galveston District Environmental Consultant List

Morris P. Hebert, Inc. – Corporate Operations	Michael Capello – Vice President of Environmental Services	283 Corporate Drive, Houma, LA 70361	985.879.2731	985.876.9052	mcapello@mphinc.com	www.mphinc.com
Morris P. Hebert, Inc. – Houston Operations	Richard Fontenot – Senior Environmental Project Manager	10101 Southwest Freeway, Suite 620, Houston, TX 77074	713.219.1470	713.219.1471	rfontenot@mphinc.com	www.mphinc.com
Naismith Engineering, Inc	David E Sullivan, C.E.P	4501 Gollihar Road Corpus Christi TX 78411	361.814.9900	361.814.4401	dsullivan@naismith-engineering.com	N/A
Peloton Land Solutions	Chris A. Hamilton	5751 Kroger Drive, Suite 185 Keller Texas 76244	817.562.3350	N/A	chris.hamilton@pelotonland.com	www.pelotonland.com
Phase Engineering, Inc.	Tracy Watson	5524 Cornish Street Houston Texas 77007	713.476.9844 Cell:210.997.4056	713.476.9797	tracy@phaseengineering.com	www.phaseengineering.com
Providence Engineering and Environmental Group, LLC	John Gross	11767 Katy Freeway, Suite 403 Houston, TX 77079	281.497.5656	281.497.5657	johngross@providenceeng.com	www.providenceeng.com
QPS Engineering, LLC	Brandy Smart	1300 Commerce Drive Moon Township, PA 15108	Office: 412.424.8914 Cell:406.600.7014	N/A	brandy.smart@qpsps.com	www.qpsps.com
raba-Kistner Environmental, Inc.	Sam Blanco, AICP	12821 West Golden Lane San Antonio Texas 78249	210.694.3691	210.699.6426	sblanco@rkci.com	www.rkci.com
River Specialists, LLC	Bruce Cole	PO Box 593303 San Antonio, Texas 78259	210.870.7204	N/A	cole@riverspecialists.com	www.riverspecialists.com
RPS	Mark Fuller, P.E.	1250 Capital of Texas Highway Building Three Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78746	512.347.7588	512.347.8243	markfuller@rpsgroup.com	www.rpsgroup.com
RPS Group	Allen Rienstra	Cello Center 1250 South Capital of Texas Highway Building 3, STE 200 Austin, TX 78746	512.341.7588 cell:409.504.6933	512.347.8243	allen.rienstra@rpsgroup.com	www.rpsgroup.com
Shellmark Engineering, LLC	Rhonda Gregg, Senior Project Manager	921 FM517 Rd East Dickinson, TX 77539	409.935.9986	409.938.8706	rregg@shellmark.net	www.shellmark.net
Shellmark Engineering LLC	Rhonda Gregg, Senior Project Manager	921 FM517 Road East Dickinson, TX 77539	409.935.9986	409.938.8706	rregg@shellmark.net	www.shellmark.net
Shellmark Engineering LLC	Marcus Michna, P.E., Principal	921 FM517 Road East Dickinson, TX 77539	409.935.9986	409.938.8706	mjmichna@shellmark.net	www.shellmark.net
Shorelin Environmental Assessments	Anne Williams	14493 South Padre Island Drive Suite A-328 Corpus Christi TX 78418	361.815.6041	N/A	info@SEAssessments.net	www.SEAssessments.com
Southeaster Archeological Research, INC (SEARCH)	Jason Burns, M.A. RPA, Cultural Resources Project Manager	428 E. Government St. Pensacola, FL 32502-6132	850.607.2846 or 352.215.3153	850.607.8439	jason@searchinc.com	www.searchinc.com
Spere 3 Environmental, Inc.	Kerri Smith	1501 Bill Owens Parkway Longview TX 75604	903.297.4673	903.297.4675	ksmith@spere3environmental.com	www.spere3environmental.com
Spirit Environmental	Travis Beakley	20465 State Highway 249, Suite 300 Houston, TX 77070	281.664-2835	281.664-2491	tbeakley@spiritenv.com	http://www.spiritenvironmental.com/
Stantec Consulting Services Inc	Mr. Brandon L. Owens, PWS	2700 NE Loop 410, Suite 125 San Antonio, TX 78217	210.560.5061cell or 210.561.9876office	281.647.1399	Brandon.Owens@Stantec.com	Stantec.Com
Stelly Environmental, LLC	David L. Stelly	309 N. Adelaide St, Suite A terrell, Texas 75160	Office: 469.474-7890 Mobile: 214.734.8013	N/A	dstelly42@yahoo.com	N/A
Stream Wetland Services, LL	David Richard or Dean Roberts	P.O. Box 40 Lake Charles LA 70602 or 2417 Shell Beach DR Lake Charles LA 70601	337.433.1055 David x119 Dean x121	337.439.2170	N/A	http://www.streamcompany.com
SWCA Environmental Consultants	Matt Stahman, Program Director	10245 West Little York Road, Suite 600 Houston, TX 77040	713.934.9900	713.934.9906	mstahman@swca.com	www.swca.com

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TONKAWA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
**NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION
AND REPATRIATION ACT**

• 1 RUSH BUFFALO ROAD, TONKAWA, OKLAHOMA 74653 •
• PHONE (580) 628-2561 • FAX: (580) 628-9903 •
WEB SITE: www.tonkawatribe.com

Dear Sir or Madam,

Regarding your proposed projects, the Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma submits the following:

The Tonkawa Tribe has no specifically designated historical or cultural sites identified in the above listed project area. However if any human remains, funerary objects, or other evidence of historical or cultural significance is inadvertently discovered then the Tonkawa Tribe would certainly be interested in proper disposition thereof.

We appreciate notification by your office of the many projects on-going, and as always the Tonkawa Tribe is willing to work with your representatives in any manner to uphold the provisions of NAGPRA to the extent of our capability.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Miranda 'Nax'ce' Myer".

Miranda "Nax'ce" Myer
NAGPRA Representative



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

April 10, 2015

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

Mr. Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Subject: Preparation of Environmental Assessment to upgrade the Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) within the U.S. Border Patrol Areas of Responsibility in the Lower Rio Grande Valley near Brownsville, Texas

Dear Mr. Enriquez:

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), is in receipt of your letter dated March 12, 2015, regarding the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), notice to prepare a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) proposal to upgrade the Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) at Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville, Texas, CBP Areas of Responsibility (AOR). The proposal consists of improving surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity in the LRGV. CBP is gathering information from the various agencies, departments, bureaus, local and state government that may be affected by, or otherwise interested in the proposed action.

With regard to the above, the USIBWC appreciates the notification and would like to be included as early as possible in the NEPA process in order to provide timely information and feedback. As you know, some of these tower locations may fall within the USIBWC LRGV Flood Control Project and as such, would not only have to be evaluated for environmental impacts, but also for factors such as deflection of flood flows and increases to the water surface elevation as required under the 1970 Boundary Treaty with Mexico.

Staff from the USIBWC will be available to assist during the NEPA process to provide information regarding our flood control project and convey information to assist in the development of this proposal. Please feel free to contact Mr. Gilbert Anaya, Chief of our Environmental Management Division, at either (915) 832-4702 or to gilbert.anaya@ibwc.gov. Mr. Anaya will assist you with any information that you need from previous NEPA actions and datasets that might help assess the affected environment for this project that falls within the USIBWC's jurisdiction.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (915) 832-4749.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose A. Nuñez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "N".

Jose A. Nuñez, P.E.
Principal Engineer



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

South Texas Refuge Complex

3325 Green Jay Road

Alamo, Texas 78516

April 8, 2015



Paul Enriquez
Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Mr. Enriquez:

This responds to your request for our input in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction, operation, and maintenance of Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) towers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. It is our understanding the proposed action may include the installation of several of these towers on portions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. In some cases, this may require rights-of-way or easements on refuge lands for proposed tower sites and associated infrastructure. As you are aware, these refuges were established to protect important fish and wildlife resources for the continuing benefit of the American people. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas alone, over 95% of the native wildlife habitat has been lost to development. A primary goal of these refuges is to protect the remainder of these unique habitats as well as to maintain ecological processes for the benefit of resident and migratory wildlife.

Therefore, with respect to the proposed action, we recommend the EA include a range of alternatives that avoid or minimize the need for further impacts to sensitive areas of the refuges. The granting of rights-of-ways and/or easements across national wildlife refuges is outlined in pertinent part both in regulation and policy (Fish and Wildlife Service Manual, Part 340 FW3-Rights-of-Way; 603 FW1-Appropriate Refuge Uses; and 603 FW2-Compatibility). We appreciate your request for input and look forward to an opportunity to review the EA, when it becomes available. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (956) 784-7591 or via email at Robert_jess@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Jess
Project Leader, South Texas Refuge Complex

cc: Bryan Winton, Refuge Manager, Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, Alamo, TX
Gisela Chapa, Refuge Manager, Santa Ana NWR, Alamo, TX
Kelly McDowell, Refuge Supervisor-OK/TX Refuges,
Ernesto Reyes, Biologist, Ecological Services Field SubOffice, Alamo, TX
Joseph Zidron, CBP, Office of Border Patrol Facilities/Tactical Infrastructure



White Mountain Apache Tribe

Office of Historic Preservation

PO Box 1032

Fort Apache, AZ 85926

Ph: (928) 338-3033 Fax: (928) 338-6055

To: Paul Enriquez, BPFTI Environmental Branch Chief
Date: January 7, 2015
Re: EA for the proposed Upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance System, Texas

.....
The White Mountain Apache Tribe Historic Preservation Office appreciates receiving information on the proposed project, December 18, 2014. In regards to this, please attend to the following checked items below.

► ***There is no need to send additional information unless project planning or implementation results in the discovery of sites and/or items having known or suspected Apache Cultural affiliation.***

N/A - The proposed project is located within an area of probable cultural or historical importance to the White Mountain Apache tribe (WMAT). As part of the effort to identify historical properties that maybe affected by the project we recommend an ethno-historic study and interviews with Apache Elders. The tribe's ***Cultural Heritage Resource Director Mr. Ramon Riley*** may be contacted at (928) 338-3033 for further information should this become necessary.

► Please refer to the attached additional notes in regards to the proposed project:

We have received and reviewed information regarding BPFTI's proposal to prepare an Environmental Assessment to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk for illegal cross-border activity located within the USBP Rio Grande Valley, Texas, and we have determine the proposed plans will ***not have an impact*** on the White Mountain Apache tribe's (WMAT) historic and/or traditional cultural properties. Regardless, any/all ground disturbing activities should be monitored ***if*** there are reasons to believe that there are human remains and/or funerary objects are present, and if such remains and/or objects are encountered they shall be treated with respect and handled accordingly until such remains are repatriated to the affiliated tribe.

Thank you. We look forward to continued collaborations in the protection and preservation of place of cultural and historical significance.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Altaha -THPO

White Mountain Apache Tribe
Historic Preservation Office



Life's better outside.®

April 17, 2015

Paul Enriquez
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Commissioners

Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.
Chairman
Beeville

Ralph H. Duggins
Vice-Chairman
Fort Worth

T. Dan Friedkin
Chairman-Emeritus
Houston

Roberto De Hoyos
Austin

Bill Jones
Austin

James H. Lee
Houston

Margaret Martin
Boerne

S. Reed Morian
Houston

Dick Scott
Wimberley

Lee M. Bass
Chairman-Emeritus
Fort Worth

RE: Preparation of a Draft Environmental Assessment for remote video surveillance systems upgrade within the Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' area of responsibility, Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks and Kenedy Counties, Texas

Dear Mr. Enriquez:

This letter is in response to your request for comments and information regarding the proposed project referenced above. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) within the Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' Area of Responsibility (AOR). The Office of Technology Innovation and Acquisition (OTIA) is the CBP proponent office for the RVSS upgrade project. The EA prepared for this project is separate from the one being prepared for the RVSS upgrade within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) McAllen, Weslaco, and Rio Grande City Stations' AORs. However, potential cumulative impacts from all RVSS upgrades in the Rio Grande Valley will be addressed in both EAs.

Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of an upgraded RVSS for the Brownsville, Fort Brown, Harlingen, Falfurrias, and Kingsville Stations' AORs. The EA will evaluate potential significant adverse impacts and beneficial effects of the project on the environment. Only the preferred and no action alternatives are being considered. Currently, CBP is analyzing 64 field sensor tower locations; 32 primary and 32 alternate tower locations. Towers would either be self-supporting lattice towers or monopoles, ranging in height from 60 to 199 feet. The permanent footprint of each tower site would be approximately 10,000 square feet and would consist of the tower, equipment shelter, power source, and parking area with a fence enclosure. Several communication relay towers within the various AORs would also be constructed as part of the RVSS upgrade project.

Infrastructure to be considered in the RVSS upgrade include improvements to existing access roads, and the construction of new roads to access RVSS towers as well as support utilities.

Carter P. Smith
Executive Director

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff reviewed the information provided and offers the following comments and recommendations. Due to the scale and the lack of detail (e.g., landmarks or coordinates) of the project area maps provided to TPWD, comments regarding the siting of proposed towers are based on their approximate locations.

TPWD Review Methods

As part of the review, TPWD searched the most recent version of the Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) of known records for species and rare resources within 1.5 miles of the approximate location of each RVSS tower site. TXNDD Element Occurrence (EOID) records found within the delineated study area boundary and extending five miles outside of that boundary provide a best estimate of the species and other rare resources that could potentially occur in the project's study area. **A lack of site-specific records should not be interpreted as presence/absence data, but instead that little information is available to date.**

Rare and Protected Species

Based on the project as presented, the TPWD annotated county list of rare species for Hidalgo, Cameron, Brooks, and Kenedy counties, and presently known TXNDD records for the general project area, the following listed species could be impacted by proposed project activities *if suitable habitat* is present:

Federal and State Listed Endangered

- Northern Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*)
- * Jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yaguarondi*)
- * Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*)
- * Texas ayenia (*Ayenia limitaris*)

Federal Listed Threatened

- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)

Federal and State Listed Threatened

- * Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

Federal Candidate for Listing

- Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*)

State Listed Threatened

- * Black-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus meridionalis*)
- * Mexican treefrog (*Smilisca baudinii*)
- * Sheep frog (*Hypopachus variolosus*)
- * South Texas siren (large form) (*Siren* sp. 1)

- White-lipped frog (*Leptodactylus fragilis*)
- Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum*)
- Grey Hawk (*Asturina nitida*)
- Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Campostoma imberbe*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*)
- Texas Botteri's Sparrow (*Aimophila botterii texana*)
- Tropical Parula (*Parula pitiayumi*)
- White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)
- * White-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albicaudatus*)
- Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)
- Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*)
- * Southern yellow bat (*Lasiurus ega*)
- White-nosed coati (*Nasua narica*)
- * Black-striped snake (*Coniophanes imperialis*)
- * Northern cat-eyed snake (*Leptodeira septentrionalis septentrionalis*)
- Reticulate collared lizard (*Crotaphytus reticulatus*)
- * Speckled racer (*Drymobius margaritiferus*)
- * Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)
- * Texas indigo snake (*Drymarchon melanurus erebennus*)
- Texas scarlet snake (*Cemophora coccinea lineri*)
- * Texas tortoise (*Gopherus berlandieri*)

Species of Concern

- Audubon's Oriole (*Icterus graduacauda audubonii*)
- Brownsville Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas insperata*)
- Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
- * Sennett's Hooded Oriole (*Icterus cucullatus sennetti*)
- Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)
- Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*)
- Rio Grande shiner (*Notropis jemezanus*)
- Cave myotis bat (*Myotis velifer*)
- Plains spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius interrupta*)
- * Keeled earless lizard (*Holbrookia propinqua*)
- Spot-tailed earless lizard (*Holbrookia lacerata*)
- * Amelia's sandverbena (*Abronia ameliae*)
- * Bailey's ballmoss (*Tillandsia baileyi*)
- * Green Island echeandia (*Echeandia texensis*)
- * Lila de los llanos (*Echeandia chandleri*)
- * Mexican mud-plantain (*Heteranthera mexicana*)
- * Plains gumweed (*Grindelia oolepis*)
- * Runyon's cory cactus (*Coryphantha macromeris var runyonii*)
- * Runyon's water-willow (*Justicia runyonii*)
- * Shinner's rocket (*Thelypodopsis shinersii*)
- * St. Joseph's staff (*Manfreda longiflora*)

Special Features and Natural Communities

- * American elm-Hackberry Series (*Ulmus Americana-Celtis spp.*)
- * Seacoast bluestem-Gulfdune paspalum Series (*Schizachyrium scoparium* var. *littoralis-Paspalum monostachyum*)
- * Sea Oats-Bitter panicum Series (*Uniola paniculata-Panicum amarum*)
- * Texas ebony-Anacua Series (*Pithecellobium ebano-Ehretia anacua*)
- * Texas ebony-Snake-eyes Series (*Pithecellobium ebano-Phaulothamnus spinescens*)
- * Texas ebony-Snake-eyes-Berlandier fiddlewood Series (*Pithecellobium ebano-Phaulothamnus spinescens-Citharexylum berlandieri*)
- * Texas Palmetto Series (*Sabal texana*)

Managed Areas

- * USFWS-Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- * Resaca de la Palma State Park-World Birding Center
- * Boca Chica State Park
- * TPWD-Las Palomas Wildlife Management Area-Anacua and Lower Rio Grande Valley Units
- * Southmost Ranch Preserve

Review of the TXNDD indicates that occurrences of the species and features shown above and preceded by an asterisk (*) have been documented in and/or possibly within 1.5 miles of the project locations. EOID data sheets and maps of the project area are being provided as electronic attachments.

Based on a review of the TXNDD, over 120 EOIDs have been documented in the four county project area. Most of these EOIDs indicate that habitat suitable to support listed species could occur at or near proposed project sites. Additionally, of the 64 potential tower sites, many occur adjacent to or within tracts of managed land, including multiple tracts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuges, two State Parks, State Wildlife Management Areas, and Nature Conservancy tracts that occur along the border and are components of the Wildlife Corridor.

The TXNDD is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. Absence of information in an area does not imply that a species is absent from that area. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, the data from the TXNDD do not provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features within your project area. These data are not inclusive and **cannot be used as presence/absence data**. They represent species that could potentially be in your project area. This information cannot be substituted for on-the-ground surveys.

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

Please review the most current TPWD annotated county list of rare species, as other rare species could be present depending upon habitat availability. These lists are available online at: <http://tpwd.texas.gov/gis/rtest/>

For the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) rare species lists please visit: http://eco.fws.gov/tess_public/serviet/gov.doi.tess_public.serviets.EntryPage.

Recommendation: Because the TXNDD is continuously updated, as a standard protocol, TPWD recommends requesting data from the TXNDD prior to project initiation. Requests may be submitted to TexasNatural.DiversityDatabase@tpwd.texas.gov. Additional information about the TXNDD program is available online at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/txndd/.

Federal Regulations

Endangered Species Act

Federally-listed animal species and their habitat are protected from “take” on any property by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Take of a federally-listed species can be allowed if it is “incidental” to an otherwise lawful activity and must be permitted in accordance with Section 7 or 10 of the ESA. Federally-listed plants are not protected from take except on lands under federal/state jurisdiction or for which a federal/state nexus (i.e., permits or funding) exists. Any take of a federally listed species or its habitat without the required take permit (or allowance) from the USFWS is a violation of the ESA.

Recommendation: The proposed RVSS tower locations would be located in close proximity to properties managed specifically for federally-listed wildlife species, including plants. The Draft EA should thoroughly evaluate the potential effects of the project on federally-listed wildlife, including plants, and its habitat. Project plans should include proposed measures developed to avoid and/or minimize impacts to federally-listed species.

In general, clearing dense corridors of brush for access roads should be avoided in order to preserve travel corridors that are necessary for listed felids (i.e, jaguarundi, ocelots). Prior to clearing areas to access or construct RVSS

towers, TPWD recommends those surveying areas for the presence of federally-listed plants following protocols established by the USFWS. Surveys should be conducted by a qualified botanist with experience with rare plants of south Texas. If federally-listed plants are observed, the USFWS and TPWD should be contacted.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implicitly prohibits intentional *and unintentional* take of migratory birds, including their nests and eggs, except as permitted by the USFWS. This protection applies to most native bird species, including ground nesting species. Although not documented in the TXNDD, many bird species which are not listed as *threatened* or *endangered* are protected by the MBTA and are known to be year-round or seasonal residents or seasonal migrants through the proposed project area. Additional information regarding the MBTA is available from the USFWS-Southwest Regional Office (Region 2) at (505) 248-7882.

During the winter, South Texas is the southernmost limit for many migratory birds and it is the northernmost extreme in the breeding season (spring-summer) for other species. Additionally, the proposed project area is in the middle of the Central Migratory Flyway through which millions of birds pass during spring and fall migration. Available food, cover, and water sources provide important stopover habitats for both Trans-Gulf and Circum-Gulf Neo-tropical migrants.

Biologically, this area of south Texas is highly productive and provides a range of habitats including large tracts of undeveloped land, grasslands, brush, riparian woodlands, coastal wetlands and freshwater habitats. The diversity of habitats is suitable to support a diversity of wildlife species. In particular, the range of habitats provides cover, feeding, nesting and loafing areas for many species of birds; grassland birds, Neo-tropical migrants, wading birds, and raptors.

Recommendation: The proposed project would traverse very diverse habitats that are within the range and suitable habitat for many rare species and migratory birds. TPWD recommends the Draft EA thoroughly evaluate the proposed project's potential impacts to federally-listed species and migratory birds.

Any vegetation clearing that would be required to improve existing access roads, create new access roads or construct RVSS towers and associated equipment should be scheduled to occur outside of the April 1-July 15 migratory bird nesting season in order to fully comply with the MBTA. Contractors should be made aware of the potential of encountering migratory birds (either nesting or wintering) on the proposed project sites and be instructed to avoid negatively impacting them.

If clearing vegetation in project areas must be scheduled to occur during the nesting season, TPWD recommends that the vegetation to be impacted should be surveyed for active nests prior to clearing by a *qualified biologist*. If active nests are observed during surveys, TPWD recommends avoiding the area until the young have fledged or nests are abandoned.

The proposed RVSS structures would be either self-supporting towers or monopole towers ranging in height from 180 to 199 feet and 60 to 140 feet, respectively.

Comment: TPWD appreciates that the proposed towers would be self-supporting or monopoles that do not require support by multiple guy wires. In general, guyed towers increase the probability of bird collisions compared to self-supporting structures.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends tower design, siting, and construction follow the guidelines recommended by the USFWS in the “Communication Tower Siting, Construction, Operation, and Decommissioning Recommendations” available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/communicationtowers.html>. In particular, TPWD recommends avoiding siting towers near wetlands, in areas of known bird concentrations (e.g., state or federal refuges), or in known high bird use areas. Lighting on towers, if used, should consist of minimum intensity, maximum off-phased white strobe lights. Security lighting within the fenced compound should be down-shielded.

State Regulations

Parks and Wildlife Code

State law prohibits any take (incidental or otherwise) of state-listed species. Laws and regulations pertaining to state-listed endangered or threatened animals are contained in Chapters 67 and 68 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Code; laws pertaining to endangered or threatened plants are contained in Chapter 88 of the TPW Code. There are penalties, which may include fines and/or jail time in addition to payment of restitution values, associated with take of state-listed species. Please see “Laws and Regulations Applicable to TPWD Review” at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/laws.phtml.

In addition to state- and federally-protected species, TPWD tracks special features, natural communities, species of concern (SOC), and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) in the TXNDD and actively promotes their conservation. TPWD considers it important to evaluate and, if necessary,

minimize impacts to rare species and their habitat to reduce the likelihood of endangerment.

For purposes of relocation, surveys, monitoring, and research, terrestrial state-listed species may only be handled by persons permitted through the TPWD Wildlife Permits Program. For more information regarding Wildlife Permits, please visit TPWD's wildlife permit website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/land/wildlife/>. For the above-listed activities that involve aquatic species please contact the TPWD Kills and Spills Team (KAST) for the appropriate authorization. For more information on KAST please visit http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/kills_and_spills/regions.

Recommendation: As with federally-listed species, TPWD recommends that the Draft EA thoroughly evaluate the proposed project's potential impacts to state-listed endangered, threatened and rare species, including rare plants and remnant natural communities. Each RVSS tower and associated infrastructure should be designed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the state's fish, wildlife and habitat resources.

Protection of Public Parks and Recreational Lands

TPW Code §26.001 states that a department, agency, political subdivision, county, or municipality of this state may not approve any program or project that requires the use or taking of public lands unless it determines that there is "no feasible and prudent alternative to the use or taking of such land", and the project "includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the land...resulting from the use or taking."

Two state parks and multiple tracts of the Las Palomas WMA administered by TPWD occur at or within 1.5 miles of one or more proposed RVSS tower locations. Because they are managed specifically for wildlife and for providing outdoor recreational opportunities, state parks and WMAs generally provide higher quality wildlife habitat than surrounding areas and often display an exceptional diversity of wildlife. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, these areas are extremely important for migratory birds.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends that during scoping and planning, all TPWD managed areas in or near the project area be identified. When determining the precise locations for the proposed RVSS towers, TPWD recommends avoiding locating towers within or immediately adjacent to tracts of land managed by TPWD. If alternative tower locations include placement within state park or WMA tracts or

accessed through these properties, coordination with TPWD would be required per Chapter 26.

Construction Impacts

In addition to birds, suitable habitat for state-listed species, particularly reptiles, occurs in the project area. Small wildlife such as the Texas tortoise, lizards and snakes are susceptible to falling into excavations (e.g., open pits, trenches, bore holes, etc.) left open and/or uncovered in a project area. They are also subject to direct impacts (i.e., crushing by heavy equipment) during construction.

Recommendation: Many reptiles, including the Texas horned lizard and the Texas Tortoise, become more active during the spring mating season and may be more susceptible to being negatively impacted by construction activities. If possible, TPWD recommends scheduling construction activities involving clearing, grading or bulldozing to occur outside of the spring to avoid and or minimize potential impacts to these species.

Also, during the late fall and winter (October through March), reptiles become less active or completely inactive hibernating only a few inches (6 to 12 inches) underground or occupying burrows or similar cavities which makes them much more susceptible to impacts from heavy equipment and compaction. Completing major ground disturbing activities such as constructing new access roads, before October when reptiles become inactive and could be utilizing burrows in areas subject to disturbance would minimize potential negative impacts.

Several state-listed snakes occur in the project area. Some, such as the black-striped snake and speckled racer, reach the northern limits of their range in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Recommendation: Because all snakes are generally perceived as a threat and killed when encountered during vegetation clearing, TPWD recommends project plans include comments to inform contractors of the potential for state-listed snakes, all of which are non-venomous, to occur in the project area. Contractors should be advised to avoid impacts to state-listed and other snakes as long as the safety of the workers is not compromised. For the safety of workers and preservation of a natural resource, attempting to catch, relocate and/or kill non-venomous or venomous snakes is discouraged by TPWD. If encountered, snakes should be permitted to safely leave project areas on their own. TPWD encourages construction sites to have a "no kill" policy in regard to wildlife encounters.

Potential impacts to state-listed species would best be accomplished by excluding them from active construction areas. Recommendations for excluding the Texas

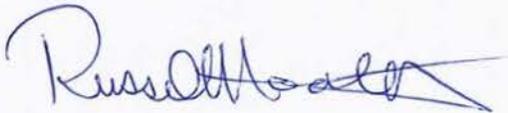
tortoise from construction sites are available on TPWD's website (see link below). These recommendations are also applicable to other reptiles such as the Texas horned lizard.

Recommendation: In order to avoid and/or minimize potential negative impacts to state fish and wildlife resources, TPWD recommends reviewing and implementing appropriate best management practices (BMPs) during construction. A number of BMPs and additional information are available on TPWD's Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program website: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/tools.phtml.

Information on other important natural resource considerations is available online at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/resources.phtml

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this project and look forward to reviewing the Draft EA when it is available. Please contact me at (361) 825-3240 or russell.hooten@tpwd.texas.gov if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Russell Hooten
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

/rh 34416

Attachments-10 (electronic)



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

OCT 13 2016

Ms. Kate Zultner
Coastal Coordination Council Secretary
Consistency Review Coordinator
Coastal Resources
Texas General Land Office
1700 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Zultner:

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive 023-01, Environmental Planning Program, the Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared this Federal Consistency Determination addressing the proposed upgrade of its Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) program within the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs).

USBP is the mobile uniformed law enforcement subcomponent of CBP responsible for patrolling and securing America's border between the Ports of Entry. As directed by the DHS Analysis of Alternatives (AoA), CBP is investing in the USBP border security technology plan for the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector. Accordingly, the new plan incorporates both the quantitative analysis of science and engineering experts and the real-world operational assessment of USBP on the ground. This plan includes the utilization of RVSS to provide long-range, persistent surveillance, enabling USBP personnel to detect, track, identify, and classify illegal entries through a series of integrated sensors and tower-based surveillance equipment.

The proposed RVSS Upgrade Program includes the construction of new RVSS towers for improved border surveillance coverage throughout the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Station's AORs. The RVSS upgrade proposed for the BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs includes the following:

- Construction and maintenance of 32 new RVSS towers
- Construction and maintenance of utilities and utility corridors
- Construction, improvement, and maintenance of access roads and approach drives

Although, 32 new RVSS towers and associated utilities and roads would be constructed as part of the Proposed Action, only 12 are located in the Texas coastal zone. These include BRP FTBGC, FTB Alaska Rd, FTB Armstrong, FTB East of Sable Palm Rd, FTB End of Highway 4,

FTB Florida Road, FTB Gallinas Road, FTB Highway 4 Checkpoint, FTB Pig Pens, FTB Zone 34, KIN Highway 77 Armstrong, and KIN Juanita Section of Kenedy Ranch (Table 1) (See Enclosed Figure 1).

Table 1. RVSS Tower Sites Located Within the Texas Coastal Zone

Tower Name	Latitude/Longitude
BRP FTBGC	-97.489746/25.891054
FTB End of Hwy 4	-97.179346/25.9919
FTB Gallinas Rd	-97.283307/25.96249
FTB Alaska Rd	-97.376473/25.873929
FTB Armstrong	-97.377383/25.860008
FTB East of Sable Palm Rd	-97.410567/25.865524
FTB Florida Rd	-97.379984/25.898654
FTB Hwy 4 Checkpoint	-97.371487/25.924096
FTB Pig Pens	-97.435097/25.862211
FTB Zone 34	-97.454743/25.886096
KIN Hwy 77 Armstrong	-97.79048/26.91661
KIN Juanita Section of Kenedy Ranch	-97.792625/27.130854

Description of the RVSS Tower Construction

Three types of tower structures are included as part of the Proposed Action: self-standing towers (SSTs), monopole towers, and relocatable towers. Only the relocatable towers would require guy wires. SSTs are steel, lattice-style structures, with a base of three circular concrete piers, each approximately 4 to 6 feet in diameter. Other foundation types may be used depending on the site-specific geotechnical characteristics. SSTs could be up to 199 feet high including lightning protection (See Enclosed Figure 2). Monopole towers are metal, single-pole towers with reinforced steel and concrete foundations. Monopole towers generally range in height from 60 feet to 140 feet but could be up to 199 feet high (See Enclosed Figure 3). Relocatable towers are towed in place on a trailer and placed on a level ground. The guy wires will attach to the relocatable tower trailer outrigger infrastructure to stabilize the tower when extended. If necessary, the guy wires can attach to concrete barriers or other anchors to increase the tower stability as required. When fully extended these towers can reach a height of up to 120 feet.

Each tower would have the design, power requirements, and site and fence enclosure footprint described below. Construction of SSTs or monopole tower sites result in ground disturbance confined to a 200-foot x 200-foot area (40,000 square feet). All staging of construction equipment and materials, as necessary, occurs within this footprint during construction. Each permanent tower site footprint is expected to be up to a 100-foot x 100-foot (10,000 square feet) square shape or non- square shape, depending on site-specific conditions for both tower types, and includes a permanent parking area for vehicles. Each tower footprint is confined to the dimensions mentioned above. Regardless of each tower site’s configuration, the total area of temporary construction disturbance for each site does not exceed 30,000 square feet, and the total area of permanent disturbance does not exceed 10,000 square feet.

Each RVSS tower will be powered by commercial grid power. It is also possible that RVSS towers may be primarily powered by solar power with grid or applicable redundant system for

backup. The grid power design would be site-specific; however, commercial grid power would be overhead of the permanent disturbed area and then underground where it enters the 100- x 100-foot fenced tower site. Overhead or buried lines outside of the permanent disturbance area would be placed within access road construction buffer areas, to the extent possible, all of which would be verified to identify potential impacts on biological and cultural resources along access roads. Backup power sources may include solar panels, uninterruptible power supply (UPS) (batteries), hydrogen fuel cells, and/or a propane generator. A 1,000-gallon or smaller propane tank would be installed if a propane-fueled generator were used as a backup power source. Generators would be housed within an enclosure and would have a spill containment basin of sufficient size to contain the total volume of engine fluids. Backup power would be designed to provide a minimum 3-day supply of power in the event of primary power failure.

None of the sites listed in Table 1 are located on the waterfront or within coastal, tidal, or navigable waters. None of the planned work is water dependent. CBP intends to obtain all applicable permits required for implementation of the Proposed Action. A review of the permits and/or approvals required under the enforceable policies is being conducted. CBP has evaluated the planned work ("Proposed Action") at each of these 12 sites for its foreseeable effects on the following Texas Coastal Management Plan enforceable policies:

§501.15 Policies for Major Actions

CBP has determined that the Proposed Action will be addressed under an Environmental Assessment (EA). Because no Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the Proposed Action are anticipated, the Proposed Action will conform to this policy. If an EIS becomes necessary for any of the Proposed Action, CBP would notify your office.

§501.16 Policies for Construction of Electric Generating and Transmission Facilities

The Proposed Action does not include the construction of electric generating or transmission facilities.

§501.17 Policies for Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Facilities

The Proposed Action does not include the construction, operation, or maintenance of oil or gas exploration or production facilities.

§501.18 Policies for Discharges of Wastewater and Disposal of Waste from Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Facilities

The Proposed Action does not involve oil or gas exploration or production facilities.

§501.19 Policies for Construction and Operation of Solid Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities

The Proposed Action does not include the construction or operation of solid waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

§501.20 Policies for Prevention, Response and Remediation of Oil Spills

The Proposed Action would not require the transportation, treatment, storage, use, or disposal of bulk quantities of oil. Storage tanks, where required, would contain propane.

§501.21 Policies for Discharge of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater to Coastal Waters

The Proposed Action does not require the discharge of wastewater to coastal waters.

§501.22 Policies for Non-point Source (NPS) Water Pollution

The Proposed Action would not result in non-point sources or water pollution (such as agricultural or silvicultural lands).

§501.23 Policies for Development in Critical Areas

Of the sites listed in Table 1, only the FTB Gallinas Rd site is located within potential U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional wetlands. CBP is coordinating with the USACE, Galveston District, regarding the Proposed Action potentially affecting jurisdictional wetlands at the FTB Gallinas Rd site. If the USACE determines that jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted, CBP would comply with all portions of the Clean Water Act, including obtaining a Section 404 and 401 Clean Water Act permit, providing mitigations, or other steps.

§501.24 Policies for Construction of Waterfront Facilities and Other Structures on Submerged Lands

The Proposed Action does not involve the construction of waterfront facilities or other structures on submerged lands.

§501.25 Policies for Dredging and Dredged Material Disposal and Placement

The Proposed Action does not include dredging, or disposing or placing dredged materials.

§501.26 Policies for Construction in the Beach/Dune System

The Proposed Action does not involve construction on beaches or dunes.

§501.27 Policies for Development in Coastal High Hazard Areas

The Proposed Action would not have an effect on coastal high hazard areas.

§501.28 Policies for Development Within Coastal Barrier Resource System Units and Otherwise Protected Areas on Coastal Barriers

The Proposed Action would not have an effect on coastal barrier resource system units.

§501.29 Policies for Development in State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas or Preserves

The FTB Zone 34 and FTB Gallinas Rd sites are located on Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge lands. However, as stated in the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 23, §23.011, the limited jurisdiction retained by the State of Texas would not appear to apply to the Proposed Action at these locations. The remaining sites are not located in any Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, or Preserves.

§501.30 Policies for Alteration of Coastal Historic Areas

The Proposed Action would not require the alteration of any coastal historic areas.

§501.31 Policies for Transportation Projects

The Proposed Action would not require any construction or expansion of roads within coastal areas.

§501.32 Policies for Emission of Air Pollutants

The Proposed Action would comply with all portions of the Clean Air Act.

§501.33 Policies for Appropriations of Water

The Proposed Action would not involve the impoundments and/or diversion of state water.

§501.34 Policies for Levee and Flood Control Projects

The Proposed Action does not include any levees or flood control projects.

Summary of Findings

CBP would ensure that the construction contractor uses and maintains appropriate Best Management Practices and obtains the requisite permits and approvals. Based on the above analysis, CBP finds that the planned work at the sites listed in Table 1 would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the federally approved enforceable provisions of the Texas CMP, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended and in accordance with 15 CFR 930.30. We request your concurrence with our determination.

The State's concurrence, objection, or notification of review status should be submitted to me by mail to the address below:

Mr. Joseph Zidron
Acting Environmental Branch Chief
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

We appreciate the time and effort it may take for you to evaluate these materials. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (949) 643-6392, or by email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Acting Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office

Enclosures



Figure 1. RVSS Tower Sites Within the Texas Coastal Zone

Lightning Rod

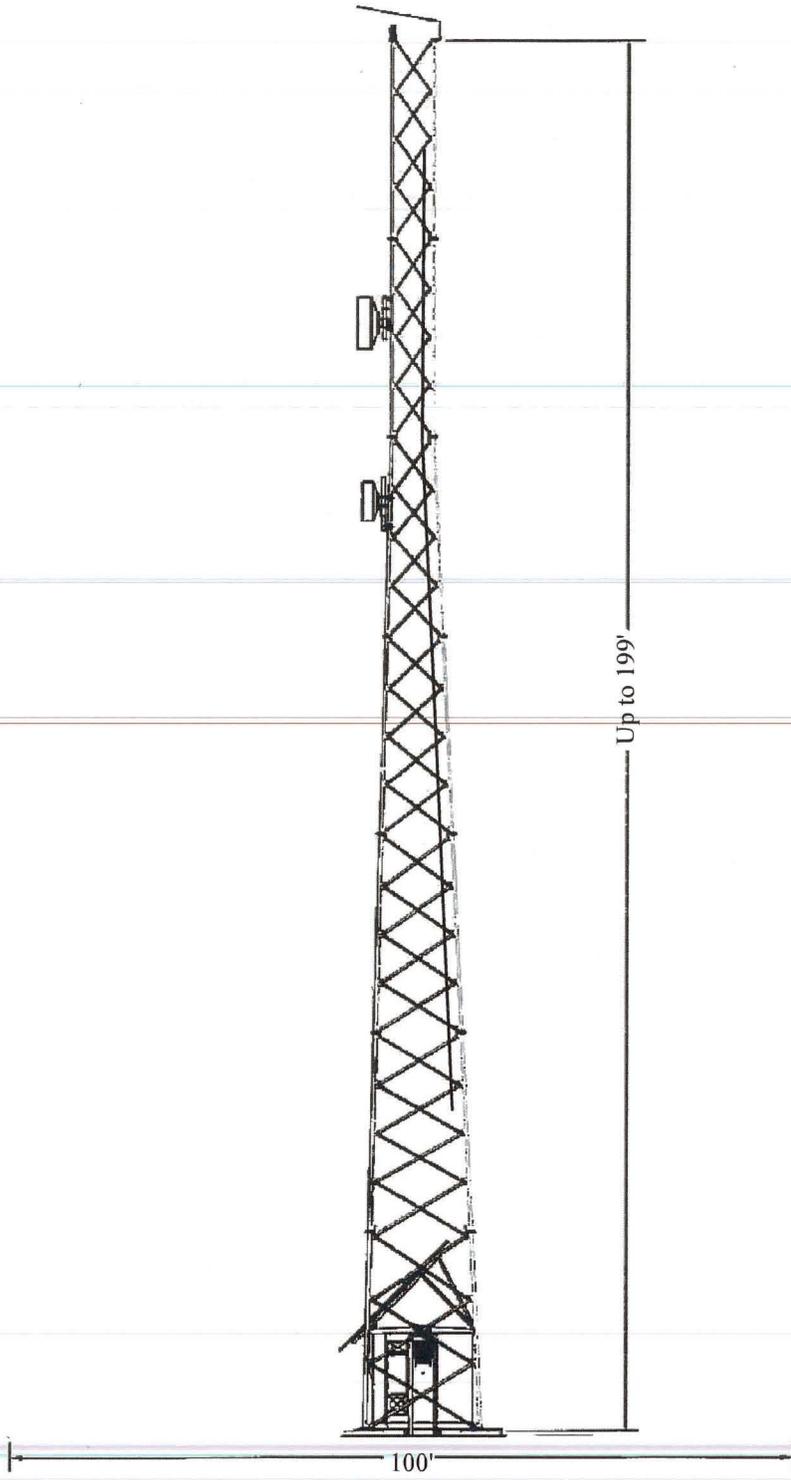


Figure 2. Typical Profile of SST Tower

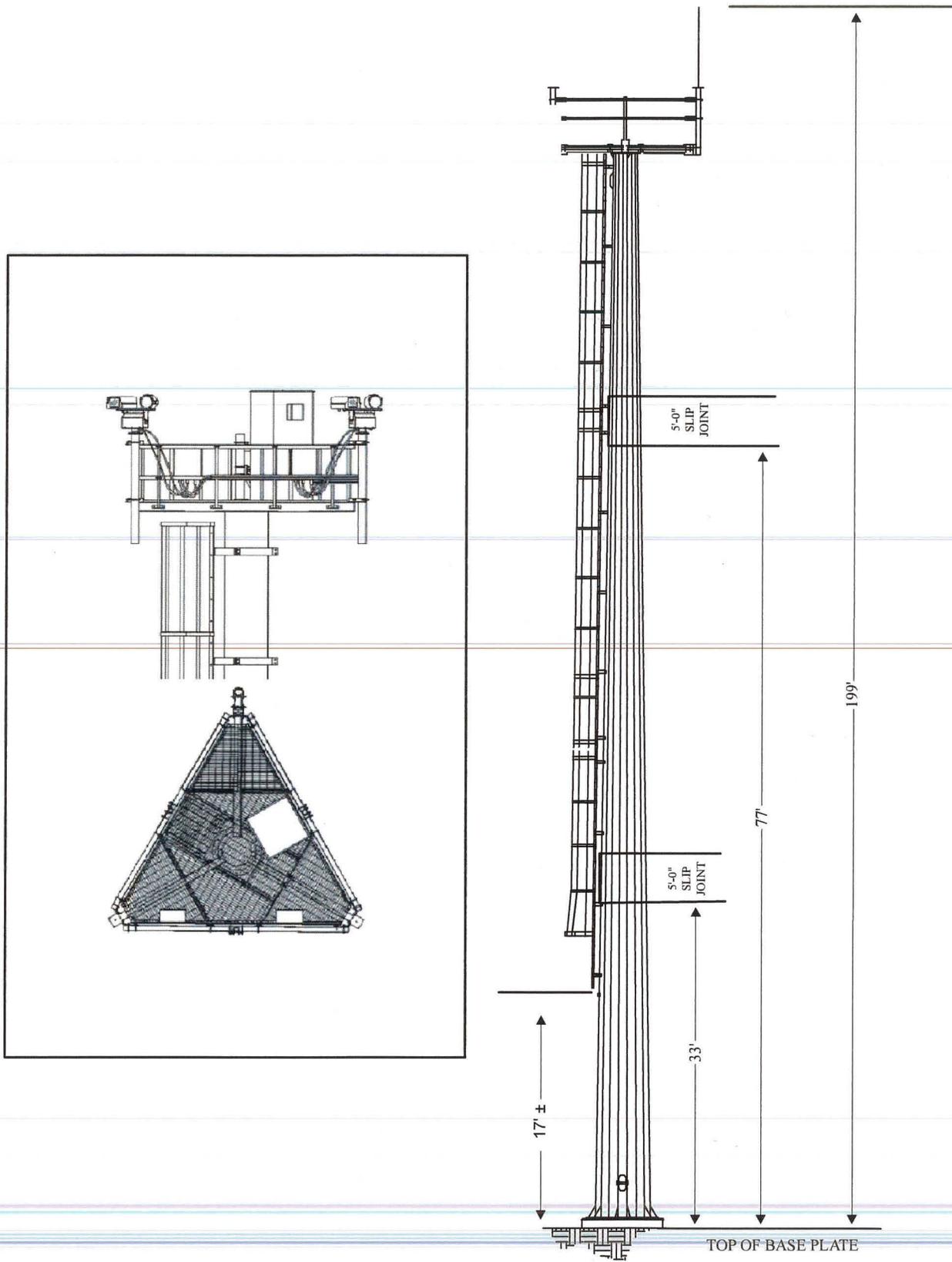


Figure 3. Typical Monopole Tower Profile



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

OCT 27 2016

Mr. Ray Hinojosa
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
2514 S. Veterans Blvd.
Edinburg, TX 78539

Dear Mr. Hinojosa:

Pursuant to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Management Directive 023-01, Rev. 01, and Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01; *Environmental Planning Program*, the Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure (BPFTI) Program Management Office (PMO), within DHS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), has prepared this Form AD1006. CBP is proposing to upgrade its Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) program within the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Rio Grande City (RGC), McAllen (MCS), Weslaco (WSL), Brownsville (BRP), Fort Brown (FTB), Harlingen (HRL), Falfurrias (FLF), and Kingsville (KIN) Stations' Areas of Responsibility (AORs). Therefore, this Form AD1006 has been prepared to meet the provisions of the FPPA.

USBP is the mobile uniformed law enforcement subcomponent of CBP responsible for patrolling and securing America's borders between the Ports of Entry. As directed by DHS Analysis of Alternatives (AoA), CBP is investing in the USBP border security technology plan for the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector. Accordingly, the new plan incorporates both the quantitative analysis of science and engineering experts and the real-world operational assessment of USBP on the ground. This plan includes the utilization of RVSS to provide long-range, persistent surveillance, enabling USBP personnel to detect, track, identify, and classify illegal entries through a series of integrated sensors and tower-based surveillance equipment.

The proposed RVSS Upgrade Program includes the construction of new RVSS towers for improved border surveillance coverage throughout the RGC, MCS, WSL, BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs. The RVSS upgrade proposed for the RGC, MCS, WSL, BRP, FTB, HRL, FLF, and KIN Stations' AORs includes the following:

- Construction and maintenance of 72 new RVSS towers and three relay towers
- Construction and maintenance of utilities and utility corridors
- Construction, improvement, and maintenance of access roads and access drives

Although, 72 new RVSS towers and three relay towers and associated utilities and roads would be constructed as part of the Proposed Action, only 17 are located on prime farmland soils.

(Table 1). Further location information is provided in the enclosed aerial photographs.

Table 1. RVSS Tower Sites Located on Prime Farmland Soils

Tower Name	Latitude/Longitude
MCS Banworth	-98.505/26.243
MCS Inspiration Canal	-98.357/26.179
MCS MacPump	-98.2621/26.1222
MCS Madero	-98.3287/26.156
MCS Penitas Pump	-98.4398/26.226
MCS Relay Tower	-98.4872/26.2493
HRL Rio Rico Road	-97.8919/26.0668
HFL Moodyville Road and Levee	-97.7383/26.0376
HRL Cantu Road	-97.7129/26.0445
HRL Wells Bros Canal	-97.6775/26.0389
HRL Green Barn Road	-97.6566/26.0326
BRP Mulberry	-97.5997/25.968
FTB Zone 34	-97.454743/25.886096
FTB Pig Pens	-97.435097/25.862211
FTB East of Sable Palm Road	-97.410567/25.865524
FTB Armstrong	-97.377383/25.860008
FTB Florida Rd	-97.379984/25.898654

Description of the RVSS Tower Construction

Three types of tower structures are included as part of the Proposed Action: self-standing towers (SSTs), monopole towers, and relocatable towers. Only the relocatable towers would require guy wires. SSTs are steel, lattice-style structures, with a base of three circular concrete piers, each approximately 4 to 6 feet in diameter. Other foundation types may be used depending on the site-specific geotechnical characteristics. SSTs could be up to 199 feet high, including lightning protection. Monopole towers are metal, single-pole towers with reinforced steel and concrete foundations. Monopole towers generally range in height from 60 feet to 140 feet but could be up to 199 feet high. Relocatable towers are towed in place on a trailer and placed on a level ground. The guy wires will attach to the relocatable tower trailer outrigger infrastructure to stabilize the tower when extended. If necessary, the guy wires can attach to concrete barriers or other anchors to increase the tower stability as required. When fully extended these towers can reach a height of up to 120 feet.

Each tower would have the design, power requirements, and site and fence enclosure footprint described below. Construction of SSTs or monopole tower sites results in ground disturbance confined to a 200-foot x 200-foot area (40,000 square feet). All staging of construction equipment and materials, as necessary, occurs within this footprint during construction. Each permanent tower site footprint is expected to be up to a 100-foot x 100-foot (10,000 square feet) square shape or non-square shape, depending on site-specific conditions for both tower types, and includes a permanent parking area for vehicles. Each tower footprint is confined to the dimensions mentioned above. Regardless of each tower site’s configuration, the total area of

Mr. Ray Hinojosa
Page 3

temporary construction disturbance for each site does not exceed 30,000 square feet, and the total area of permanent disturbance does not exceed 10,000 square feet.

As mentioned above, each permanent tower footprint would be 0.25 acre, and the remaining acreage disturbed during construction activities would be put back into farmland, if applicable, or allowed to naturally revegetate. The total permanent footprint for all 17 towers located on prime farmland soils is 4.25 acres, when compared to the millions of acres of prime farmland soil in southeast Texas, the project would have negligible impacts on prime farmland soils in the region. CBP requests that your agency review and complete, where appropriate, its portions of the Form AD1006, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating.

We appreciate the time and effort it may take for you to evaluate these materials. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (949) 643-6392 or by email at joseph.zidron@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Environmental Protection Specialist
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Program Management Office
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Enclosures

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 10/26/16				
Name of Project RGV RVSS Upgrade		Federal Agency Involved U.S. CBP				
Proposed Land Use RVSS Tower		County and State Hidalgo and Cameron, Tx				
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		.25	.25	.25	.25	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly						
C. Total Acres In Site		.25	.25	.25	.25	
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted						
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value						
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)						
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)				
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)				
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)				
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)				
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)				
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)				
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)				
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: _____ Date: _____						

(See Instructions on reverse side)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 10/26/16				
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Proposed Land Use RVSS Tower		County and State Hidalgo and Cameron, Tx				
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A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		.25	.25	.25	.25	
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C. Total Acres In Site		.25	.25	.25	.25	
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
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4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)				
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)				
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)				
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)				
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)				
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)				
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11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)				
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TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:					Date:	

(See Instructions on reverse side)

Form AD-1006 (03-02)

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 10/26/16				
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Proposed Land Use RVSS Tower		County and State Hidalgo and Cameron, Tx				
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		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		.25	.25	.25	.25	
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U.S. Department of Agriculture

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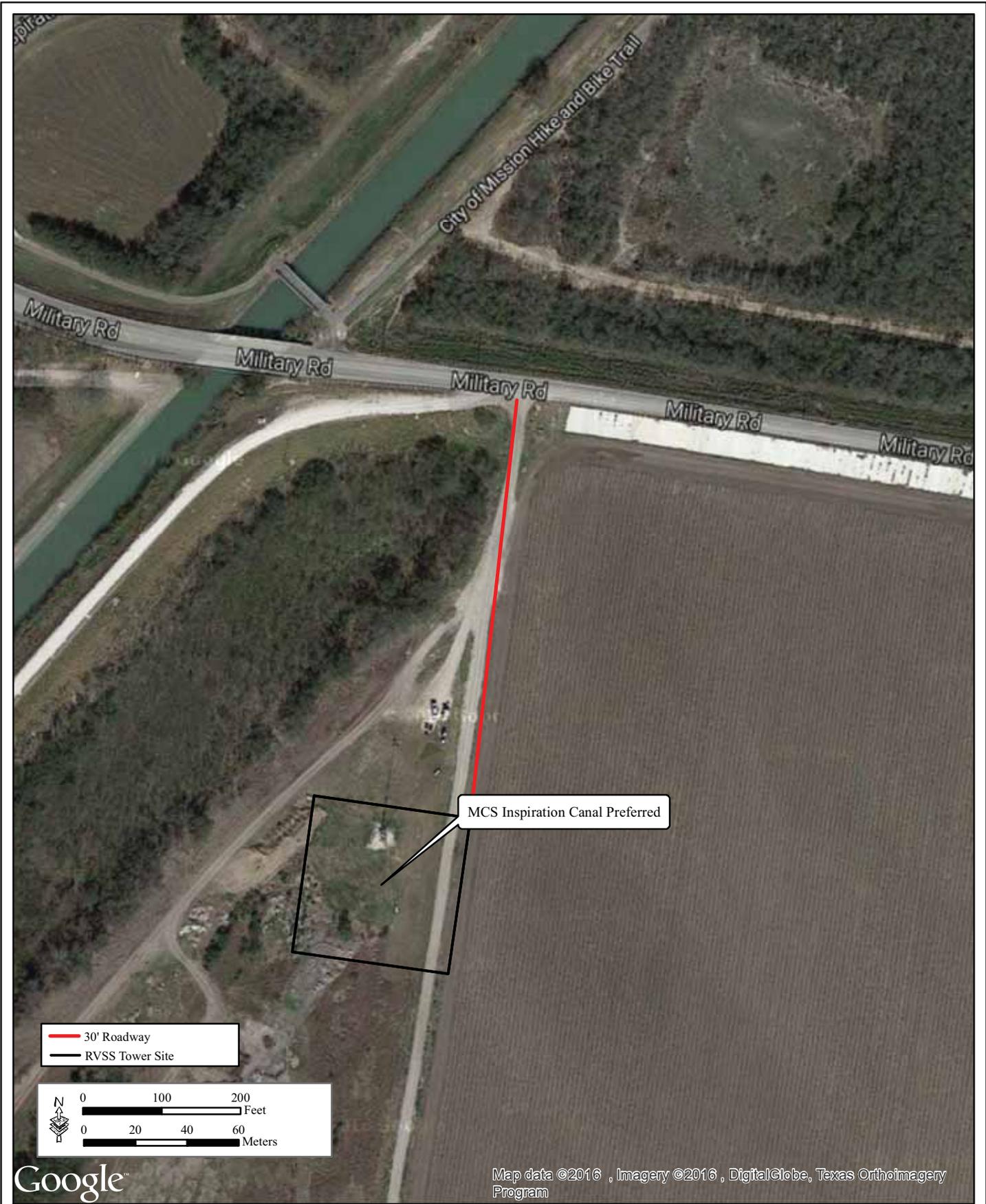
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Form AD-1006 (03-02)

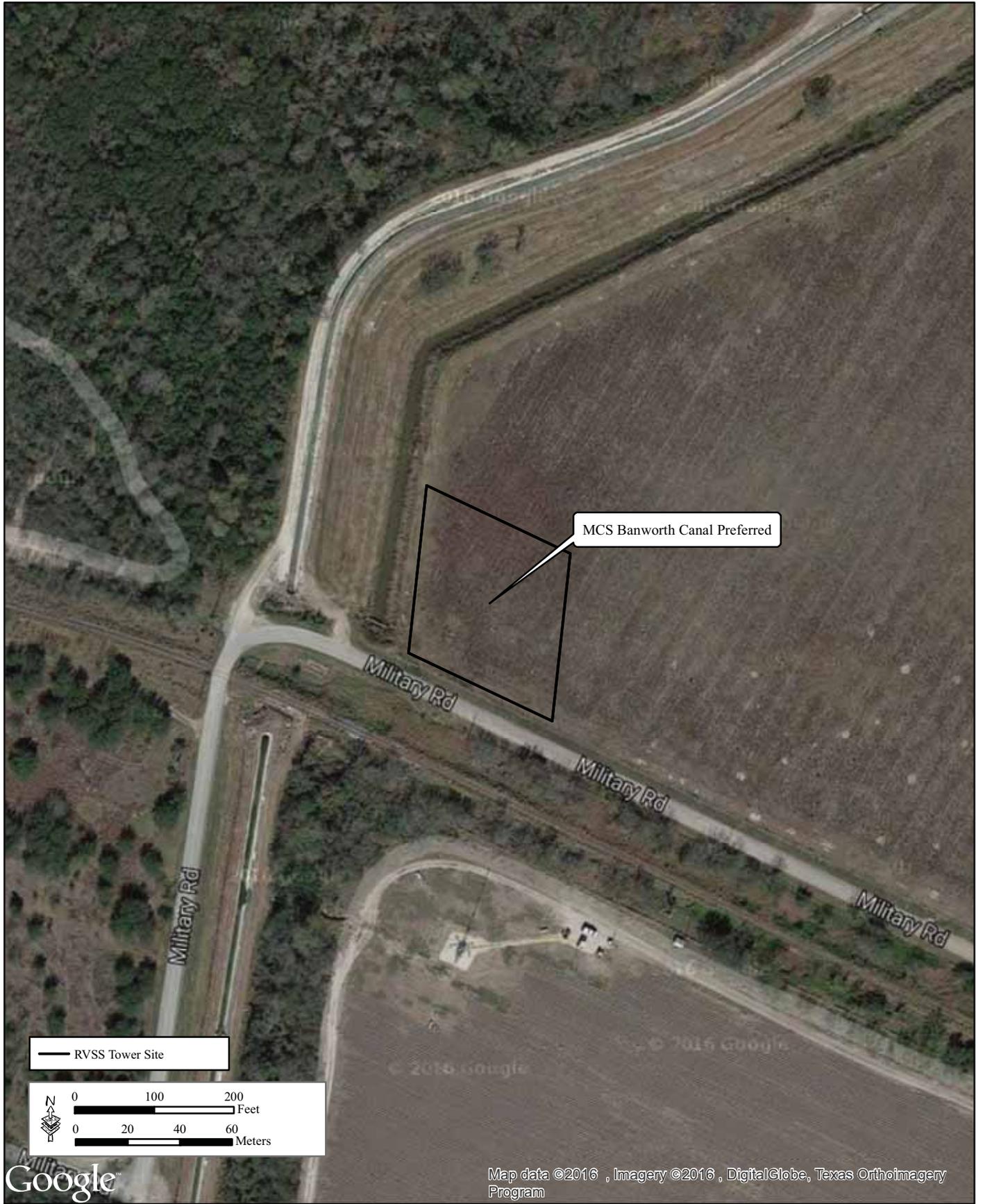
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Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form.					Date:	

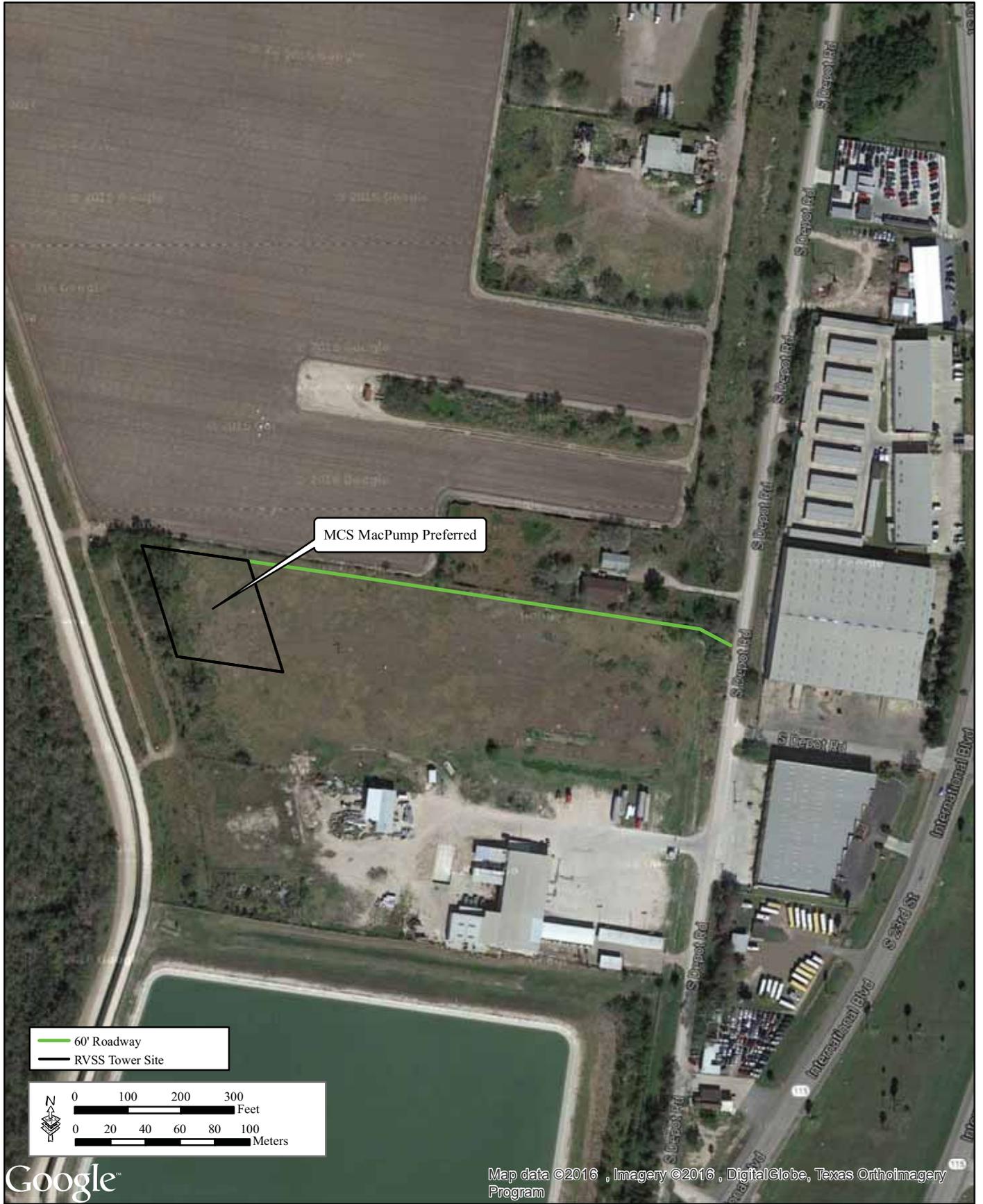
(See Instructions on reverse side)



MCS Inspiration Canal Preferred



MCS Banworth Canal Preferred



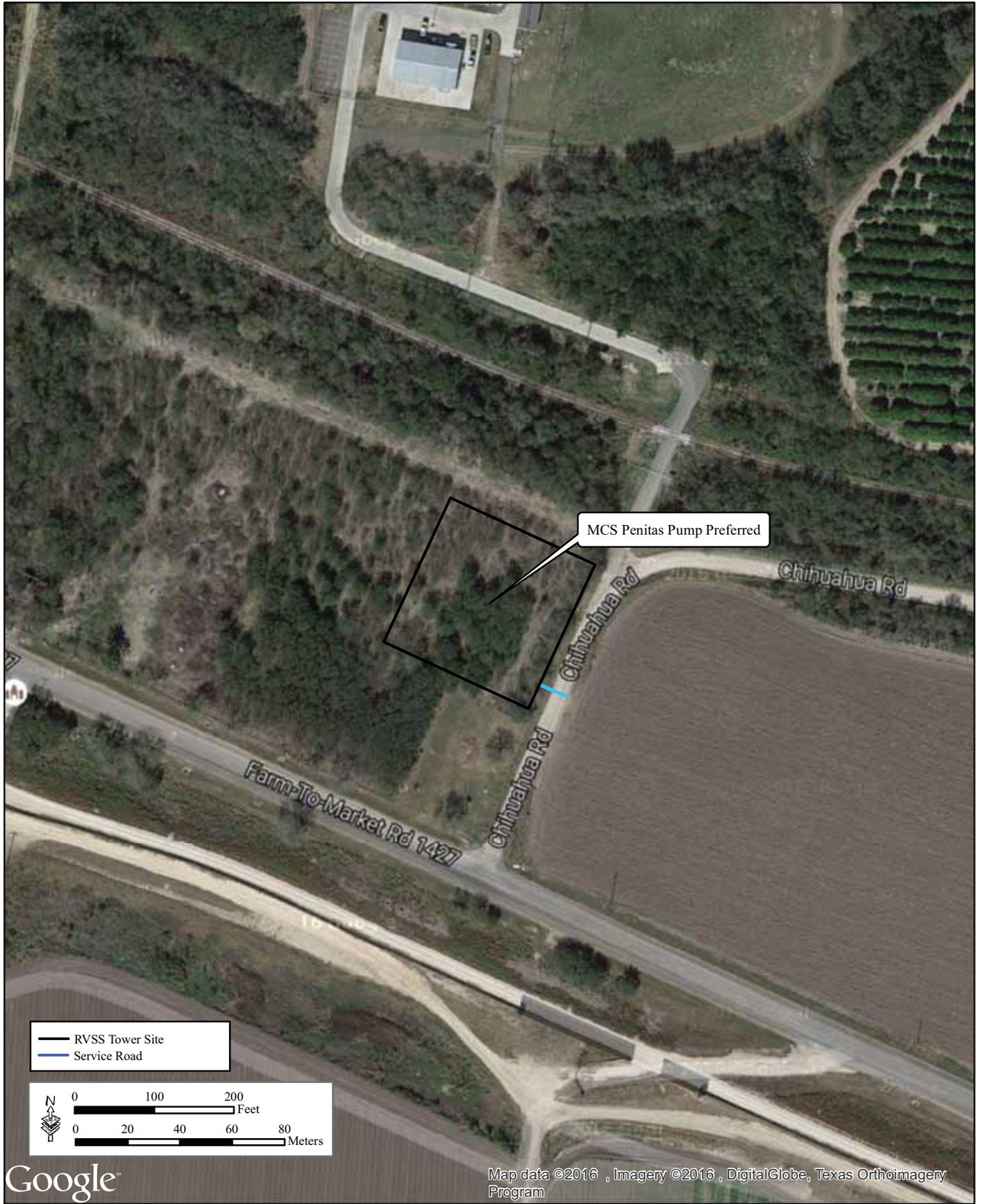
MCS MacPump Preferred

August 2016



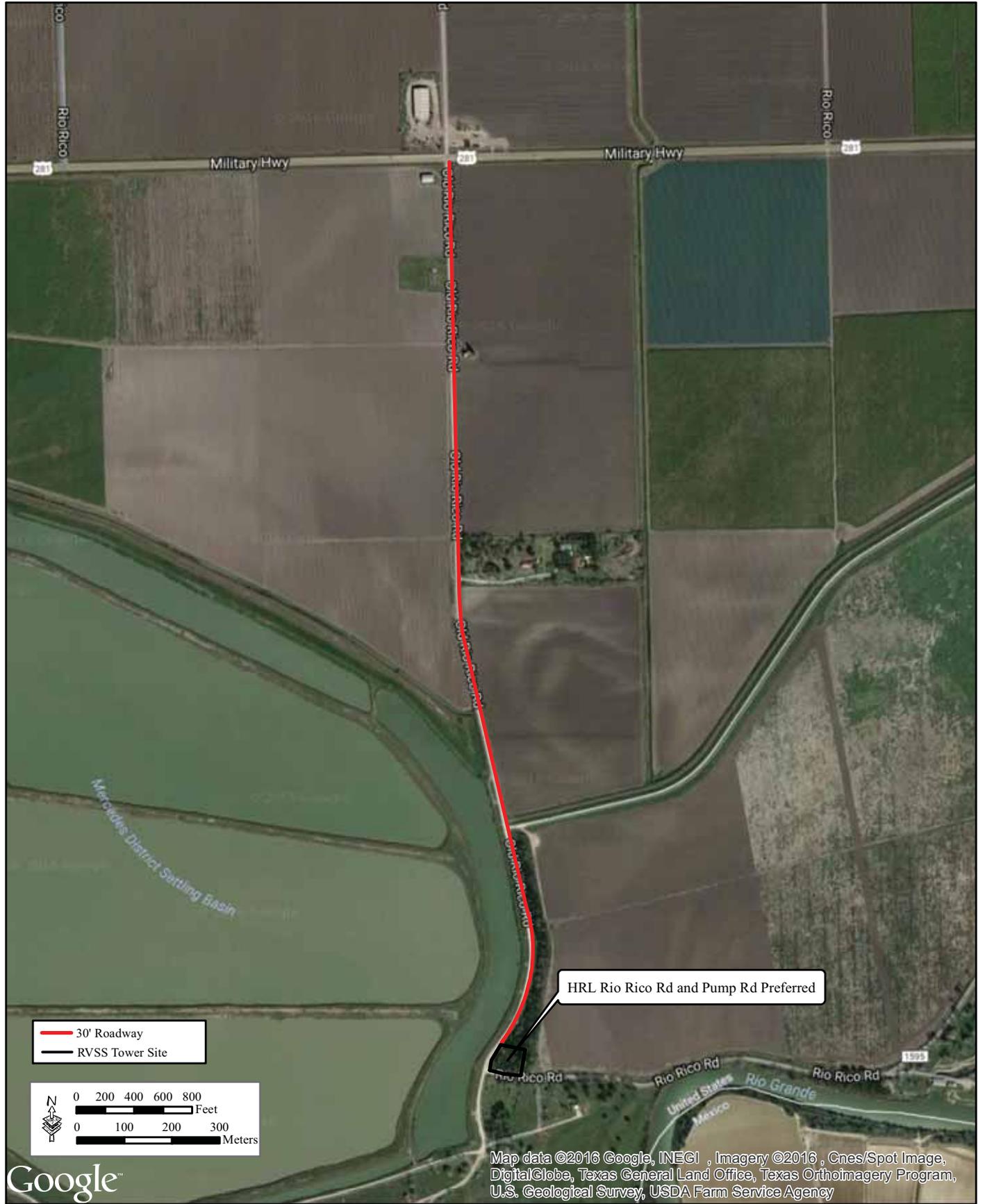
MCS Madero Preferred

August 2016

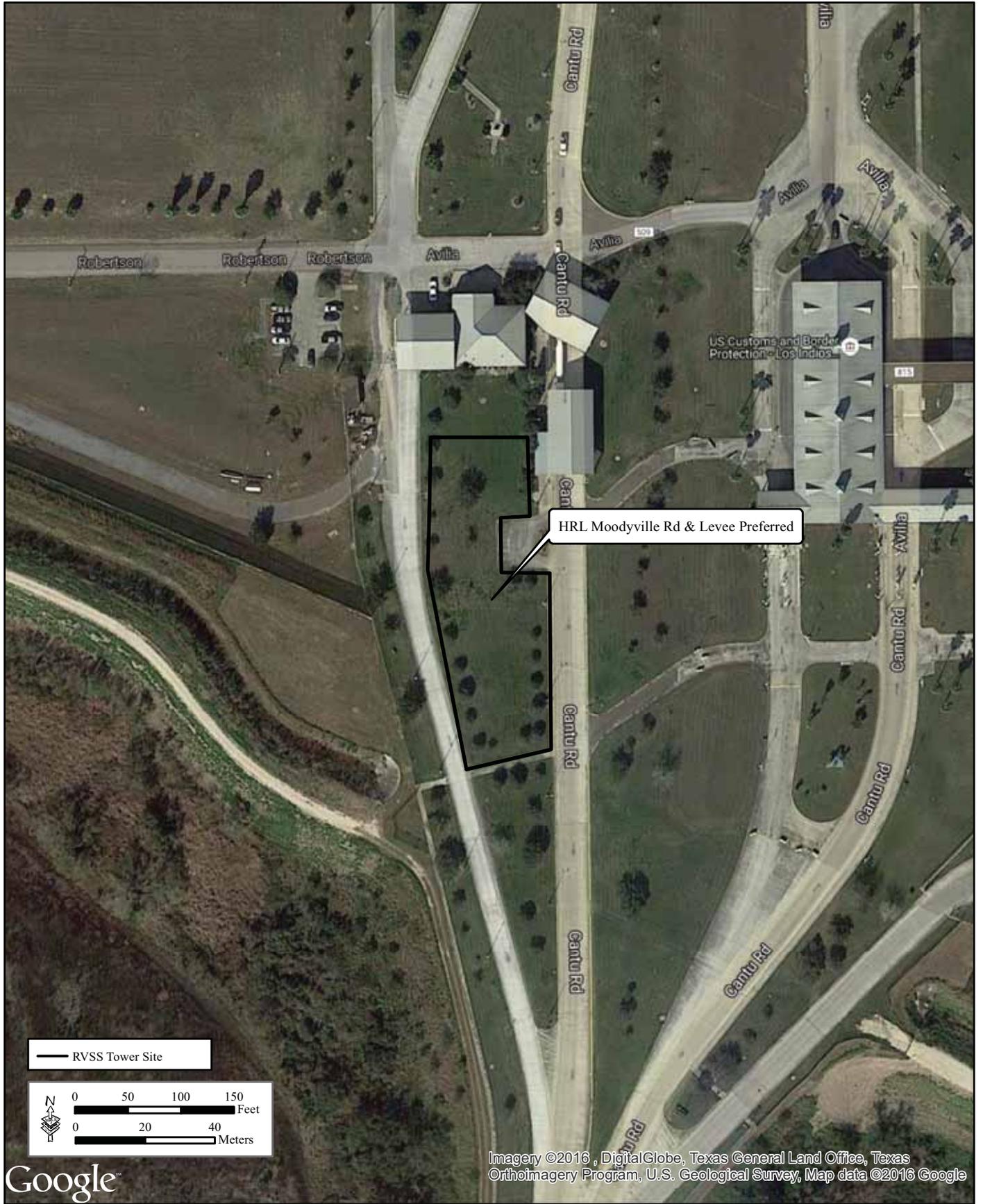




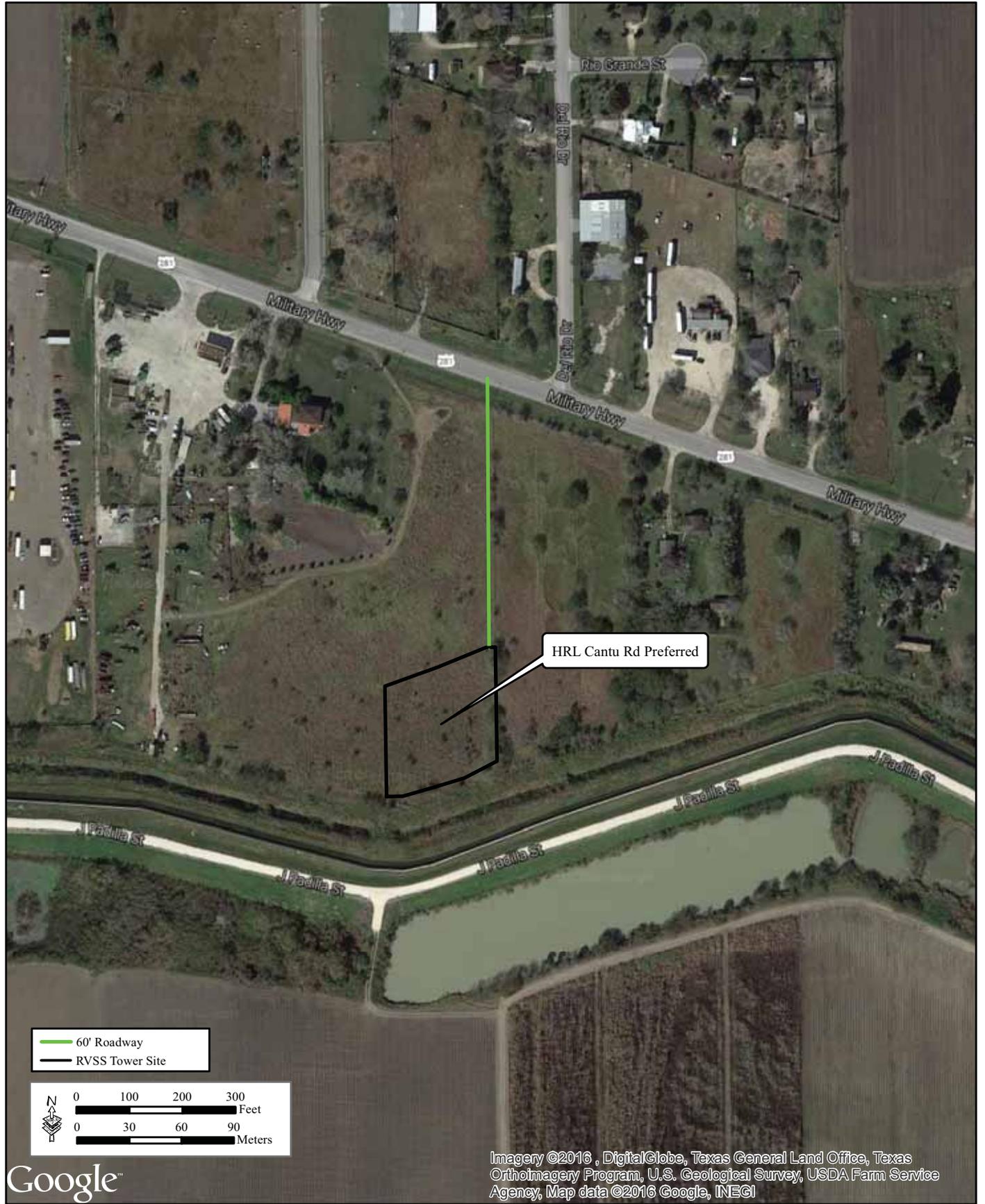
MCS Relay Tower



HRL Rio Rico Rd and Pump Rd Preferred



HRL Moodyville Rd & Levee Preferred



Google™

HRL Cantu Rd Preferred

September 2016



Google™

HRL Wells Bros Canal Preferred



Google

HRL Green Barn Rd Preferred

September 2016



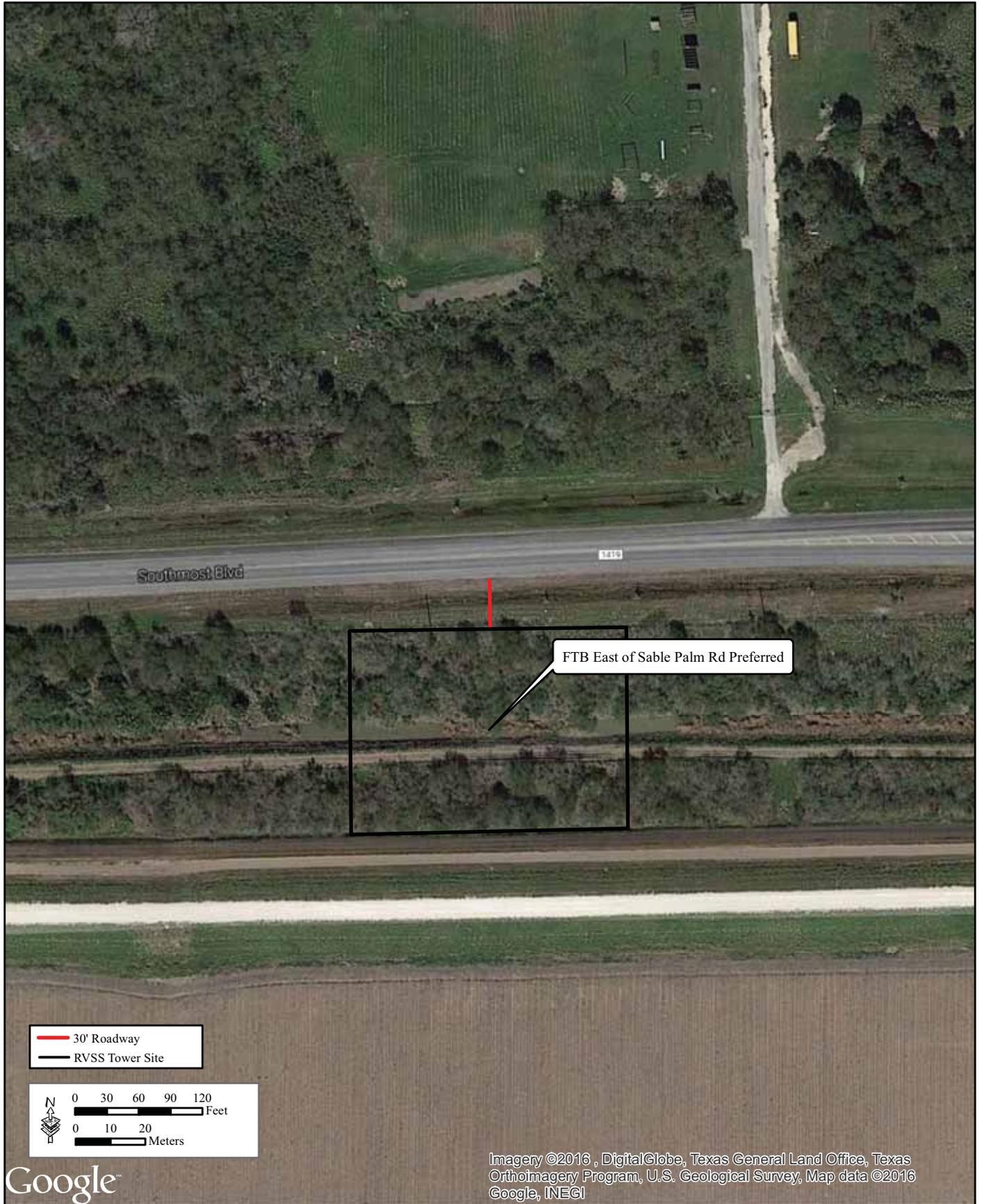
BRP Mulberry Preferred



FTB Zone 34 Preferred



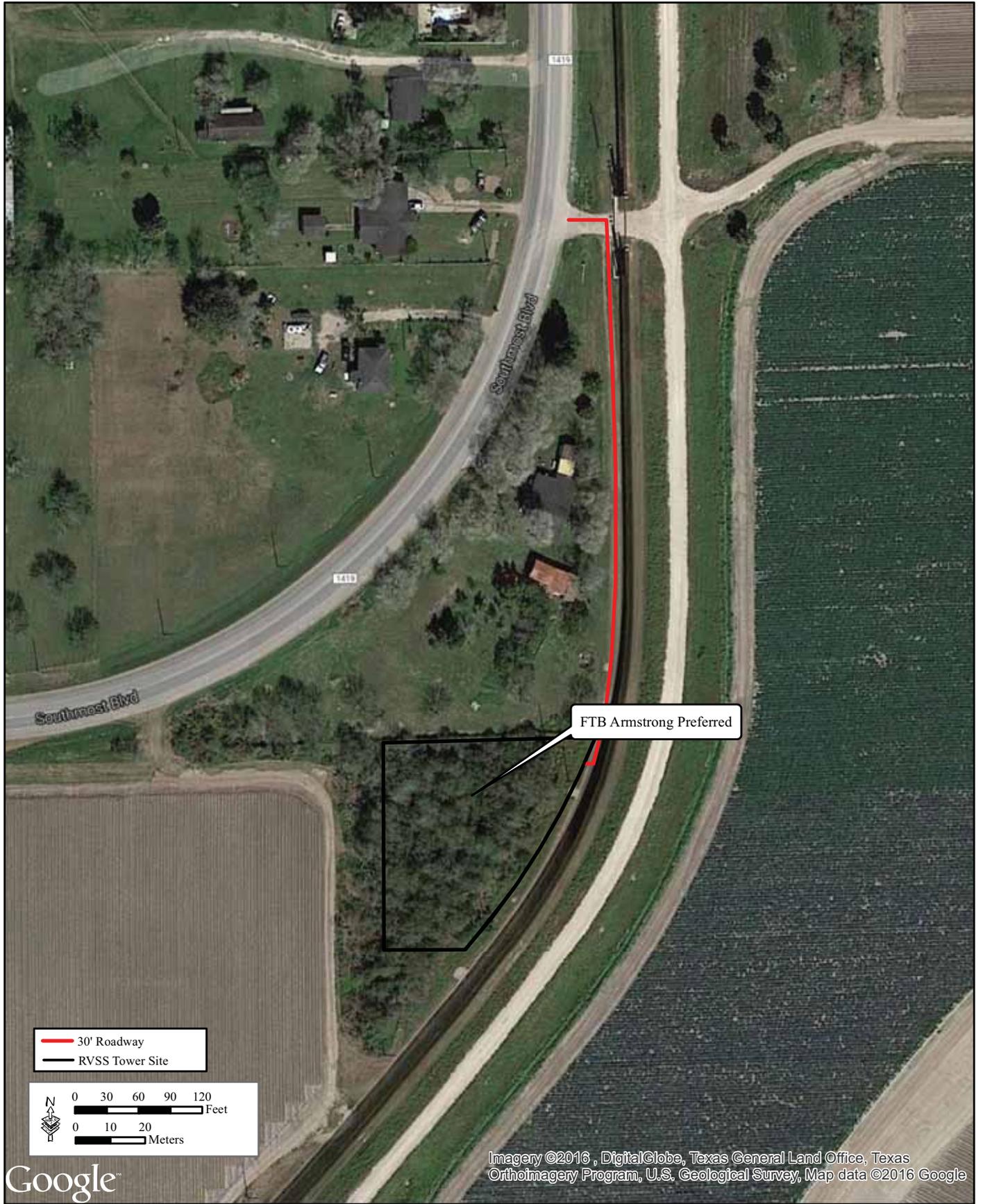
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Google™

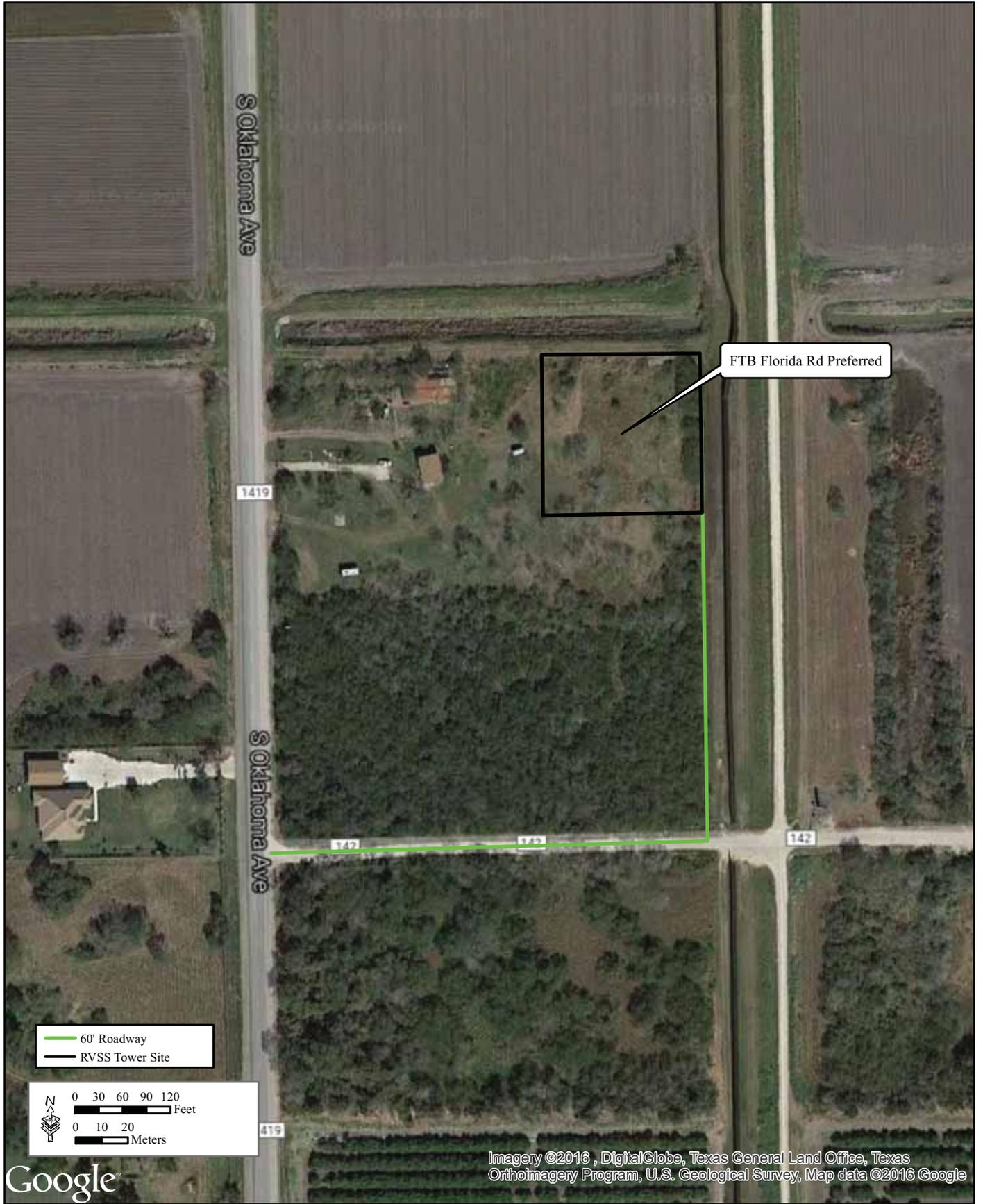
FTB East of Sable Palm Rd Preferred

September 2016



FTB Armstrong Preferred

October 2016



Google

FTB Florida Rd Preferred

September 2016