



Fiscal Year 2020
Border Monument 198 Border Wall Project
Stakeholder Feedback Report

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1. Introduction and Background

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is constructing approximately 400 feet of new border wall to close an existing gap near Border Monument 198 and meet U.S. Border Patrol operational requirements to secure the international border. Monument 198 is located approximately 22 miles east of the San Luis Port of Entry in Arizona, adjacent to the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

The new bollard-style fencing includes 18-foot high, six-inch diameter steel bollards spaced approximately four inches apart. The project also includes road construction and the installation of a communications cable system.

As part of the planning process for the border barrier project, CBP sought input from the public and other stakeholders on potential impacts to the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life, including socioeconomic impacts. This input will be used to inform the development of an Environmental Stewardship Plan. It will also inform project planning and execution.

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the input received during the public comment process and provide stakeholders and the public transparency into the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic issues that will be considered by CBP. It does not present individual comments received or provide responses to the comments.

2. Public Input Process

From May 27, 2020 to June 26, 2020, input was collected regarding the potential impacts to the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life, including potential socioeconomic impacts. CBP sent informational materials to federal, state, and local agencies, landowners, environmental non-governmental organizations, local tribes, and educational institutions and solicited input on potential impacts. CBP also solicited input from the general public. Comments were collected through email and mail. The notification and informational materials are included as an appendix to this report.

2.1 Public Feedback Review

All comments received by CBP have been reviewed and categorized. A total of four (4) unique comments were received during the comment period. As the comments were received, they were reviewed and categorized by their primary topic of concern—environmental, economic, cultural, or quality of life. If a comment included substantive information on multiple topics, it was included in each relevant category.

The Infrastructure Portfolio outreach team reviewed all comments received during the comment period, responded to comments as appropriate, and prepared this report to



summarize public input. The comment review was conducted based on explicit concerns; comments that were not specific or contained vague statements were not interpreted by the reviewers. Comments that provided substantive information were further assessed by CBP, often contacting that specific stakeholder to address specific questions or concerns. In some instances, the Infrastructure Portfolio outreach team contacted specific stakeholders to determine the validity of data provided for use in the assessment of environmental impacts.

3. Summary of Public Feedback

The following summarizes CBP's review of the input provided by the public during the comment period. CBP identified three categories for the feedback it received from the public.

3.1 Historic and Cultural Preservation

A total of four (4) comments focused on tribal coordination and preserving any cultural resources found in and near the project area. All stated that there were no known cultural sites or sites of tribal importance within the project area but stressed the need for surveys and coordination as construction moves forward.

3.2 Habitat/Wildlife

One (1) comment mentioned the potential impact of the border wall project on wildlife and habitat. The commenter noted that the project is within habitat for the flat-tailed horned lizard, which is listed by the Bureau of Land Management as a sensitive species and by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a species of concern.

3.3 Recreation

One (1) comment mentioned recreation in and near the project area. The commenter noted that the area near Border Monument 198 is closed to the public and recreation activities would not be impacted by the border wall or its construction.

4. Next Steps

The solicitation of stakeholder and public input on potential environmental impacts is the first step in assessing potential impacts from the implementation of the project. Other possible impacts to the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life will also be taken into consideration during the planning and construction process. Environmental planning documents for the project will be available to the public through CBP.gov upon completion.