



Fiscal Year 2020 Laredo Sector Border Wall System Question & Answer Session

Supplementary Information on the Presentation

April 7, 2020

Slide 1 – Title Slide

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Webinar | Presentation

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Slide 3 – Presenter Introductions

- **Diana Gomez**, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent supporting the U.S. Border Patrol's Infrastructure Portfolio
- **Paul Enriquez**, Acquisition, Real Estate, and Environmental Director for U.S. Border Patrol's Infrastructure Portfolio
- **Felix Chavez**, Chief Patrol Agent for U.S. Border Patrol's Laredo Sector

Slide 4 – Presentation Objectives

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection, also known as CBP, is collecting information and data from the public to help inform the environmental review process of the Fiscal Year 2020 border wall system projects located in Laredo. The intent for this webinar is to:
 - Provide background and overview of the projects,
 - Detail the various ways that stakeholders can provide information and contribute feedback, and
 - Answer any questions you may have about the projects.

Slide 5 – Topics to be Covered

- The general topics that will be covered are:
 - U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mission and Values;
 - An overview of the relevant projects;
 - An overview of public input, specifically, information on how you can submit comments and stay informed;
 - And a questions and answers session.

Slide 6 – U.S. Customs and Border Protection Mission

- The CBP mission is to prevent terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States, while also facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel.
- In supporting CBP's mission, USBP is charged with establishing and maintaining effective control of the U.S. borders.
- USBP is specifically responsible for patrolling nearly 6,000 miles of Mexican and Canadian international borders.



- It is also responsible for over 2,000 miles of coastal waters surrounding the Florida Peninsula and the island of Puerto Rico.
- USBP Laredo Sector is responsible for 102,000 square miles, including 171 border miles.
- In order to achieve operational control of the border, CBP uses multiple tools and techniques to accomplish their mission.

Slide 7 – U.S. Customs and Border Protection Techniques

- Some of these tools and techniques are:
 - Physical barriers,
 - Surveillance,
 - Electronic sensor alarms,
 - Aircraft sightings,
 - Interpreting and following tracks, and
 - Traffic checkpoints.
- A mix of these tools and techniques are used to safeguard and protect our country's borders but may vary by geographic location. The location focused on in this webinar is Laredo and the border wall system projects funded in fiscal year 2020.

Slide 8 – Project Overview

- At this time, CBP is in the planning stages for approximately 69 miles of border wall requirements in Webb and Zapata counties.
- These activities include obtaining rights of entry (ROE) from landowners that may be within the proposed alignment to conduct real estate and environmental surveys and other planning activities.
- CBP's Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation will fund the construction of these requirements.
- These projects include the alignment of approximately 51 miles of new border wall system in Webb County and approximately 18 miles of new border wall system Zapata County.

Slide 9 – Typical Border Wall System

- The photos shown on this slide feature examples of a typical border wall system.
- The proposed border wall is 30-feet high utilizing 6" x 6" concrete steel bollards.
- The border wall system also includes an approximately 150-foot enforcement zone on the south/river side of the border wall system, detection and surveillance technology, automated vehicle gates or pedestrian gates, an all-weather patrol road that would run parallel to the border wall system, and enforcement zone lighting.

Slide 10 – Webb County Overview

- The following maps show where the proposed 51 miles of border wall system will be in Webb County.

Slide 11 – Webb County Overview

- This map shows the northern extent of the proposed border wall system alignment, approximately starting from U.S. Highway 255 and extending south and east to Rancho Penitas West.



Slide 12 – Webb County Overview

- This map shows the proposed border wall system alignment in the northern areas of downtown Laredo.

Slide 13 – Webb County Overview

- This map shows the proposed border wall system alignment specifically in downtown Laredo and areas south, including Rio Bravo.

Slide 14 – Zapata County Overview

- The following maps show where the proposed 18 miles of border wall system will be in Zapata County.

Slide 15 – Zapata County Overview

- This map shows the proposed border wall system alignment in Webb and Zapata counties, approximately from El Cenizo in Webb County to areas south and east of the Webb County and Zapata County line.

Slide 16 – Zapata County Overview

- This map shows the southern extent of the proposed border wall system alignment from areas north to the approximate southern end near San Ignacio.

Slide 17 – Environmental Planning

- CBP conducts environmental planning in order to understand the areas of concern related to the proposed border wall system in order to avoid or minimize impacts to the greatest extent possible.
- CBP's environmental planning process is informed by:
 - Considering **existing** environmental data, which means using data and information that has been derived from recent environmental reviews within the project area;
 - Continuing to gather **new** data through requests for information and through the execution of field surveys for biological, cultural, and natural resources within the project area to assess potential impacts; and
 - Consulting and coordinating with relevant federal, state, and local stakeholders.

Slide 18 – Public Input Overview

- CBP continues to seek input on potential impacts to the environment and has recently extended the comment period for an additional 30 days. Related comments and information will now be accepted until Thursday, May 21, 2020.
- Comments should include data or information that could help inform CBP's analysis of potential impacts.
- Helpful comments are fact-based and provide links to data or research. They should provide specific information concerning potential impacts to biological, cultural, and natural resources, and/or quality of life and commerce.
- If known, comments provided should include relevant state/local restrictions, permitting, or other requirements that CBP should consider during project siting, construction, and operation.
- Also, please feel free to provide comments that cover any or all of the listed topics, including those which may not be captured on the slide.



- Once the comment period has closed, comments and input will be used to inform CBP's environmental review. Following the comment period, CBP will develop a report summarizing the comments received and how they were addressed. This report will be made public for review on the CBP website, www.cbp.gov.

Slide 19 – How Can the Public Submit Comments?

- The deadline to submit comments has been extended to May 21, 2020. To submit comments, there are two options:
 - Comments can be emailed to CBP at LaredoComments@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include "FY20 Laredo Border Wall System Projects" in the subject line of your email.
 - Or, if your preference is to send a letter or documents via the postal service, the CBP mailing address is available on this slide.
- Please know that all comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record.

Slide 20 – How Can the Public Stay Informed?

- Further information, including Spanish-language materials, is available on www.CBP.gov and can be accessed using the link on the slide.