



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

January 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Tucson Sector Proposed Remediation Actions Associated with the Construction of Border Barrier

To Whom It May Concern:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking your input on proposed remediation actions associated with the construction of border barrier in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona, within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Tucson Sector.

As directed by the Secretary of Defense, all border barrier construction projects funded by Department of Defense have been canceled. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been assessing the status and condition of border barrier project sites and working closely with the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service to determine the scope and extent of remediation work. More information is included in the enclosed Tucson Sector Remediation Plan and the following: <https://bit.ly/3pR6sN8>. You can also access the link using the QR code below:



DHS intends to prioritize funding on those remediation projects that are needed to address life and safety, including the protection of the public, USBP agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further environmental damage or degradation.

CBP would like your feedback on the Tucson Sector Remediation Plan. Specifically, CBP is seeking input and information to the following questions:

- Are there any other immediate actions that are needed to address life and safety issues, including the protection of the public, USBP agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further environmental damage or degradation as a result of border barrier construction since 2019?
- What are the highest priority actions?
- Are there best practices the remediation contractor should follow when implementing these activities?

CBP is accepting comments until February 3, 2022. Comments can be submitted on the StoryMap at <https://bit.ly/3pR6sN8> or emailed to CBP at TucsonComments@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include "Tucson Remediation Plan Comments" in the subject of your email. Comments

received in by CBP, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become a part of the public record.

You may also provide comments, questions, or concerns by calling 1-800-514-0638 or by mail:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039
Washington, D.C. 20229-1100

We appreciate your feedback and help with prioritizing potential remediation activities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul Enriquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Enriquez" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Enriquez
Real Estate and Environmental Director
Infrastructure Portfolio
Program Management Office Directorate
U.S. Border Patrol



Tucson Sector Border Barrier Remediation Plan

Background

On June 11, 2021, the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) completed plans for the redirection of funds concerning the southern border barrier, as directed by Presidential Proclamation No. 10142. As directed by those plans, DoD has canceled all undertaken border barrier projects funded by 10 U.S.C. § 284 Counter Narcotics (DoD 284 projects), and DHS will not undertake any new border barrier construction on the former 284 projects.

On December 20, 2021, DHS authorized CBP to move forward with activities necessary to address life, safety, environmental and remediation requirements for the DoD 284 projects. The activities will be undertaken utilizing DHS Fiscal Year 2021 border barrier appropriations.

Since the termination of the DoD 284 projects, DHS has been working to implement the remediation component of its Plan, including assessing the statuses and conditions of the project sites to determine the scope and extent of remediation work. DHS intends to prioritize funding on those remediation projects needed to address life and safety, including the protection of the public, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further potential environmental damage or degradation. This plan summarizes the remediation activities anticipated in the USBP's Tucson Sector.

Project Location

There are 19 project segments, totaling 137 miles of border barrier, located in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona, within the Tucson Sector. An overview of the DoD 284 project segments can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3pR6sN8>.

Proposed Activities

In the USBP Tucson Sector project segments, the proposed life, safety, environmental and remediation activities will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Erosion control measures: Short- and long-term erosion control measures will include installation of rip rap and other embankment/slope stabilization along slopes and drainages. For example, former staging area in Pajarito Mountains will be stabilized using erosion control mats and stormwater prevention berms.
2. Completion of safety work on border and access roads: Safety work will include slope paving and associated erosion control in areas with steep slopes. Roads through Federal lands will be repaired or restored in accordance with previously established agreements with Federal land managers. CBP will work with USBP and other relevant agencies to determine which construction roads should be retained and which should be decommissioned.
3. Revegetation of disturbed areas: Remediation will include reseeding staging areas and vehicle turn-arounds in accordance with specifications provided by Federal land managers.
4. Drainage completion and/or repair: Drainage crossings will be protected by appropriate measures, such as but not limited to articulated concrete block, concrete pavement, inlets/outlets, culverts, roadside ditches, debris posts, or a combination thereof.
5. Implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Best Management Practices: Activities will include removal of sediment from drainages, removal of temporary structures from waterways, and installation of wattles and silt fencing to prevent accumulation of sediment in waterways.
6. Bridge construction completion: Bridge construction will be completed at San Pedro River, Black Draw, Silver Creek, and Hay Hollow to ensure safe use of the bridge and operation of associated drainage gates.
7. Installation of cattle fencing and cattle guards: Cattle fencing will be installed on the north side of



the border patrol road and in areas where it has been removed or damaged during construction. Cattle guards will be repaired or installed throughout the construction site to prevent the movement of cattle between allotments.

8. Gap closure and gate installation: Automated vehicle gates and associated foundation work will be completed and repaired. Incomplete gates create a security vulnerability to agent safety and, without a complete operable gate providing close ingress or egress, Border Patrol agents are unable to leave and/or respond to threats. In addition, completion of the top lifts of concrete on vehicle gate foundations will be needed.
9. Installation of small wildlife passages: Small wildlife passages, approximately 8.5" x 11", will be cut within the existing bollard barrier throughout the project areas as identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agency partners.
10. Backfilling and grading of retention ponds: Retention ponds across the project areas will be filled so drainage is restored to its natural flow path.

More detailed information concerning the proposed remediation activities, including proposed project locations, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3pR6sN8>.

Proposed Schedule

Beginning in January 2022, CBP will hold a 30-day comment period to collect input and information from the public on this Tucson Sector Remediation Plan. Feedback from the public will be reviewed and incorporated into direction to the contractors or formal contract modifications. Following the comment period, CBP will award remediation contracts and work is estimated to begin as soon as 30-60 days following awards. It is anticipated that remediation work will take approximately 12-28 months. 🌟