

DRAFT

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
RENOVATION OF THE NOGALES CENTRAL
PROCESSING CENTER
U.S. BORDER PATROL, NOGALES STATION
TUCSON SECTOR, ARIZONA
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**



May 2020

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
RENOVATION OF THE NOGALES CENTRAL PROCESSING CENTER
U.S. BORDER PATROL, NOGALES STATION
TUCSON SECTOR, ARIZONA
U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

INTRODUCTION: United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that addresses the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, resulting from the proposed renovation of the Central Processing Center (CPC) at the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Nogales Station, Tucson Sector, Arizona.

The renovated CPC, once completed and operational, would be a permanent processing facility constructed to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff of 100 including security guards, maintenance staff, janitorial staff, and CBP personnel for the processing and temporary holding of migrants who have illegally crossed into the United States. The CPC would be located in an existing facility within the perimeter fence of the USBP Nogales Station.

The Nogales Station consists of a single story administration building, offices, conference rooms, migrant processing and holding space, an asphalt parking lot, fuel tanks, and storage spaces. The Nogales Station also has maintenance buildings, perimeter fencing, and lighting. Currently, the Nogales Station does not have the processing space to hold and process the influx of migrants that are currently entering the United States on a daily basis. Nogales Station currently can only process approximately 350 migrants. CBP uses the National Standards for the Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search (TEDS), which govern CBP's interaction with migrants. These standards state that migrants should generally not be held for longer than 72 hours in CBP hold rooms or holding facilities and every effort must be made to hold migrants for the least amount of time. Currently the Nogales Station can only process approximately 350 migrants within the standards established in TEDS. The Proposed Action would support CBP's effort in compliance with TEDS and process migrants in an efficient manner.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed CPC renovation would update and expand the existing processing center facility at the USBP Nogales Station, which is located at 1500 West La Quinta Road, Nogales, Arizona. Within the secure perimeter fence at the Nogales Station, the CPC renovations activities would occur within an existing 80,000 square foot former warehouse.

PURPOSE AND NEED: CBP proposes the renovation, operation, and maintenance of a new CPC at the Nogales Station (the Proposed Action) for the purpose of providing immediate, safe, and secure processing and holding space for migrant families and unaccompanied children in the USBP Tucson Sector. The need for the Proposed Action arose due to the inadequacy of existing CBP and USBP facilities to accommodate the number of migrants without overcrowding and to provide the necessary separation of males, females, family units, and unaccompanied children being held. Further, this CPC would allow for a sustainable humanitarian processing and holding facility.

ALTERNATIVES: The Proposed Action and one alternative (No Action Alternative) were identified and considered during the planning stages of the proposed project. The Proposed Action would renovate the CPC within the perimeter fence at the Nogales Station. Once complete, the renovated CPC facility would provide a permanent facility to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff (i.e., guards, maintenance, janitorial) of 100 for the processing and temporary holding of migrant families and unaccompanied children who have illegally crossed into the United States. Currently, the Nogales Station has a staff of approximately 600 agents. The CPC renovation would occur within an existing 80,000 square-foot former warehouse facility. The warehouse currently is and would remain in use for activities such as storage of all-terrain-vehicles, vehicle maintenance area, maintenance staff work area, restrooms, metal/welding shop, and interior Sally Port. The CPC would be constructed within the warehouse and would not interfere with the current operations of the warehouse. Construction would be expected to last six months and include demolition of the existing processing space interior, construction of holding rooms and spaces, bathrooms, water fountains, showers, and processing areas, connection to existing on-site utilities (i.e., power, water, and sewage), and installation of signage.

No new parking would be required as the Nogales Station has sufficient parking to accommodate the increase in staff and support vehicles. A new gate would be installed in the perimeter fence along West La Quina Road to permit the entry of vehicles transporting migrants and improve traffic flow through the parking lot areas.

Operation of the Nogales CPC would be expected to begin upon completion of construction. The CPC would operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Operational activities would consist primarily of the transportation of migrants to and from the CPC using buses or other motor vehicles on established public roadways and existing driveways to the Nogales Station; transfer of migrants from buses into the CPC using a Sally Port or similar structure for processing; utilization of public utilities for power, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, potable water, and waste disposal to run the CPC; and transportation by CBP, USBP, and contractor personnel in three shifts per day to the CPC for staffing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The Proposed Action would have minimal impacts on ground water resources. No impacts are expected to surface waters as none are present; however, groundwater resources (i.e., water used for municipality purposes) will be impacted negligibly due to the increase in usage in the Nogales area. No jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the United States would be impacted by construction of the CPC. Best management practices (BMPs) and standard construction procedures would be implemented as construction occurs.

Temporary, minor increases in air pollution and noise would occur during construction activities. Negligible increases in demands on utilities would be expected as a result of the new CPC. Construction of the CPC would create long-term, minor impacts on roadways and traffic within the region. Vehicular traffic would increase near the proposed site to transport materials and work crews during construction activities. An increase in the number of personnel traveling to the new CPC would also occur after construction was completed. The Proposed Action would have negligible to minor impacts on socioeconomics through increased taxes, salaries, and buying of supplies during construction and operation of the CPC. Further, the Proposed Action

would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low income populations.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: Best Management Practices were identified for each resource category that could be potentially affected. Many of these measures have been incorporated as standard operating procedures by CBP in similar past projects. The BMPs to be implemented are found below and in Section 5.0 of the EA.

GENERAL PROJECT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Avoid lighting impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only.
2. CBP will avoid the spread of non-native plants by not using natural materials (e.g., straw) for on-site erosion control. If natural materials must be used, the natural material would be certified weed and weed-seed free.
3. CBP will ensure that all construction will follow DHS *Directive 025-01* for Sustainable Practices for Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management.
4. CBP will place drip pans under parked equipment and establish containment zones when refueling vehicles or equipment.

AIR QUALITY

1. All construction equipment and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions.

WATER RESOURCES

1. Wastewater is to be stored in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. Wastewater is water used for project purposes that is contaminated with construction materials or from cleaning equipment and thus carries oils or other toxic materials or other contaminants as defined by Federal and/or state regulations.
2. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by collecting concrete wash water in open containers and disposing of it off-site.
3. Avoid contaminating natural aquatic and wetland systems with runoff by limiting all equipment maintenance, staging, and laydown and dispensing hazardous liquids, such as fuel and oil, to designated upland areas.

4. If soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater and solids must be pumped or cleaned out and disposed of in an approved facility. If no soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater must first be filtered or screened to remove solids before being allowed to flow off-site. Detergents and cleaning solutions must not be sprayed over or discharged into surface waters.

NOISE

1. Avoid noise impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only.
2. All Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements will be followed. To lessen noise impacts on the local wildlife communities, construction will only occur during daylight hours. All motor vehicles will be properly maintained to reduce the potential for vehicle-related noise.

SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

1. BMPs will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all construction activities, and will include proper handling, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous and/or regulated materials. To minimize potential impacts from hazardous and regulated materials, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein. The refueling of machinery (i.e., generator) will be completed in accordance with accepted industry and regulatory guidelines, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips. Although it is unlikely that a major spill would occur, any spill of reportable quantities will be contained immediately within an earthen dike, and the application of an absorbent (e.g., granular, pillow, sock) will be used to absorb and contain the spill.
2. CBP will contain non-hazardous waste materials and other discarded materials, such as construction waste, until removed from the construction and maintenance sites. This will assist in keeping the project area and surroundings free of litter and reduce the amount of disturbed area needed for waste storage.
3. All waste oil and solvents will be recycled. All non-recyclable hazardous and regulated wastes will be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable Federal, state, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures.
4. Solid waste receptacles will be maintained at the project site. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash and waste construction materials) will be collected and deposited in on-site receptacles. Solid waste will be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor.

5. Disposal of used batteries or other small quantities of hazardous waste will be handled, sorted, maintained, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal and state rules and regulations for the management, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, hazardous waste and universal waste. Additionally, to the extent practicable, all batteries will be recycled locally.

ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC

1. Construction vehicles will travel and equipment will be transported on established roads with safety precautions.

FINDING: On the basis of the findings of the EA, which is incorporated by reference, and which has been conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and DHS Directive Number 023-01, Rev.01, and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and after careful review of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the proposal, we find there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environments, either individually or cumulatively; therefore, there is no requirement to develop an Environmental Impact Statement. Further, we commit to implement BMPs and environmental design measures identified in the EA and supporting documents.

Bartolome Mirabal
Director
Facilities Division
U.S. Border Patrol

Date

Eric Eldridge
Director
Facilities Management and Engineering Division

Date

Draft

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WASHINGTON, D.C.**

MAY 2020

Project Proponent: Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the law enforcement component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for securing the border and facilitating lawful international trade and travel. U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) is the uniformed law enforcement component within CBP responsible for securing the Nation's borders against the illegal entry of people and goods between ports of entry.

CBP is proposing to renovate the Central Processing Center (CPC) at the USBP Nogales Station in Nogales, Arizona. The renovated CPC would be a permanent processing facility constructed to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff of 100 for the processing and temporary holding of migrants who have crossed into the United States. The facility would be located in a completely developed area (existing warehouse) within the perimeter fence of the Nogales Station.

STUDY LOCATION

The proposed CPC would be located at the USBP Nogales Station, which is located at 1500 West La Quinta Road, Nogales, Arizona. Within the secure perimeter fence at the Nogales Station, the CPC would specifically be located in an existing 80,000 square foot warehouse.

PURPOSE AND NEED

CBP proposes the renovation, operation, and maintenance of a new CPC at the Nogales Station (the Proposed Action) for the purpose of providing immediate, safe, and secure processing and holding space for migrant families and unaccompanied children in the USBP Tucson Sector. The need for the Proposed Action is prompted by the inadequacy of existing CBP and USBP facilities to accommodate the number of migrants without overcrowding and provide the necessary separation of males, females, family units, and unaccompanied children being held. Further, this CPC would allow for a more sustainable humanitarian processing and holding facility.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action and one alternative (No Action Alternative) were identified and considered during the planning stages of the proposed project. The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a new CPC and associated infrastructure that meets the purpose of and need for the project. As required by National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the No Action Alternative reflects conditions within the project area should the Proposed Action not be implemented. Two sites were initially compared and evaluated for suitability, and one potential CPC site was carried forward for evaluation in the EA. The site that was considered, but eliminated from consideration, was a 20 acre parcel near Casa Grande, Arizona within the USBP Casa Grande Station area of responsibility (AOR). The Casa Grande site is located more than 80 miles away from the U.S.-Mexico International Border and not immediately accessible. Additionally, the Casa Grande site

would require extensive, costly, and time-consuming earthwork and importation of material to develop. Due to these constraints, the Casa Grande site does not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action; therefore, this alternative is not carried forward for analysis.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

The Proposed Action would have minimal impacts on ground water resources. No impacts are expected to surface waters as none are present; however, groundwater resources (i.e., water used for municipality purposes) will be impacted negligibly due to the increase in usage in the Nogales area. No jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the United States would be impacted by construction of the CPC.

Temporary and minor increases in air pollution and noise would occur during construction activities. Negligible increases in demands on utilities would be expected as a result of the new CPC. Construction of the CPC would create long-term, minor impacts on roadways and traffic within the region. Vehicular traffic would increase near the proposed site to transport materials and work crews during construction activities. An increase in the number of personnel traveling to the new CPC would also occur after construction was completed.

The Proposed Action would have negligible to minor impacts on socioeconomics through increased taxes, salaries, and buying of supplies during construction and operation of the CPC. Further, the Proposed Action would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low income populations.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the analyses of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented, the Proposed Action would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, no further analysis or documentation (i.e., Environmental Impact Statement) is warranted. CBP, in implementing this decision, would employ all practical means to minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the human and natural environments.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP), has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, resulting from the proposed renovation, operation, and maintenance of the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Central Processing Center (CPC) at the USBP Nogales Station in Nogales, Arizona. The renovated CPC would be a permanent processing facility constructed to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff of 100 including security guards, maintenance staff, janitorial staff, and CBP personnel for the processing and temporary holding of migrants who have illegally crossed into the United States. The CPC would be located in an existing facility within the perimeter fence of the USBP Nogales Station. The Nogales Station consists of a single story administration building, offices, conference rooms, migrant processing and holding space, an asphalt parking lot, fuel tanks, and storage spaces. The Nogales Station also has maintenance buildings, perimeter fencing, and lighting. Currently, the Nogales Station does not have the processing space to hold and process the influx of migrants that are currently entering the United States on a daily basis. Nogales Station currently can only process approximately 350 migrants. CBP uses the National Standards for the Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search (TEDS), which govern CBP's interaction with migrants. These standards state that migrants should generally not be held for longer than 72 hours in CBP hold rooms or holding facilities and every effort must be made to hold migrants for the least amount of time. Currently the Nogales Station can only process approximately 350 migrants within the standards established in TEDS. The Proposed Action would support CBP's effort in compliance with TEDS and to process migrants in an efficient manner.

The Nogales Station is one of nine stations located in the USBP Tucson Sector. The Nogales Station was established in 1924 and as of 2014 was the second largest USBP Station in the United States, patrolling approximately 1,100 square miles of land and 32 miles of the U.S.-Mexico International Border (CBP 2020). The Nogales Station's area of responsibility (AOR) includes urban areas like Nogales, Rio Rico, Tubac, Amado, and Green Valley, Arizona. The proposed Nogales Station CPC renovation project location is shown in Figure 1-1.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed CPC renovation would update and expand the existing processing center facility at the USBP Nogales Station, which is located at 1500 West La Quinta Road, Nogales, Arizona. Within the secure perimeter fence at the Nogales Station, the CPC renovations activities would occur within an existing 80,000 square foot former warehouse (Figure 1-2).

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

CBP proposes the renovation, operation, and maintenance of a new CPC at the Nogales Station (the Proposed Action) for the purpose of providing immediate, safe, and secure processing and holding space for migrant families and unaccompanied children in the USBP Tucson Sector.



Figure 1-1. Vicinity Map



February 2020



Figure 1-2. Project Area Map

The need for the Proposed Action arose due to the inadequacy of existing CBP and USBP facilities to accommodate the number of migrants without overcrowding and to provide the necessary separation of males, females, family units, and unaccompanied children being held. Further, this CPC would allow for a sustainable humanitarian processing and holding facility.

1.4 SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISIONS TO BE MADE

The scope of this EA includes an evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the natural, cultural, social, economic, and physical environments resulting from the renovation, operation, and maintenance of the CPC within the Nogales Station's footprint (see Figure 1-2). This analysis does not include an assessment of operations conducted in the field and away from the CPC. The potentially affected natural and human environment is limited to resources associated with the City of Nogales, Arizona. Most potential effects will be limited to the construction site and immediately adjacent resources.

This EA documents the context and intensity of the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and will look at alternatives that could potentially achieve the objectives of the Proposed Action. The EA allows decision makers to determine if the Proposed Action would or would not have a significant impact on the natural, cultural, social, economic, and physical environment, as well as whether the action can proceed to the next phase of project development or if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The process for developing the EA also allowed for input and comments on the Proposed Action from the concerned public, interested non-governmental groups, and interested government agencies to inform agency decision making. The EA has been prepared as follows:

1. Conduct scoping for environmental planning. The first step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and the significant issues related to a proposed action. CBP initiated agency scoping activities to identify significant issues related to the Proposed Action.
2. Prepare a draft EA. CBP prepared a draft EA based on issues identified during agency scoping activities.
3. Announce that the draft EA has been prepared. A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in the *Arizona Daily Sun* and *Nogales International* newspaper to announce the public comment period and the availability of the draft EA and, if applicable, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
4. Provide a public comment period. A public comment period allows for all interested parties to review the analysis presented in the draft EA and provide feedback. The draft EA will be available to the public for a 30-day review. Subject to library closures associated with COVID-19 a hard copy draft will be in the Nogales-Rochlin Public Library, 518 North Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona, 85621. The draft EA will also be available for download from the CBP internet web page at the following URL address: <http://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-cultural-stewardship/nepa-documents/docs-review>.

5. Prepare a final EA. A final EA will be prepared following the public comment period. The final EA will address relevant comments and concerns received from all interested parties during the public comment period.
6. Issue a FONSI or Other Determination. The final step in the NEPA process is the signature of a FONSI if the environmental analysis supports the conclusion that impacts on the quality of the human and natural environments from implementing the Proposed Action would not be significant. In this case, no EIS would be prepared.

1.5 APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS

CBP will follow applicable Federal laws and regulations. The EA will be developed in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) published in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, DHS Directive 023-01, Rev. 01 and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act* and other pertinent environmental statutes, regulations, and compliance requirements. The EA will address compliance with all applicable environmental statutes, such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) Part §1531 et seq., as amended, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, 16 U.S.C. §470a et seq., as amended.

1.6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In accordance with 40 CFR §1501.7, 1503 and 1506.6, CBP initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to identify significant issues related to the Proposed Action. CBP is coordinating, and will continue to coordinate, with appropriate local, state, and Federal government agencies, as well as Federally recognized tribes, throughout the EA process.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action and one alternative (No Action Alternative) were identified and considered during the planning stages of the proposed project. The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a new CPC and associated infrastructure that meets the purpose of and need for the project. As required by NEPA and CEQ regulations, the No Action Alternative reflects conditions within the project area should the Proposed Action not be implemented. Two sites were initially compared and evaluated for suitability, and one potential CPC site was carried forward for evaluation in this EA. The other site that was considered, but eliminated from consideration, was a 45 acre parcel near Casa Grande, Arizona within the USBP Casa Grande Station AOR. The Casa Grande site is located more than 80 miles away and not immediately accessible from the border. Additionally, the Casa Grande site would require extensive, costly, and time-consuming earthwork and importation of material to develop. The Casa Grande site does not meet the purpose and need of the Proposed Action; therefore, this alternative is not carried forward for analysis.

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would renovate the CPC within the perimeter fence at the Nogales Station (See Figure 1-2). Once completed the renovated CPC facility would provide a permanent facility to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff (i.e., guards, maintenance, janitorial) of 100 for the processing and temporary holding of migrant families and unaccompanied children who have illegally crossed into the United States. Currently, the Nogales Station has a staff of approximately 600 agents. The CPC renovation would occur within an existing 80,000 square-foot former warehouse facility. The warehouse currently is and would remain in use for activities such as storage of all-terrain-vehicles, vehicle maintenance area, maintenance staff work area, restrooms, metal/welding shop, and interior Sally Port. The CPC would be constructed within the warehouse and would not interfere with the current operations of the warehouse. Construction would be expected to last six months and include demolition of the existing processing space interior, construction of holding rooms and spaces, bathrooms, water fountains, showers, and processing areas, connection to existing on-site utilities (i.e., power, water, and sewage), and installation of signage.

No new parking would be required as the Nogales Station has sufficient parking to accommodate the increase in staff and support vehicles. A new gate would be installed in the perimeter fence along West La Quina Road to permit the entry of vehicles transporting migrants and improve traffic flow through the parking lot areas.

Operation of the Nogales CPC would be expected to begin upon completion of construction. The CPC would operate 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. Operational activities would consist primarily of the transportation of migrants to and from the CPC using buses or other motor vehicles on established public roadways and existing driveways to the Nogales Station; transfer of migrants from buses into the CPC using a Sally Port or similar structure for processing; utilization of public utilities for power, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, potable water, and waste disposal to run the CPC; and transportation by CBP, USBP, and contractor personnel in three shifts per day to the CPC for staffing.

Maintenance of the Nogales CPC would also be expected to begin upon completion of construction. Maintenance activities could include routine upgrade, repair, and maintenance of the buildings, roofs, parking area, grounds, or other facilities that would not result in a change in their functional use (e.g., replacing door locks or windows, painting interior or exterior walls, resurfacing a road or parking lot, grounds maintenance, or replacing essential facility components such as an air conditioning unit).

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative would preclude the renovation, operation, and maintenance of the Nogales Station CPC. The existing permanent facilities used to process migrants would be inadequate for the support of holding and processing migrants within the Tucson Sector AOR. Consequently, this alternative would hinder USBP’s ability to respond to the influx of migrant activity in a safe, secure, timely, and sustainable manner. The No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the proposed project, but will be carried forward for analysis, as required by CEQ regulations. The No Action Alternative describes the existing conditions in the absence of the Proposed Action.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES SUMMARY

The two alternatives selected for further analyses are the Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative) and the No Action Alternative. The Proposed Action fully meets the purpose of and need for the project, and the preferred construction site offers the best combination of environment, land ownership, and operational support infrastructure to serve as a permanent processing facility within Tucson Sector’s AOR. An evaluation of how the Proposed Action meets the project’s purpose and need is provided in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Alternatives Matrix: Purpose of and Need for Alternatives

Purpose and Need	Proposed Action	No Action Alternative	Casa Grande Site
Located in USBP Tucson Sector; close to and easily accessible from the border	Yes	No	Yes; No
Co-located on existing CBP facility for efficiency	Yes	No	No
Adequate space for size requirements to accommodate the number of migrants without overcrowding	Yes	No	Yes
Free from known site development or environmental challenges that could delay construction	Yes	No	No
Meets the mission needs of the Tucson Sector for the processing and temporary holding of migrant families and unaccompanied children	Yes	No	Yes
Provides the necessary separation of males, females, family units, and unaccompanied children being held	Yes	No	Yes
Provides a safe, secure, and sustainable environment for station personnel and detainees	Yes	No	Yes

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES

3.1 PRELIMINARY IMPACT SCOPING

This section describes the natural and human environments that exist within the region of influence (ROI) and the potential impacts of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action outlined in Section 2.0 of this document. The ROI for the new CPC and associated infrastructure is the City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County, Arizona. The Proposed Action would be located on Federally owned land within the secure perimeter of the Nogales Station. Only those issues that have the potential to be affected by any of the alternatives are described, per CEQ guidance (40 CFR § 1501.7 [3]).

Some topics are limited in scope due to the lack of direct effect from the Proposed Action on the resource or because that particular resource is not located within the project corridor (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1. Resources Analyzed in the Environmental Impact Analysis Process

Resource	Potential to Be Affected by Implementation of the Proposed Action	Analyzed in This EA	Rationale for Elimination
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	No	No rivers designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers (16 U.S.C. § 551, 1278[c], 1281[d]) are located within or near the project corridor
Land Use	No	No	No land use change as a result of the Proposed Action
Geology	No	No	No geologic resources would be affected
Soils	No	No	No soils would be impacted
Prime Farmlands	No	No	No prime farmlands would be affected
Water Resources	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Floodplains	No	No	The Proposed Action is not located in a floodplain
Vegetative Habitat	No	No	No vegetation would be affected
Wildlife Resources	No	No	No habitat or individuals would be affected
Threatened and Endangered Species	No	No	No effect to any threatened and endangered species, Proposed Action is located at the existing Yuma Sector Headquarters (SHQ)
Cultural, Archaeological, and Historical Resources	No	No	The Proposed Action would be located in a previously surveyed and disturbed area and CBP has determined that there is no effect to historic properties. Furthermore, CBP has determined that, in accordance with Stipulation IV of the Programmatic Agreement Regarding CBP Undertakings in States Located along the Southwest Border of the United States, this undertaking is within the scope of Stipulations VI.B.1, B.1(a), B.1(b), B.1(c), B.1(d), B.2, B.3, B.3(d), B.4, B.5, B.7, C.4, C.6, and D.1 and is therefore exempted from further review.
Air Quality	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable

Resource	Potential to Be Affected by Implementation of the Proposed Action	Analyzed in This EA	Rationale for Elimination
Noise	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Utilities and Infrastructure	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Radio Frequency Environment	No	No	No towers or communications equipment is included in the Proposed Action
Roadways and Traffic	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Aesthetic and Visual Resources	No	No	No aesthetic or visual resources would be affected
Hazardous Materials	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Unique and Sensitive Areas	No	No	No unique or sensitive areas would be affected
Socioeconomics	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable

Impacts (consequence or effect) can be either beneficial or adverse and can be either directly related to the action or indirectly caused by the action. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR § 1508.8[a]). Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance but that are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR § 1508.8[b]). As discussed in this section, the alternatives may create temporary (lasting the duration of the project), short-term (up to 3 years), long-term (3 to 10 years following construction), or permanent effects.

Whether an impact is significant depends on the context in which the impact occurs and the intensity of the impact (40 CFR § 1508.27). The context refers to the setting in which the impact occurs and may include society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Impacts on each resource can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis, the intensity of impacts would be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- **Negligible:** A resource would not be affected or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not be of any measurable or perceptible consequence.
- **Minor:** Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- **Moderate:** Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and measurable. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely achievable.
- **Major:** Effects on a resource would be obvious and long-term, and would have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects

would be required and extensive, and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

Table 3-2 summarizes the impacts of the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action on each of the resources previously discussed in this section (Affected Environment and Consequences).

Table 3-2. Summary Matrix of Potential Impacts

Affected Environment	Proposed Action (Alternative 1)	No Action Alternative (Alternative 2)
Groundwater	The Proposed Action would have temporary and long-term, minor impacts on groundwater resources resulting from water usage during construction and operation of the proposed CPC, respectively.	No direct impacts would occur.
Surface Waters and Waters of the United States	No impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States would occur as none exist on the project site.	No direct impacts would occur.
Air Quality	Temporary, minor increases in air pollution would occur from the use of construction equipment (combustion emissions) during construction. Minor impacts would occur as a result of the increase of staff as part of the Proposed Action	No direct impacts would occur.
Noise	Temporary, negligible increases in noise would occur during construction.	No direct impacts would occur.
Utilities and Infrastructure	Long-term, negligible demands on power, water, and wastewater treatment utilities and infrastructure would be required as a result of the Proposed Action.	No direct impacts would occur.
Roadways and Traffic	The Proposed Action would have a long-term, minor impact on roadways and traffic within the region. Vehicular traffic would increase during construction due to the transport of materials and work crews to the project site and after construction is complete due to staff and detainees traveling to and from the renovated CPC.	No direct impacts would occur.
Hazardous Material	The Proposed Action would not result in the exposures of the environment or public to any hazardous materials. The potential exists for minor releases of petroleum, oil, or lubricant during construction activities. BMPs would be implemented to minimize any potential contamination during construction activities.	No direct impacts would occur.
Socioeconomics	The Proposed Action would have negligible to minor impacts on socioeconomics.	No direct impacts would occur.
Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. There would be no environmental health or safety risks that disproportionately affect children.	No direct impacts would occur.

The following discussions describe and, where possible, quantify the potential effects of each alternative on the resources within or near the project area. All construction activities, staging

areas, and final siting of the CPC would be entirely contained within the existing secure perimeter of the Nogales Station.

3.2 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources for Santa Cruz County, Arizona are highly regulated and monitored due to the high stress placed upon them due to the increasing population growth and development of the cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora in an increasingly arid climate. Historically, Arizona has relied heavily on groundwater to support its municipal and agricultural needs, but droughts and population growth within this region in recent decades have emphasized the need for alternate water sources. The combination of alternative water sources and water conservation efforts have alleviated some of the water resource concerns, although long-term water resource management will remain an integral part of overall management concerns in this region.

3.2.1 Ground Water

In 1980, Arizona's legislature passed the Groundwater Management Act (GMA), a landmark piece of legislation that established key guidelines for the framework for water banking, recharge, and recovery. This divided the groundwater resources within the state of Arizona into distinct sections based on geographical features and the communities they served to create eight Active Management Areas (AMAs). The Santa Cruz AMA was originally part of the Tucson AMA and was split off in 1994 due to its unique position within the Santa Cruz River basin and its location adjacent to the U.S.-Mexico International Border. The Santa Cruz AMA encompasses approximately 716 square miles in the Upper Santa Cruz Valley Basin. It contains a 45-mile reach of the Santa Cruz River from the U.S.-Mexico International Border to the Continental gauging station, located a few miles north of the Santa Cruz and Pima County line.

The groundwater in Santa Cruz County is composed of a series of four microbasins (small, shallow alluvial aquifers) that are part of the Upper Santa Cruz Basin. These microbasins include: (1) the Buena Vista microbasin, which extends from the U.S.-Mexico International Border to the Buena Vista Narrows; (2) the Kino Springs microbasin, which extends from the Buena Vista Narrows to the Kino Springs Narrows; (3) the Highway 82 microbasin, which extends from the Kino Springs Narrows to the Guevavi Narrows; and (4) the Guevavi microbasin, located between the Guevavi and Eagan Narrows (Arizona Department of Water Resources [ADWR] 2007). The three main sedimentary/alluvial units are the Nogales Formation, the Older Alluvium, and the Younger Alluvium (ADWR 1999). The Nogales Formation was deposited during the late Tertiary period, and consists of a volcanic conglomerate that contains many beds of sandstone and siltstone. It also has poor water bearing characteristics and separates the microbasins from each other due to its low permeability (ADWR 1999). The other two principal water-bearing formations in the Proposed Action area are the Older Alluvium and Younger Alluvium, which together comprise the Quaternary Alluvium. The Older Alluvium consists of locally stratified lenses of boulders, gravel, sand, silt, and clays with cemented zones or caliche. It was deposited in structurally formed basins by streams draining the mountains to the east and west, and before the Santa Cruz River developed as a through-flowing stream (ADWR 1999). The Younger Alluvium is comprised of unconsolidated sands, gravels, and boulders, usually of coarser grain size than those found in the Older Alluvium in Santa Cruz County (ADWR 1999). Continued movements along the bounding structures in the underlying

bedrock caused a series of basin-like structures in the Older Alluvium that are filled with Younger Alluvium that reaches 125 feet in thickness. Current depth to groundwater within Santa Cruz County generally ranges from a few feet to approximately 30 feet, and about 10 to 15 feet on average.

ADWR has estimated the total volume of fresh groundwater in the Santa Cruz AMA at 159,500 acre-feet (ADWR 1999). The annual recharge rate was estimated at 11,700 acre-feet per year with approximately 5,720 to 8,580 acre-feet per year from the Santa Cruz River main channel, 3,900 acre-feet per year recharging from the mountain front, 400 to 600 acre-feet per year from the underflow main channel, and 68 to 185 acre-feet per year from incidental agricultural recharge (ADWR 2007).

In Santa Cruz County, roughly 50 percent of each city's potable water is supplied by the Santa Cruz River aquifers, which underlie the Upper Santa Cruz River in Arizona and Mexico, and its tributaries (principally Nogales Wash and Potrero Creek). During dry summer months under drought conditions, the cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora are both forced to shut down supply wells on the Santa Cruz River. Municipal water use in 2018 accounts for approximately 42.6 percent of the total demand, 53 percent for agricultural use, and five percent for industrial use, though these percentages fluctuate significantly from year to year (ADWR 2019).

3.2.2 Surface Water

The Proposed Action is within the Santa Cruz Watershed. The Santa Cruz Watershed covers approximately 8,000 square miles within the United States, representing about 10 percent of the state of Arizona. The river originates in Arizona's San Rafael Valley, northeast of Nogales, Arizona, then loops 25 miles (characterized by both intermittent and perennial reaches) through Sonora and flows back across the border into Arizona up to its confluence with the Gila River, just southwest of Phoenix. The Santa Cruz Watershed contains a total of 1,043 miles of streams. The longest stream is the Santa Cruz River with a length of 142 miles, and the majority of the remaining streams (89%) are classified as intermittent or ephemeral (Arizona Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials [NEMO] 2008). There are 25 mapped lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and other similar features in the Santa Cruz Watershed that cover 4,445 acres within the watershed and range from 13 to 1,289 acres in size (Arizona NEMO 2008).

The Nogales Wash, a major tributary of the Santa Cruz River, flows directly through both cities (Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora) before converging with the river near the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant (NIWTP). The Nogales Wash Channel was constructed by the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in the early 1930s and drains a 94.2-square mile (244 square kilometer) watershed centered over the U.S.-Mexico International Border.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) §303[d][1][A] requires that each state monitor surface waters and compile a "303[d] List" of impaired streams and lakes. Assessment of Santa Cruz River water quality data has concluded that pollutant loadings of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) exceed surface water quality standards. Three stream reaches have been listed on Arizona's 2006/2008 303[d] list of impaired waters. The Santa Cruz River reach from the U.S.-Mexico International Border

to the NIWTP is monitored for E. coli exceedances. Concurrently, the Nogales Wash reach from the U.S.-Mexico International Border to Potrero Creek will continue to be monitored for E. coli, ammonia, chlorine, and dissolved copper exceedances (ADEQ 2009). A section of Sonoita Creek, from 750 feet below the Patagonia Waste Water Treatment Plant that discharges to Santa Cruz River, is also being monitored for zinc exceedances.

Waters of the United States

Wetlands are a subset of the waters of the United States that may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the CWA (40 CFR 230.3). Wetlands are those areas inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

The Proposed Action is located within the Santa Cruz River Basin, which originates in the San Rafael Valley of Arizona, loops through Sonora and flows back across the U.S.-Mexico International Border into Arizona southwest of Phoenix. The closest jurisdictional water body is the Santa Cruz River, which is approximately 5 miles from the proposed CPC location. Within the City of Nogales, there are approximately 215 acres of wetlands and intermittent streams that could be classified as Waters of the U.S (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) 2020).

There are approximately 14 acres of intermittent streambed riverine wetland habitat in proximity to the Proposed Action area (USEPA 2020). No waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are located within the Proposed Action area, since this area is already developed.

Floodplains

A floodplain is the area adjacent to a river, creek, lake, stream, or other open waterway that is subject to flooding when there is a major rain event. Floodplains are further defined by the likelihood of a flood event. If an area is in the 100-year floodplain, there is a 1-in-100 chance in any given year that the area will flood. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps were reviewed to identify project locations within mapped floodplains (FEMA 2019).

The Proposed Action is located in Zone X per FEMA Flood Map (4802140009D), which is an area of Minimal Flood Hazard higher than the elevation of the 0.2 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard area (FEMA 2020). Areas immediately adjacent to the Proposed Action location, south of West La Quinta Road, are designated Zone AE that is part of the 1-percent Annual Chance Flood Area.

3.2.3 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would have permanent, minor, adverse impacts on groundwater and surface water resources. The Proposed Action would slightly increase demands on water supplies during construction activities. Water would be needed for a variety of construction activities including, but not limited to, drinking water supply for construction crews and concrete mixing. These increases would be temporary and minor. Water would also be needed to accommodate 500 migrants and a staff of 100 at the renovated CPC. Water usage by migrants

and staff at the CPC would slightly increase groundwater and surface water consumption and long-term demand on regional water supplies. However, impacts associated with this usage and demands are considered minor due to the capacity of the local aquifer and the City of Nogales's ability to handle this minor increase in demand. Any permits required to add capacity to support the new Nogales CPC water system would be completed by the contractor and in place prior to construction activities. Therefore, under the Proposed Action there would be no major impacts on water resources.

No impacts to floodplains or waters of the U.S. would occur as none are located within the footprint of the Proposed Action.

3.2.4 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activities would occur; therefore, no impacts to water resources would occur.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

The USEPA established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for specific pollutants determined to be of concern with respect to the health and welfare of the general public. Ambient air quality standards are classified as either "primary" or "secondary." The principal pollutants of concern, or criteria pollutants, are carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM) less than 10 microns (PM-10) and less than 2.5 microns (PM-2.5), and lead. NAAQS represent the maximum levels of background pollution that are considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health and welfare. The NAAQS are included in Table 3-3.

Areas that do not meet these NAAQS standards are called non-attainment areas; areas that meet both primary and secondary standards are known as attainment areas. The Federal Conformity Final Rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93) specifies criteria or requirements for conformity determinations for Federal projects. The Federal Conformity Rule was first promulgated in 1993 by USEPA, following the passage of Amendments to the Clean Air Act (CAA) in 1990. The rule mandates that a conformity analysis must be performed when a Federal action generates air pollutants in a region that has been designated as a non-attainment or maintenance area for one or more NAAQS.

A conformity analysis is the process used to determine whether a Federal action meets the requirements of the general conformity rule. It requires the responsible Federal agency to evaluate the nature of a Proposed Action and associated air pollutant emissions and calculate emissions as a result of the Proposed Action. If the emissions exceed established limits, known as *de minimis* thresholds, the proponent is required to implement appropriate mitigation measures. A portion of Santa Cruz County is designated as a moderate non-attainment area for PM-10 and PM-2.5 (USEPA 2020). Major sources of PM-10 and PM-2.5 include windblown and vehicle-generated fugitive dust, industrial facilities, commercial construction, agricultural tilling, road construction, automobiles, heating fires, and the combustion of refuse.

Table 3-3. National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Primary Standards		Secondary Standards	Averaging Times
	Level	Averaging Time	Level	
Carbon Monoxide	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	8-hour ⁽¹⁾	None	None
	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	1-hour ⁽¹⁾	None	None
Lead	0.15 µg/m ³ ⁽²⁾	Rolling 3-Month Average	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
	1.5 µg/m ³	Quarterly Average	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
Nitrogen Dioxide	53 ppb ⁽³⁾	Annual (Arithmetic Average)	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
	100 ppb	1-hour ⁽⁴⁾	None	None
Particulate Matter (PM-10)	150 µg/m ³	24-hour ⁽⁵⁾	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
Particulate Matter (PM-2.5)	12.0 µg/m ³	Annual ⁽⁶⁾ (Arithmetic Average)	15.0 µg/m ³	Annual ⁽⁶⁾ (Arithmetic Average)
	35 µg/m ³	24-hour ⁽⁷⁾	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
Ozone	0.075 ppm (2008 std)	8-hour ⁽⁸⁾	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
	0.070 ppm (2015 std)	8-hour ⁽⁹⁾	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
	0.12 ppm	1-hour ⁽¹⁰⁾	Same as Primary	Same as Primary
Sulfur Dioxide	75 ppb ⁽¹¹⁾	1-hour	0.5 ppm	3-hour ⁽¹⁾

Source: USEPA (2020)

Units of measure for the standards are parts per million (ppm) by volume, parts per billion (ppb - 1 part in 1,000,000,000) by volume, milligrams per cubic meter of air (mg/m³), and micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m³).

⁽¹⁾ Not to be exceeded more than once per year.

⁽²⁾ Final rule signed October 15, 2008.

⁽³⁾ The official level of the annual NO₂ standard is 0.053 ppm, equal to 53 ppb, which is shown here for the purpose of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard.

⁽⁴⁾ To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 100 ppb (effective January 22, 2010).

⁽⁵⁾ Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years.

⁽⁶⁾ To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the weighted annual mean PM-2.5 concentrations from single or multiple community-oriented monitors must not exceed 15.0 µg/m³.

⁽⁷⁾ To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour concentrations at each population-oriented monitor within an area must not exceed 35 µg/m³ (effective December 17, 2006).

⁽⁸⁾ To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.075 ppm (effective May 27, 2008).

⁽⁹⁾ To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.070 ppm (effective December 28, 2015).

⁽¹⁰⁾ (a) USEPA revoked the 1-hour ozone standard in all areas, although some areas have continuing obligations under that standard ("anti-backsliding").

(b) The standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with maximum hourly average concentrations above 0.12 ppm is ≤ 1.

⁽¹¹⁾ (a) Final rule signed June 2, 2010. To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 99th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 75 ppb.

The major greenhouse gas (GHG) producing sectors in society include transportation, utilities (e.g., coal and gas power plants), industry/manufacturing, agriculture, and residential. End-use sector sources of GHG emissions include transportation (40.7 percent), electricity generation (22.2 percent), industry (20.5 percent), agriculture and forestry (8.3 percent), and other (8.3

percent). The main sources of increased concentrations of GHG due to human activity include the combustion of fossil fuels and deforestation (CO₂), livestock and rice farming, land use and wetland depletions, landfill emissions (CH₄), refrigeration system and fire suppression system use and manufacturing (CFC), and agricultural activities, including the use of fertilizers (California Energy Commission 2007).

3.3.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Temporary and minor increases in air pollution would occur from the use of construction equipment (combustion emissions) and workers vehicle's during renovation of the CPC. Construction activities would also generate minimal hydrocarbon, NO₂, CO₂, and SO₂ emissions from construction equipment and support vehicles. Because the CPC is located on an existing concrete slab, the only ground disturbing activities would be the installation of a new access gate. Any fugitive dust generated would be negligible and temporary, lasting only the duration of the gate construction. All other construction related activities would be inside the existing warehouse. The increase of staff as a result of the Proposed Action would increase emissions from personal vehicles, these impacts would be considered long-term and minor. Therefore, no major impacts relating to air quality would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.3.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not result in any direct impacts on air quality, because there would be no construction activities.

3.4 NOISE

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound, which can be based either on objective effects (i.e., hearing loss, damage to structures) or subjective judgments (e.g., community annoyance). Sound is usually represented on a logarithmic scale in a unit called the decibel (dB). Sound on the decibel scale is referred to as sound level. The perceived threshold of human hearing is 0 dB, and the threshold of discomfort or pain is around 120 dB (USEPA 1974). The A-weighted sound level (dBA) is a measurement of sound pressure adjusted to conform to the frequency response of the human ear.

Noise levels occurring at night generally produce a greater annoyance than do the same levels occurring during the day. It is generally agreed that people perceive intrusive noise at night as being 10 dBA louder than the same level of intrusive noise during the day, at least in terms of the potential for causing community annoyance. This perception is largely because background environmental sound levels at night in most areas are also about 10 dBA lower than those during the day. Long-term noise levels are computed over a 24-hour period and adjusted for nighttime annoyances to produce the day-night average sound level (DNL). DNL is the community noise metric recommended by the USEPA and has been adopted by most Federal agencies (USEPA 1974).

When noise affects humans, it can be based either on objective effects (i.e., hearing loss, damage to structures) or subjective judgments (e.g., community annoyance). A 65 dBA DNL is the impact threshold most commonly used for noise planning purposes near residents and represents

a compromise between community impact and the need for activities like construction (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] 1984).

Noise within the project area in general is elevated due to the proximity of the project area to a major thoroughfare (Mariposa Road), existing industrial and distribution operations in the immediate area, and as a result of the Proposed Action occurring within the existing Nogales Border Patrol Station. Further, no sensitive noise receptors are within 0.5 mile of the Proposed Action.

Noise Attenuation

As a general rule, noise generated by a stationary noise source, or “point source,” will decrease by approximately 6 dBA over hard surfaces and 9 dBA over soft surfaces for each doubling of the distance. For example, if a noise source produces a noise level of 85 dBA at a reference distance of 50 feet over a hard surface, then the noise level would be 79 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the noise source and 73 dBA at a distance of 200 feet. To estimate the attenuation of the noise over a given distance, the following relationship is utilized:

$$\text{Equation 1: } dBA_2 = dBA_1 - 20 \log^{(d_2/d_1)}$$

Where:

dBA_2 = dBA at distance 2 from source (predicted)
 dBA_1 = dBA at distance 1 from source (measured)
 d_2 = Distance to location 2 from the source
 d_1 = Distance to location 1 from the source
 Source: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 1998

3.4.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The renovation of the CPC would occur within the existing warehouse and within the Nogales Station perimeter. Noise would be limited to the duration of construction and to within the existing warehouse for the renovation efforts. The project site is located in an urban area over 0.5-mile away from sensitive noise receptors such as residential homes. Therefore, any impacts from noise as a result of the Proposed Action would be temporary and negligible.

3.4.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts on noise would occur as the construction of the proposed CPC would not occur.

3.5 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Commercial grid power is currently available within the site and would be used to power the proposed CPC. Sewage and water services are currently available at the project site and would be used for the CPC. No new public infrastructure would be required for ingress or egress at the proposed CPC; however, a new gate would be installed to allow for access from West La Quinta Avenue.

3.5.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would result in negligible effects on the availability of utilities throughout the ROI, because the current amperage available through the existing grid power system can

withstand the anticipated electrical load of the proposed CPC. Additionally, the CPC would be tied into existing and available sewage and water services. No new infrastructure would be needed for ingress or egress to the CPC. Therefore, no adverse impacts would occur as result of the Proposed Action.

3.5.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed CPC would not be constructed. The No Action Alternative would not affect the availability of utilities or require construction of additional facilities.

3.6 ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC

Nogales is the County seat of Santa Cruz County, and the city has several major highways and thoroughfares within its boundaries. Interstate 19 is the major north-south route in Santa Cruz County that connects the city of Nogales with Tucson, Arizona. Mariposa Road is another major north-south route that provides access to western Nogales, Arizona. According to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), the 2018 annual average daily traffic (AADT) for Interstate 19 ranges from 11,684 where the interstate begins near the U.S.-Mexico International Border, to 19,794 as it leaves Nogales city limits (ADOT 2019). The portion of Mariposa Road located near the proposed CPC location had an AADT of 12,725 in 2018 (ADOT 2019).

As part of the Proposed Action, approximately 100 CBP personnel would be hired to work at the renovated CPC. It is anticipated that the CPC would be staffed in three 8-hour shifts; therefore, approximately 67 personnel would be expected to be entering and exiting the proposed Nogales CPC, as well as driving on the roads prior to and at the conclusion of each shift. It is assumed no more than 5 additional busses, vans, and other modes of transportation would be used to bring migrants to the CPC as compared to current volumes.

3.6.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

With the implementation of the Proposed Action, construction activities at the project site would have a temporary, minor impact on roadways and traffic adjacent to the project site. An increase of vehicular traffic along Interstate 19 and Mariposa Road would occur from supplying materials, hauling debris, and from work crews commuting to the project site during construction activities. Nogales is a metropolitan area with several major interstates and highways capable of handling minor increases in population.

Upon completion of construction activities, the increase in CBP personnel traveling to access the CPC would increase as well. This increase in traffic volume associated with personnel coming and going from the CPC would have minor impacts on roadways and traffic as all of the roadways near the CPC have the capacity to withstand the projected increase in traffic. Therefore, traffic impacts associated with construction and operation of the CPC would be long-term and negligible.

3.6.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, impacts on roadways and traffic would remain status quo.

3.7 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Hazardous materials are substances that cause physical or health hazards (29 CFR 1910.1200). Materials that are physically hazardous include combustible and flammable substances, compressed gases, and oxidizers. Health hazards are associated with materials that cause acute or chronic reactions, including toxic agents, carcinogens, and irritants. Hazardous materials are regulated in Arizona by a combination of mandated laws promulgated by the USEPA and the ADEQ.

3.7.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Renovation of the CPC as described in the Proposed Action could involve the use of heavy construction equipment. There is a potential for the release of hazardous materials such as fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, and other chemicals during the construction activities. The impacts from spills of hazardous materials during construction would be minimized by utilizing BMPs during construction such as fueling only in controlled and protected areas away from surface waters, maintaining emergency spill cleanup kits at all sites during fueling operations, and maintaining all equipment in good operating condition to prevent fuel and hydraulic fluid leaks.

All hazardous and regulated wastes and substances generated by operation of the renovated CPC would be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all Federal, state, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures. All other hazardous and regulated materials or substances would be handled according to materials safety data sheet instructions and would not affect water, soils, vegetation, wildlife, or the safety of USBP agents and staff. Therefore, hazardous and regulated materials and substances would not impact the public, groundwater, or general environment.

The potential impacts of the handling and disposal of hazardous and regulated materials and substances during construction activities would be insignificant when mitigation measures and BMPs as described in Section 5 are implemented.

3.7.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activities would occur; therefore, no existing hazardous materials risks would be encountered and no potential for hazardous materials spills during CPC renovation would be realized. No impacts from hazardous materials would result from the No Action Alternative.

3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

This socioeconomics section outlines the basic attributes of population and economic activity in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, which is the ROI for socioeconomics. Demographic data shown in Table 3-4 provides an overview of the socioeconomic environment in the ROI.

Table 3-4. Population, Income, Labor Force, and Unemployment

	2018 Population Estimate*	Average Annual Growth Rate 2000-2018 (Percent)	Median 2018 Per Capita Income (Dollars)	Per Capita Income As a Percent of the United States (Percent)	Unemployment Rate (2018) (Percent)
Santa Cruz County	46,511	1.15	\$39,057	72	9.3
Arizona	7,171,646	2.21	\$44,329	81	4.8
United States	327,167,434	0.90	\$54,446	100	3.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019a and 2019b; Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2019a, BLS 2019b, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) 2019

* Population estimates based on 2010 U.S. Census data.

The ROI for the Proposed Action is Santa Cruz County, Arizona, which is a part of the Tucson-Nogales Metropolitan Statistical Area. Santa Cruz is one of 15 counties in Arizona and had a 2018 population of 46,511 individuals. The majority of the total estimated 2018 population of Santa Cruz County (83.5 percent) claim to be of Hispanic origin (U.S. Census Bureau 2019a). The remaining ethnic categories in Santa Cruz are Caucasian (15 percent), Asian (0.76 percent), Black or African American (0.2 percent), two or more races (0.3 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.2 percent), and some other race (0.03 percent) (U.S. Census Bureau 2019a).

The estimated number of individuals employed in Santa Cruz County in 2018 was 17,421 (U.S. Census Bureau 2019b). The industry employing the largest amount of individuals in Santa Cruz County in 2019 was the retail trade industry (15 percent). This was followed by educational services industry (10.7 percent), the wholesale trade industry (9.1 percent), and the health care and social assistance industry (9.04 percent). The 2018 estimated unemployment rate for Santa Cruz County was 9.3 percent (U.S. Census Bureau 2019b).

In 2018, Santa Cruz County had an average per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$39,057 (Bureau of Economic Analysis [BEA] 2019). This measure of income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. This PCPI, ranked 8th in the state, was 88 percent of the state average (\$44,329) and 72 percent of the National average (\$54,446). The total personal income (TPI) of an area is the income that is received by, or on behalf of, all the individuals who live in that area. In 2018, the TPI of Santa Cruz County was \$1.8 billion (BEA 2019). The median household income of Santa Cruz County in 2018 was \$40,545, significantly less than the median income of the state (\$59,246) and Nation (\$61,937) (BEA 2019). Median household income was calculated using the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, and then dividing the income distribution into two equal parts to determine the middle value (e.g. median).

Impacts on socioeconomic conditions would be considered significant if they included displacement or relocation of residences or commercial buildings or increases in long-term demands for public services in excess of existing and projected capacities.

3.8.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

The proposed CPC would be located within the existing Nogales Border Patrol Station, which is located on the outskirts of the City of Nogales, Arizona. The proposed CPC could add up to 100

personnel and their families moving into the area, needing homes, schools, and public services. Those personnel and their families would be expected to live within or near Santa Cruz County. It is reasonable to assume that a portion of the 100 personnel needed for the renovated Nogales CPC would already live within Santa Cruz County limits or just north in the Tucson area (located approximately 60 miles to the north) within Pima County. Under this assumption, it is reasonable to posit that 50 of the 100 total new personnel would be moving into the Nogales area from out of the area while the remaining portion already inhabit this area. In addition to the 100 new personnel, an estimate of additional 100 individuals can be used to represent the families of the proposed Nogales CPC personnel. Using these estimates, approximately 200 total individuals are expected to be added to the population of the greater Nogales area. The City of Nogales and the Tucson metropolitan area have many options for housing, schools, shopping, and other amenities and would be able to handle the increased demand for housing and public services. With many of the 100 additional personnel and their families expected to live in the Tucson-Nogales statistical area, increases in the demand for public services in excess of existing and projected capacities would not be expected.

Temporary, minor, beneficial impacts in the form of jobs and income for area residents, revenues to local businesses, and sales and use taxes to Santa Cruz County, Nogales, and the State of Arizona from locally purchased building materials could be realized if construction materials are purchased locally and local construction workers are hired for construction.

3.8.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the CPC would not be renovated in the City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, so there would be no direct socioeconomic impacts.

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Executive order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, was issued by President Clinton on February 11, 1994. It was intended to ensure that proposed Federal actions do not have disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations and to ensure greater public participation by minority and low-income populations. It required each agency to develop an agency-wide environmental justice strategy. A Presidential Transmittal Memorandum issued with the EO states that “Each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities, when such analysis is required by the NEPA 42 U.S.C. §4321, et seq.” The Department of Defense (DoD) has directed that NEPA will be used to implement the provisions of the EO.

EO 12898 does not provide guidelines as to how to determine concentrations of minority or low-income populations. However, analysis of demographic data on race, ethnicity, and poverty provides information on minority and low-income populations that could be affected by the proposed actions. The 2018 Census reports numbers of minority individuals and the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) provides the most recent poverty estimates available. Minority populations are those persons who identify themselves as African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, or Other. Poverty status is

used to define low-income, and it is defined as the number of people with income below the poverty level, which was \$25,701 for a family of four in 2018, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (U.S. Census Bureau 2019c). A potential disproportionate impact may occur when the minority population in the study area exceeds 50 percent and/or the low-income population exceeds 20 percent of the population. Additionally, a disproportionate impact may occur when the percent minority and/or low-income in the study area are meaningfully greater than those in the region. The potential for impacts on the health and safety of children is greater in areas where projects are located near residential areas. Table 3-5 presents U.S. Census data for minority population and poverty rates for the ROI.

Table 3-5. Minority Population and Poverty Rates

	Minority Population (Percent)	All Ages in Poverty (Percent)
Census Tract 9662, Santa Cruz County	97.1	25.85
City of Nogales	96.8	33.9
Santa Cruz County	85.1	24.0
Arizona	45.7	16.1
United States	39.6	13.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019a and 2019b, FFIEC 2019

Census Tract 9662, which encompasses the Preferred Alternative location, is defined as the area east of the 111° West Latitude line, west of North Mariposa Road, south of West Fairway Drive and West Artley Drive, and north of the U.S.-Mexico International Border (FFIEC 2019). The populations of the Census Tract and the city of Nogales are primarily minority communities, categorized by the Census as “Hispanic or Latino.” As shown in Table 3-5, Census Tract 9662 and the City of Nogales have minority populations ranging from 97.1 percent in Census Tract 9662, where the Preferred Alternative located, to 96.8 percent for the entire City of Nogales. Poverty rates are lower in Census Tract 9662 (25.9 percent) than in the City of Nogales (33.9 percent), but higher than the rates in Santa Cruz County (24.0 percent).

Protection of Children

EO 13045 requires each Federal agency “to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children” and “ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” This EO was prompted by the recognition that children, still undergoing physiological growth and development, are more sensitive to adverse environmental health and safety risks than adults. The potential for impacts on the health and safety of children is greater where projects are located near residential areas.

3.9.1 Alternative 1: Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the renovated CPC would be located in an existing 80,000 square-foot warehouse facility within the Nogales Border Patrol Station, which is located on developed land. CBP’s mission and objectives require that they operate within close proximity to the U.S. - Mexico International Border, often in communities that have higher percentages of minority population than the U.S. average due to their proximity to the U.S. - Mexico International

Border. Santa Cruz County has a much higher minority population and a higher population living in poverty than Arizona and the U.S. as a whole (see Table 3-5). The Census tract for the communities surrounding the proposed CPC location contains similar or even smaller percentages of minority and low-income populations than the City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County; therefore, the proposed CPC location would not disproportionately affect these communities.

The closest residences to the proposed CPC location are located approximately 0.5-mile to the northeast and southeast of the site. These communities are not likely to be temporarily affected during the construction phase with negligible increases in noise, traffic, and emissions due to the construction activities. With homes present more than 0.65 miles from the proposed CPC location, the Proposed Action would not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations. There would be no environmental health or safety risks that disproportionately affect children.

3.9.2 Alternative 2: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed CPC would not be renovated. There would be no impacts on the local population, so there would be no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low income populations. There would be no environmental health or safety risks that could disproportionately affect children.

4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This section of the EA defines cumulative impacts, identifies past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects relevant to cumulative impacts, and analyzes the potential cumulative impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action and other projects/programs planned within the ROI, which comprises the USBP Nogales Station's AOR.

4.1 DEFINITION OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The CEQ defines cumulative impacts as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time by various agencies (Federal, state, or local) or individuals. CEQ guidance on cumulative effects requires the definition of the scope of the other actions and their interrelationship with the Proposed Action (CEQ 1997). The scope must consider geographic and temporal overlaps with the Proposed Action and all other actions occurring within the ROI. Informed decision making is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from activities that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future.

This cumulative impacts analysis summarizes expected environmental effects from the combined impacts of past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future activities affecting any part of the human or natural environment impacted by the Proposed Action. Activities were identified for this analysis by reviewing CBP and USBP documents, news/press releases, and published media reports, and through consultation with planning and engineering departments of local governments, and state and Federal agencies.

4.2 PAST IMPACTS WITHIN THE REGION OF INFLUENCE

The ecosystems within the ROI have been significantly impacted by historical and ongoing activities such as ranching, livestock grazing, mining, agricultural development, cross-border violator activity, and climate change. All of these actions have, to a greater or lesser extent, contributed to several ongoing threats to the ecosystem, including loss and degradation of habitat for both common and rare wildlife and plants and the proliferation of roads and trails. Although activities that occurred on Federal lands (U.S. Department of the Interior [DOI]) were regulated by NEPA, the most substantial impacts of these activities within the ROI such as ranching, livestock grazing, and cross-border violator activity, were not or are not regulated by NEPA and did not include efforts to minimize impacts.

4.3 CURRENT AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE CBP PROJECTS WITHIN AND NEAR THE REGION OF INFLUENCE

USBP has conducted law enforcement actions along the U.S.-Mexico International Border since its inception in 1924 and has continuously transformed its methods as new missions, modes of operations of cross-border violators, agent needs, and National enforcement strategies have evolved. Development and maintenance of training ranges, station and sector facilities,

detention facilities, roads, and fences have impacted thousands of acres, with synergistic and cumulative impacts on soil, wildlife habitats, water quality, and noise. Beneficial effects, too, have resulted from the construction and use of these roads and fences, including, but not limited to: increased employment and income for border regions and its surrounding communities, protection and enhancement of sensitive resources north of the border, reduction in crime within urban areas near the border, increased land value in areas where border security has increased, and increased knowledge of the biological communities and prehistory of the region through numerous biological and cultural resources surveys and studies.

With continued funding and implementation of CBP's environmental conservation measures, including use of biological monitors, wildlife water systems, and restoration activities, adverse impacts due to future and ongoing projects would be avoided or minimized. Recent, ongoing, and reasonably foreseeable proposed actions would result in cumulative impacts; however, the cumulative impacts would not be significant. CBP is currently planning, conducting, or has completed several projects in the USBP Nogales Station AOR and other nearby areas and include the following:

- Zone 20 road improvements
- Camp Grip Forward Operation Base (FOB) expansion on the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Ajo Station
- Libby Airfield Expansion
- Vamori Wash improvements on the Tohono O'odham Nation
- Baboquivari Road improvements, Tucson Sector
- Border Wall: As part of this or future administrations, DHS/CBP may construct additional border walls in the USBP Tucson Sector AOR.

In addition, the ADOT is currently planning or conducting several projects in the ROI. In 2018, ADOT initiated a project to widen the lanes, install new ramps and roundabouts, and improve traffic signals along State Route 189 (Mariposa Road) from Grand Avenue to the U.S. Mexico International Border.

A summary of the anticipated cumulative impacts relative to the Proposed Action is presented below. The discussion is presented for each of the resources described previously.

4.4 ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impacts on each resource were analyzed according to how other actions and projects within the ROI might be affected by the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action. Impacts can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis the intensity of impacts will be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. These intensity thresholds were previously defined in Section 3.1. A summary of the anticipated cumulative impacts on each resource is presented below.

4.4.1 Groundwater, Surface Water, Waters of the United States, and Floodplains

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts on water resources would occur because the construction activities would not occur. Limited groundwater withdrawals are expected as a

result of the Proposed Action; therefore, there would be minimal cumulative effects. Drainage patterns of surface waters would not be impacted by the Proposed Action as none exists within or near the project site. Water quality would remain unchanged under the Proposed Action. No wetlands exist within the project site; therefore, no cumulative impacts would occur on wetlands. Therefore, the Proposed Action, in conjunction with other past, ongoing, and proposed regional projects, would not create a major cumulative effect on water resources in the region.

4.4.2 Air Quality

No direct impacts on air quality would occur due to construction activities under the No Action Alternative. The emissions generated during the construction of the Proposed Action would not exceed Federal *de minimis* thresholds and would be short-term and minor. Therefore, the Proposed Action, when combined with other past, ongoing, and proposed actions in the region, would not result in major adverse cumulative impacts on air quality.

4.4.3 Noise

A major impact would occur if ambient noise levels permanently increased to over 65 dBA. Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts on noise would occur as no construction activities would take place. The noise generated by the Proposed Action would occur during CPC construction. These activities would be temporary and would not contribute to cumulative impacts on ambient noise levels. Thus, the noise generated by the Proposed Action, when considered with the other existing and proposed actions in the region, would not result in a major cumulative adverse effect.

4.4.4 Utilities and Infrastructure

Actions would be considered to cause major impacts if they require greater utilities or infrastructure use than can be provided. The proposed CPC would not be renovated under the No Action Alternative, so the availability of utilities would not be affected. The proposed CPC would connect to existing commercial grid power infrastructure. The use of commercial grid power would not require greater utilities or infrastructure than can be provided since there is existing commercial grid power infrastructure at the project site. Therefore, when combined with past, ongoing, or proposed actions in the region, no major cumulative adverse effect on utilities or infrastructure would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.4.5 Roadways and Traffic

Impacts on traffic and roadways would be considered to cause major impacts if the increase of average daily traffic exceeded the ability of the surface streets to offer a suitable level of service for the area. Under the No Action Alternative, impacts on roadways and traffic would remain status quo. Construction activities for the Proposed Action would be limited in duration and the increase in personnel and transport vehicles would minimally impact traffic; therefore, when combined with past, ongoing, or proposed actions in the region, no major cumulative adverse effect on roadways and traffic would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.4.6 Hazardous Materials

Major impacts would occur if an action creates a public hazard, if the project area is considered a hazardous waste site that poses health risks, or if the action would impair the implementation of an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Under the No Action Alternative, no

impacts associated with the use of hazardous materials would be expected. Only temporary, minor increases in the use of hazardous substances would occur as a result of the Proposed Action. BMPs would be implemented to minimize the risk from hazardous materials during construction activities. Through the use of BMPs, no health or safety risks would be created by the Proposed Action. The effects of the Proposed Action, when combined with other past, ongoing, and proposed actions in the region, would not be considered a major cumulative effect.

4.4.7 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

No impacts on socioeconomics or environmental justice would occur under the No Action Alternative. No adverse direct impacts would occur on socioeconomics or environmental justice issues as a result of the Proposed Action; therefore, no adverse cumulative impacts would occur. However, renovation of the proposed CPC could have temporary cumulative beneficial impacts on the region's economy due to temporary employment and sales taxes generated through the purchase of construction-related items such as fuel and food. When combined with the other currently proposed or ongoing projects within the region, the Proposed Action is considered to have minor beneficial cumulative impacts.

5.0 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This chapter describes those measures that will be implemented to reduce or eliminate potential adverse impacts on the human and natural environments. Many of these measures have been incorporated as standard operating procedures by CBP on past projects. BMPs will be presented for each resource category that would be potentially affected. It should be emphasized that these are general BMPs and the development of specific BMPs will be required for certain activities implemented under the action alternative. The proposed BMPs will be coordinated through the appropriate agencies and land managers/administrators, as required.

It is Federal policy to reduce adverse impacts through the sequence of avoidance, minimization, and, finally, compensation. Compensation varies and includes activities such as restoration of habitat in other areas, acquisition of lands, etc., and is typically coordinated with the appropriate Federal and/or state resource agencies.

5.1 GENERAL PROJECT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Avoid lighting impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only.
2. CBP will avoid the spread of non-native plants by not using natural materials (e.g., straw) for on-site erosion control. If natural materials must be used, the natural material would be certified weed and weed-seed free.
3. CBP will ensure that all construction will follow DHS *Directive 025-01* for Sustainable Practices for Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management.
4. CBP will place drip pans under parked equipment and establish containment zones when refueling vehicles or equipment.

5.2 AIR QUALITY

1. All construction equipment and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions.

5.3 WATER RESOURCES

1. Wastewater is to be stored in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. Wastewater is water used for project purposes that is contaminated with construction materials or from cleaning equipment and thus carries oils or other toxic materials or other contaminants as defined by Federal and/or state regulations.
2. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by collecting concrete wash water in open containers and disposing of it off-site.

3. Avoid contaminating natural aquatic and wetland systems with runoff by limiting all equipment maintenance, staging, and laydown and dispensing hazardous liquids, such as fuel and oil, to designated upland areas.
4. If soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater and solids must be pumped or cleaned out and disposed of in an approved facility. If no soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater must first be filtered or screened to remove solids before being allowed to flow off-site. Detergents and cleaning solutions must not be sprayed over or discharged into surface waters.

5.4 NOISE

1. Avoid noise impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only.
2. All Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements will be followed. To lessen noise impacts on the local wildlife communities, construction will only occur during daylight hours. All motor vehicles will be properly maintained to reduce the potential for vehicle-related noise.

5.5 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

6. BMPs will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all construction activities, and will include proper handling, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous and/or regulated materials. To minimize potential impacts from hazardous and regulated materials, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein. The refueling of machinery (i.e., generator) will be completed in accordance with accepted industry and regulatory guidelines, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips. Although it is unlikely that a major spill would occur, any spill of reportable quantities will be contained immediately within an earthen dike, and the application of an absorbent (e.g., granular, pillow, sock) will be used to absorb and contain the spill.
7. CBP will contain non-hazardous waste materials and other discarded materials, such as construction waste, until removed from the construction and maintenance sites. This will assist in keeping the project area and surroundings free of litter and reduce the amount of disturbed area needed for waste storage.

8. All waste oil and solvents will be recycled. All non-recyclable hazardous and regulated wastes will be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable Federal, state, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures.
9. Solid waste receptacles will be maintained at the project site. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash and waste construction materials) will be collected and deposited in on-site receptacles. Solid waste will be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor.
10. Disposal of used batteries or other small quantities of hazardous waste will be handled, sorted, maintained, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal and state rules and regulations for the management, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, hazardous waste and universal waste. Additionally, to the extent practicable, all batteries will be recycled locally.

5.6 ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC

1. Construction vehicles will travel and equipment will be transported on established roads with safety precautions.

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7.0 ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
ACS	U.S. Census American Community Survey
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADWR	Arizona Department of Water Resources
AMA	Active Management Area
AOR	Area of Responsibility
AZSHPO	Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH ₄	Methane
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CPC	Central Processing Center
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DNL	Day-night average sound level
DoD	Department of Defense
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GMA	Groundwater Management Act
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NIWTP	Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
O ₃	Ozone
PCPI	Per capita personal income

PM-2.5	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PM-10	Particulate matter less than 10 microns
POE	Port of Entry
ROI	region of Influence
SHQ	Sector Headquarters
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
TEDS	Transport, Escort, Detention, and Search
TPI	Total personal income
USBP	United States Border Patrol
U.S.C.	United States Code
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USIBWC	United States International Boundary and Water Commission

**APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE**

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

May 12, 2020

Jeff Humphrey
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9828 North 31st Avenue, Suite C3
Phoenix, AZ 85051

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

The Draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S. Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500 et seq.), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive Number 023-01, Rev.01, and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*.

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Mr. Humphrey

Page 2

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- E-mail to: Mr. John Petrilla, john.p.petrilla@cbp.dhs.gov
- Mail to:
Mr. John Petrilla
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. John Petrilla by telephone at (949) 643-6385 or by e-mail at john.p.petrilla@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Pat Barber
Supervisor
Arizona Game and Fish Department
9140 East 28th Street
Yuma, AZ 85365

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Barber:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

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Mr. Barber

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Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

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Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Edna Mendoza
Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
400 West Congress, Suite 433
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Ms. Mendoza:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

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Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Carlos J. Palacios
County Administrator
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 520
Santa Cruz, AZ 95060

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Palacios:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

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Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Eddie Johnson
City Manager
City of Nogales
777 N. Grand Ave
Nogales, AZ 85621

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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Mr. Johnson

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Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Robert Miguel
Chairman
Ak-Chin Indian Community
42507 West Peters and Nall Road
Maricopa, AZ 85138

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Miguel:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

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Chairman Miguel

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Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Timothy Nuvangyaoma
Chairman
Hopi Tribe
PO Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairman Nuvangyaoma:

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Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Martin Harvier
President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
10005 East Osborn Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85256

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear President Harvier:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

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Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Edward Manuel
Chairman
Tohono O'odham Nation
PO Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

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Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Lori Gooday-Ware
Chairwoman
Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
43187 US Highway 281
Apache, OK 73006

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairwoman Gooday-Ware:

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Chairwoman Gooday-Ware

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Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Terry Rambler
Chairman
San Carlos Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 0
San Carlos, AZ 85550

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairperson Rambler:

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CBP invites your participation in the public review process for the enclosed Draft EA and FONSI. The Draft EA and FONSI will also be available for download from the CBP website at the following URL address: <http://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-cultural-stewardship/nepa-documents/docs-review>. The 30-day public comment period begins on May 15, 2020, and

Chairperson Rambler

Page 2

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- E-mail to: Mr. John Petrilla, john.p.petrilla@cbp.dhs.gov
- Mail to:
Mr. John Petrilla
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. John Petrilla by telephone at (949) 643-6385 or by e-mail at john.p.petrilla@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Jeri DeCola
Chairperson
Tonto Apache Tribe of Arizona
Tonto Apache Reservation #30
Payson, AZ 85541

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairperson DeCola:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

The Draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S. Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500 et seq.), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive Number 023-01, Rev.01, and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*.

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Joseph Zidron
Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

Gwendena Lee-Gatewood
Chairwoman
White Mountain Apache Tribe
201 East Walnut Street
Whiteriver, AZ 85941

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Chairwoman Lee-Gatewood:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to provide the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) addressing the proposed renovation and operation of the Nogales United States Border Patrol (USBP) Station's Central Processing Center (CPC) in Nogales, Arizona.

The Draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 U.S. Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500 et seq.), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive Number 023-01, Rev.01, and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*.

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Sincerely,



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Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief
Border Patrol & Air and Marine
Program Management Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229



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

May 12, 2020

James W Cogswell, Ph.D, RPA
Archaeological Compliance Specialist
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
1100 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovated Central Processing Center, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Arizona, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Dear Mr. Cogswell:

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Mr. Cogswell

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