



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

Steve Spangle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road
Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4951

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Mr. Spangle:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the above referenced document. The 30-day review period begins on September 11, 2009 and ends on October 10, 2009. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has prepared the draft EA to identify and assess the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication towers; vehicles; supporting infrastructure components; and technological improvements to existing facilities for CBP along approximately 30 miles of the U.S./Mexico international border, within the Tucson Sector, Arizona (the Proposed Action).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide the most efficient technologies to CBP personnel to assist in their mission of securing the Nation's borders. This technology provides 24-hour, year-round surveillance capability via sensors guided by a command and control system that monitors the border continuously, enabling US Border Patrol (USBP) agents to detect, identify and classify illegal entry attempts into the United States. With the accurate information from this technology, USBP agents have more options about how and when they will respond to incursions.

The draft EA was prepared in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as amended (42 United State Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500 et seq., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 023-01, Environmental Planning Program*.

CBP invites your participation in this public process. Comments must be received by October 10, 2009. When submitting your comments, please include name and address, and identify comments as intended for the Ajo-1 Draft EA and Propose FONSI. Comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them, can be submitted by:

- (a) E-mail to: TUCOP@cbp.dhs.gov
- (b) By mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, SBInet Program Management Office, 1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090, Arlington, VA 20598
- (c) By fax to: (225) 761-8077, Attention: Mr. Howard Nass

Your prompt attention to this request is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Patterson via E-mail or the postal address listed above.

Sincerely,



for James Riordan
Executive Program Director, SBInet

Enclosure(s)



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

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region (Region 2)
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-1306

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBI^{net} Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Dr. Tuggle:

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jr James Riordan
Executive Program Director, *SBI*net

Enclosure(s)



**U.S. Customs and
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Mitch Ellis
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
2321 West Royal Palm Road
Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021-4915

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Mr. Ellis:

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Sincerely,



for James Riordan
Executive Program Director, SBInet

Enclosure(s)



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

Steve Owens
Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Mr. Owens:

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 James Riordan
Executive Program Director, SBInet

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**U.S. Customs and
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James Garrison
State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks
Attn: Ms. JoAnne Medley
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Mr. Garrison:

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for James Riordan
Executive Program Director, SBInet

Enclosure(s)



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

Nina Siqueiros
Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs
BIA Agency, Circle Drive
Sells, Arizona 85634

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed *SBlnet* Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Ms. Siqueiros:

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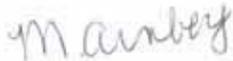
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 James Riordan
Executive Program Director, SBInet

Enclosure(s)



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

Chairperson Delia Carlisle
Ak-Chin Indian Community Council
Attn: Ms. Caroline Anton, Cultural Resource Manager
Ak-Chin Him Dak Eco Museum & Archives
47685 North Eco Museum Road
Maricopa, Arizona 85239

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Chairperson Carlisle:

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Executive Program Director, *SBI*net

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

Chairperson Sherry Cordova
Cocopah Tribal Council
Attn: Lisa Wanstall, Museum Director
Cocopah Museum
County 15th and Avenue G
Somerton, Arizona 85350

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Chairperson Cordova:

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Enclosure(s)



Tohono O'odham Community College Library
Central Campus
Building 400, Room 402
Attention: Librarian
Highway 86 Mile Post 115.5N
Sells, Arizona 85634

Subject: Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed SBInet Ajo-1 Tower Project, Ajo Station's Area of Responsibility, U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona

Dear Librarian:

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In support of the Secure Border Initiative program, on September 11, 2009, CBP is publishing a Notice of Availability for the draft EA. The draft EA identifies and assesses the potential impacts associated with the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communications towers, vehicles, supporting infrastructure components, and technological improvements to existing facilities within the Tucson Sector. The location for the Proposed Action is along approximately 30 miles of the U.S./Mexico international border within the Tucson Sector, Arizona.

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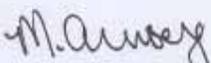
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Executive Program Manager, *SBI*net

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**U.S. Customs and
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Phoenix Public Library
Attention: Librarian
1221 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004

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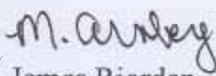
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Pima County Public Library
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Ajo Branch
33 Plaza
Ajo, Arizona 85321

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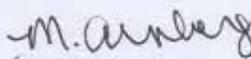
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Pima County Public Library
Joel D. Valdez Main Library
Attention: Librarian
101 N. Stone Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85701

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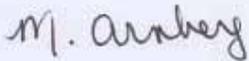
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- (b) E-mailing a request to TUCCOP@cbp.dhs.gov
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- (d) Faxing a request to (225) 761-8077, Attn: Mr. Howard Nass

Public comments on the enclosed documents, or questions about them can be submitted by:

- (a) E-mail to: TUCCOP@cbp.dhs.com
- (b) By mail to: Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *SBI*net Program Management Office, 1901 S. Bell Street, Room 7-090, Arlington, VA 20598
- (c) By fax to: (225) 761-8077, Attn: Mr. Howard Nass

I appreciate your assistance with our efforts to invite public involvement in our decision making process.

Sincerely,



 James Riordan
Executive Program Manager, *SBI*net

Enclosure(s)

Eligibility determinations
No adverse effect

June 24, 2009

James Riordan, Executive Program Director
Secure Border Initiative
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20229

RE: Proposed Tower Installations within Organ Pipe Cactus Monument); CBP
SHPO-2008-1056 (40004)

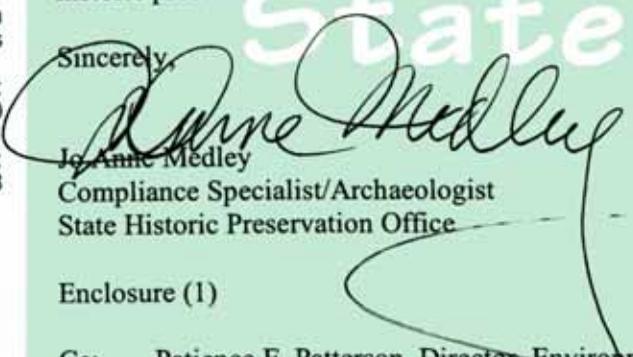
Dear Mr. Riordan:

Thank you for continuing to consult with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800 regarding the above referenced tower project. William Collins, Historian, and I have the following comments based on documentation submitted.

1. We concur with your "unevaluated" determinations as listed in the enclosure with your letter (Enclosure #1) because the documentation provided in the survey report is not sufficient to support eligibility determinations for those properties.
2. We concur with eligibility determinations as listed in the enclosure to your letter (Enclosure #1), with two exceptions: AZ Z:13:127(ASM) and SON C:1:71(ASM).
3. We do not concur with the recommendation that the historic components of AZ A:13:127(ASM) are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A. The statement of the property's historic context relates that this property was a short-term use of land in a manner inappropriate to the area's climate and water resources. It is not associated with the broad pattern of historic usage (cattle raising) that was important in the region's development. It fails to meet to National Register's criteria for association with *important* aspects of local history.
4. We do not concur with the recommendation that the prehistoric components of SON C:1:71(ASM) are not eligible for listing in the NRHP. It is our opinion that the earthen berms are prehistoric water control features and that the site is NRHP eligible under Criterion D.
5. **We concur that the avoidance and archaeological monitoring measures that will be implemented during construction and installation are sufficient to support the finding of no adverse effect for the undertaking.**

We appreciate your continuing cooperation with our office in complying with the requirements of historic preservation.

Sincerely,


Jo Anne Medley
Compliance Specialist/Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosure (1)

Cc: Patience E. Patterson, Director, Environmental Planning, SBInet, Washington, DC



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

State Parks
Board Members

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Tucson

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Jamie Hogue
Acting State Land
Commissioner

Renée E. Bahl
Executive Director

Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Tel & TTY: 602.542.4174
AZStateParks.com

800.285.3703 from
(520 & 928) area codes

General Fax:
602.542.4180

Director's Office Fax:
602.542.4188



Table – Summary of findings, project effects and management recommendations

Archaeological Site	Component Description	Potential Effect	NRHP Recommendation	Management Recommendation	Associated Tower
SON B:4:32(ASM)	Prehistoric (artifacts/features)	No adverse effect	Eligible	Avoidance, archaeological monitoring during construction	TCA-AJO-003
→ AZ Z:13:127(ASM) Armenta Ranch	Historic (ranch property) Prehistoric (artifacts/features)	No adverse effect No effect	Eligible NOT ELIGIBLE Unevaluated	Avoidance; use Bates Well Road to access tower location	TCA-AJO-004
SON C:1:63(ASM)	Prehistoric (artifacts)	No adverse effect	Eligible	Avoidance, archaeological monitoring during construction	TCA-AJO-310
SON C:1:64(ASM)	Historic (erosion control) Prehistoric (artifacts/feature)	No effect No adverse effect	Unevaluated Eligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:65(ASM)	Historic (erosion control) Prehistoric (artifacts/feature)	No effect No adverse effect	Unevaluated Eligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:66(ASM)	Prehistoric (artifacts/features)	No adverse effect	Eligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:67(ASM)	Historic (erosion control) Prehistoric (artifacts/features)	No effect No adverse effect	Unevaluated Eligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:68(ASM)	Prehistoric (artifacts/features)	No adverse effect	Eligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:69(ASM)	Prehistoric (artifacts/feature)	No effect	Ineligible	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:70(ASM)	Historic (erosion control) Prehistoric (artifacts)	No effect No adverse effect	Unevaluated Unevaluated	Avoidance, tower location rejected	TCA-AJO-008
SON C:1:71(ASM)	Historic (erosion control) Prehistoric (artifacts) <i>deserve</i>	No effect No effect	Unevaluated Ineligible DELIGIBLE	Archaeological monitoring during construction	TCA-AJO-310
→ No CR Site on CPNWR tower site	N/A	None	No Historic Properties Affected	No Historic Properties Affected	TCA-AJO-189



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

March 10, 2009

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

James Riordan
Executive Program Director
SBInet
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20229

Subject: Proposed Environmental Assessment for the SBInet Ajo-1 Project deployment, Border Patrol Tucson Sector

Dear Mr. Riordan:

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed environmental assessment (EA) for the Secure Border Initiative (SBInet) Ajo-1 Project. As we understand the project, you propose to develop and implement technology and tactical infrastructure that will help the Tucson Sector Border Patrol secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. The goal is to design, develop, and deploy technology-based solutions to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in the area between Why and Lukeville, Arizona.

The following comments are provided for your perusal. The USIBWC has a duty to access, maintain, and utilize the international boundary monuments along the United States/Mexico international land boundary. The USIBWC is charged with these duties through treaties and international agreements between the United States and Mexico. In addition, any proposed construction must allow for line-of-sight visibility between each of the boundary monuments. The USIBWC requires that engineering drawings be submitted to the USIBWC for review and approval prior to beginning any construction near the international boundary. These drawings must show the location of each component in relation to the international boundary and the boundary monuments.

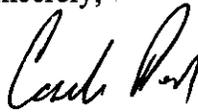
The USIBWC requests that proposed construction activities be accomplished in a manner that does not change historic surface runoff characteristics at the international border. The USIBWC will not approve any construction near the international boundary in the United States that increases, concentrates, or relocates overland drainage flows into either country. This requirement is intended to ensure that developments in one country will not cause damage to lands or resources in the other country. The USIBWC will need copies of any hydrological or hydraulic studies and site specific drawings for work proposed in the vicinity of the international boundary, particularly if new roads, pad sites or other structures are to be constructed in any drainage courses that cross the boundary. We will also require that you ensure that structures

constructed along the border are maintained in an adequate manner and that liability issues created by these structures are addressed.

Once the proposed infrastructure projects are better defined, we recommend that project specific details be submitted for review and comment by the USIBWC. The USIBWC has designated Mr. Brad Sargent, Realty Officer, Boundary and Realty Division as the agency single point of contact for all DHS border fence and other border security projects. Any future correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Sargent at the letterhead address. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call me at (915) 832-4740 or contact Mr. Sargent at (915) 832-4139.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call me at (915) 832-4740, or contact me via email at carlospena@ibwc.gov.

Sincerely,



Carlos Peña, Jr. P.E.
Division Engineer
Environmental Management Division



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 771-2300 • www.azdeq.gov



Patrick J. Cunningham
Acting Director

March 11, 2009

Mr. James Riordan
Attn. Ms. Patience Patterson
Room # 7.5C-104
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20229

SENT VIA E-MAIL: patience.patterson@dhs.gov

Re: Proposed Environmental Assessment for SBInet Ajo-1 Project deployment, Border Patrol Tucson Sector

Dear Mr. Riordan:

Thank you for your February 18, 2009 request for comments regarding the proposed environmental assessment on constructing, operating, and maintaining up to twelve sensor and communication systems, and associated access roads. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Division (ADEQ) appreciates the opportunity to assist in the review of these projects. With the information provided, ADEQ would like to make you aware of some water quality issues that may need to be considered in this proposed environmental assessment.

Stormwater discharges associated with construction activities (clearing, grading, or excavating) which disturb one acre or more must obtain a general permit for coverage of stormwater discharges under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System's Construction General Permit. Permit coverage also is required for construction activities that will disturb less than one acre of land but the project is part of a larger common plan of development or sale and the entire project will ultimately disturb one or more acres. As part of permit coverage, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be prepared, and implemented during the course of construction. The SWPPP must comply with ADEQ's Construction General Permit's SWPPP requirements, and must identify such elements as the project scope, anticipated acreage of land disturbance, and the best management practices (BMPs) that would be implemented to reduce soil erosion and contain and/or minimize the pollutants that might be released to waters of the U.S. In addition to preparing the SWPPP, the project proponent would need to file for permit coverage. The Construction General Permit, SWPPP checklist, and associated forms are available on ADEQ's website at:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/stormwater.html#const>. If you have questions, please contact Chris Henninger in our Stormwater and General Permits Unit at (602) 771-4508 or by e-mail at cph@azdeq.gov.

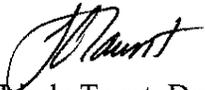
Northern Regional Office
1801 W. Route 66 • Suite 117 • Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928) 779-0313

Southern Regional Office
400 West Congress Street • Suite 433 • Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 628-6733

Your letter does not indicate the acreage of land disturbance for this project. If the applicable amount of land disturbance will occur, such as with constructing access roads, the EA should address the SWPPP, which must be prepared and implemented during the course of construction.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments. If you need further information, please contact Wendy LeStarge of my staff at 602.771.4836 or via e-mail at w11@azdeq.gov, or myself at 602.771.4416 or via e-mail at lc1@azdeq.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Taunt".

Linda Taunt, Deputy Director
Water Quality Division



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5000 W. CAREFREE HIGHWAY
PHOENIX, AZ 85086-5000
(602) 942-3000 • WWW.AZGFD.GOV

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March 18, 2009

Ms. Patience E. Patterson, RPA
US Department of Homeland Security
SBIInet Program Management Office
US Customs and Border Protection, Headquarters
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Room 7.5B
Washington, DC 20229

Re: Proposed Environmental Assessment for the SBIInet Ajo-1 Project Deployment, Border Patrol Tucson Sector, Arizona.

Dear Ms. Patterson:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of sensor and communication systems and their associated access roads along the US/Mexico border, Tucson Sector, Arizona. The Department understands the proposed action would include approximately 12 fixed, sensor and communication towers and associated access roads.

The Department supports the efforts of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the reduction of illegal traffic along the border where illegal traffic can be reduced as a result of project activities. However, the Department believes the loss or degradation of habitat for ESA-listed and other wildlife species should be mitigated by implementing local or regional habitat improvements and/or providing funding for state and federal wildlife management and monitoring needs for species affected. The Department has the following recommendations at this time:

1. Water needed for construction activities should be trucked in when practical, and must not directly drain into existing surface waters to prevent potential spread of pathogens, such as chytrid fungus, tiger salamander virus, Asian tapeworm, etc. Use of water from existing livestock tanks and impoundments should be minimized to ensure those resources remain available for livestock and wildlife during dry periods especially during summer months.
2. Tower site TCA-AJO-209 and TCA-AJO-308 are within 1 mile of a maternity roost for lesser long-nosed bat. The construction of the towers should occur outside the breeding season (April through July) to prevent disturbance to the young.

Ms. Patience E. Patterson

March 18, 2009

2

3. Tower sites TCA-AJO-003, 004, 170, 204, 209, 302, 303, 308, and 309 are within known Sonoran pronghorn habitat. The Department requests construction activities do not occur from May through the end of June. This is a critical time period for pronghorn antelope fawning and a restriction on these activities would help reduce adverse impacts on this species. In addition, construction of these towers may contribute to the decline of pronghorn due to habitat loss and degradation which are the primary factors for their decline. The Department also recommends limiting construction of new roads and limit access to minimize impacts to pronghorn and other wildlife.
4. Although the majority of towers are located near existing roads, the roads may need to be improved and some new roads may need to be constructed. An improved road network attracts motorized recreationists which will increase disturbance to all wildlife, increase spread of noxious weeds, provide an enhanced vector for pathogens and introduced predators/competitors, increase direct mortality from motor vehicle collision, and increased exposure to intentional illegal take of wildlife.
5. Staging areas and construction sites should be located in previously disturbed areas and revegetated with native species that approximate pre-disturbance plant community composition or native, as all efforts should be made to minimize impacts on vegetative communities.

Close coordination with the Department on large scale projects such as this is vital to ensure adequate coordination and analysis of impacts to the state's wildlife resources. The Department proposes quarterly meetings with CPB to coordinate on activities which may have an effect on the Department's responsibility to manage wildlife. In doing so, it may be possible to avoid some negative impacts to wildlife while meeting the project needs of the border patrol agencies. The Department appreciates the opportunity to coordinate with and provide comments to the CPB. For further coordination or if you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (623) 236-7606.

Sincerely,



Ginger Ritter

Project Evaluation Program Specialist, Habitat Branch

cc: Laura Canaca, Project Evaluation Program Supervisor
Joan Scott, Habitat Program Manager, Region V

AGFD # M09-02193846

Special Status Species within 3 Miles of SBInet Ajo-1 Project

NAME	COMMON NAME	ESA	USFS	BLM	STATE
<i>Anthocharis cethura</i>	Felder's Orange Tip		S		
<i>Antilocapra americana sonoriensis</i>	Sonoran Pronghorn	LE	S		WSC
<i>Aspidoscelis xanthonota</i>	Redback Whiptail	SC	S		
Bat Colony					
<i>CH for Cyprinodon eremus</i>	Designated Critical Habitat for desert pupfish				
<i>Charina trivirgata trivirgata</i>	Mexican Rosy Boa	SC		S	
<i>Chionactis palarostris organica</i>	Organ Pipe Shovel-nosed Snake		S		
<i>Cyprinodon eremus</i>	Quitobaquito Desert Pupfish	LE			WSC
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Greater Western Bonneted Bat	SC			
<i>Eumops underwoodi</i>	Underwood's Bonneted Bat	SC		S	
<i>Ferocactus emoryi</i>	Emory's Barrel-cactus				SR
<i>Gastrophryne olivacea</i>	Great Plains Narrow-mouthed Toad				WSC
<i>Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum</i>	Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl	SC			WSC
<i>Gopherus agassizii (Sonoran Population)</i>	Sonoran Desert Tortoise	SC			WSC
<i>Kinosternon sonoriense longifemorale</i>	Sonoyta Mud Turtle	C	S		
<i>Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuena</i>	Lesser Long-nosed Bat	LE	S		WSC
<i>Lophocereus schottii</i>	Senita				SR
<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	California Leaf-nosed Bat	SC			WSC
<i>Myotis velifer</i>	Cave Myotis	SC		S	
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	Pocketed Free-tailed Bat			S	
<i>Peniacereus striatus</i>	Dahlia Rooted Cereus				SR
<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Yuma Clapper Rail	LE			WSC
<i>Stenocereus thurberi</i>	Organ Pipe Cactus				SR
<i>Tohono O'odham Nation</i>	Tohono O'odham Nation				
<i>Tryonia quitobaquitae</i>	Quitobaquito Tryonia	SC	S		
<i>Tumamoca maddougallii</i>	Tumamoc Globeberry		S	S	SR
<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>	Tropical Kingbird				WSC

AGFD #M09-02193846. Proposed SBInet Deployment.

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Heritage Data Management System, March 18, 2009.
Project Evaluation Program.



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

Steve Spangle
Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021-4915

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Spangle:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. *SBInet* is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, *SBInet* plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector.

While no final decisions have been made, the proposed action to be described and analyzed in an EA would cover a portion of the United States-Mexico border designated as the Tucson Sector. The sector is comprised of twelve Arizona counties, and contains eight Border Patrol Stations (Ajo, Casa Grande, Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sonoita, Tucson, and Wilcox). The Sector is divided into three geographic operational corridors.

The Douglas/Naco corridor is adjacent to the New Mexico state line. The San Bernadino Valley is bordered on the east by the Guadalupe and Peloncillo Mountain ranges and to the west by the Chiricahua Mountains, within the Coronado National Forest. The San Pedro Valley is in the western portion of the Douglas-Naco Corridor. The San Pedro Valley's eastern border is the Dragoon and Mule Mountain ranges. To the southwest are the Huachuca Mountains (adjacent to the Mexican border) and to the west are the Whetstone Mountains.

The Nogales corridor encompasses the Sonoita and Nogales Border Patrol Station areas of operation. A significant amount of illegal alien traffic attempts to enter the United States through this corridor.

The West Desert corridor consists of the Ajo, Tucson, and Casa Grande Border Patrol Stations and begins 18 miles east of the Sasabe Port of Entry and heads west to the Tucson county line. The West Desert corridor also encompasses Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. To the south of the West Desert corridor lies Altar, Sonora, Mexico. An existing infrastructure of ranch roads leading north to or near the international boundary line makes this area attractive to illegal entrants (IE).

SBI-net's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of IEs in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operating.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in the Tucson Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the Tucson Sector. Illegal cross-border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of Illegal cross-border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site

Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and other environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion around Fall 2007. Pending acquisition of all required permits and approvals, construction initiation is planned for late 2007 and is expected to continue for approximately 12 months.

SBI^{net} is seeking input from your organization regarding this proposed action to alleviate illegal border activities. SBI^{net} is currently gathering data and input from state and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. Since your agency may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding potential environmental impacts from SBI^{net}'s proposed action, your input and commentary are sought regarding the likely or anticipated environmental effects of this proposed action in and around the proposed project areas described above. Your response to this solicitation for input should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which SBI^{net} would have to comply during project siting, construction, and operation.

SBI^{net} intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI^{net}



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

James Garrison
Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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SBlnet's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of IEs in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operating.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in the Tucson Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the Tucson Sector. Illegal cross-border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of Illegal cross-border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site

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SBI*net* intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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- Recreational Resources
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- Air Resources/Air Quality
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- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



for Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Jo Anne Medley
Compliance Specialist/Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Officer
Arizona State Parks
1300 Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Ms. Medley:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBI^{net} Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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While no final decisions have been made, the proposed action to be described and analyzed in an EA would cover a portion of the United States-Mexico border designated as the Tucson Sector. The sector is comprised of twelve Arizona counties, and contains eight Border Patrol Stations (Ajo, Casa Grande, Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sonoita, Tucson, and Wilcox). The Sector is divided into three geographic operational corridors.

The Douglas/Naco corridor is adjacent to the New Mexico state line. The San Bernadino Valley is bordered on the east by the Guadalupe and Peloncillo Mountain ranges and to the west by the Chiricahua Mountains, within the Coronado National Forest. The San Pedro Valley is in the western portion of the Douglas-Naco Corridor. The San Pedro Valley's eastern border is the Dragoon and Mule Mountain ranges. To the southwest are the Huachuca Mountains (adjacent to the Mexican border) and to the west are the Whetstone Mountains.

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SBlnet's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of IEs in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operating.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in the Tucson Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the Tucson Sector. Illegal cross-border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of Illegal cross-border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

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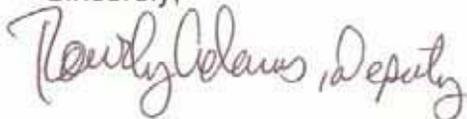
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Sincerely,



for Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Mr. Keith L. Graves
Nogales District Ranger
Coronado National Forest
303 Old Tucson Road
Nogales, AZ 85621

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Graves:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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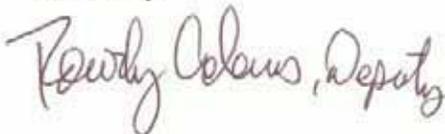
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Sincerely,



for Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Martin:

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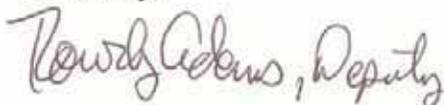
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Sincerely,



Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Marjorie Blaine
US Army Corps of Engineers
5205 E. Comanche St.
Davis Monthan AFB, AZ 85707

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Ms. Blaine:

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Sincerely,



 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Manuel Rubio
International Boundary Water Commission
4171 North Mesa Street
Suite C100
El Paso, TX 79902

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Rubio:

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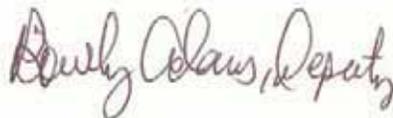
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SBI*net* intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
- Hydrology/Drainage/Water Quality
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Water Resources/Water Quality
- Farmlands
- Noise
- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
- Biological Resources/Protected Species
- Cultural/Archaeological/Historic Resources
- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Mark Winkleman
State Land Commissioner
Arizona State Land Department
1616 West Adams Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Winkleman:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. SBInet is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, SBInet plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector.

While no final decisions have been made, the proposed action to be described and analyzed in an EA would cover a portion of the United States-Mexico border designated as the Tucson Sector. The sector is comprised of twelve Arizona counties, and contains eight Border Patrol Stations (Ajo, Casa Grande, Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sonoita, Tucson, and Wilcox). The Sector is divided into three geographic operational corridors.

The Douglas/Naco corridor is adjacent to the New Mexico state line. The San Bernadino Valley is bordered on the east by the Guadalupe and Peloncillo Mountain ranges and to the west by the Chiricahua Mountains, within the Coronado National Forest. The San Pedro Valley is in the western portion of the Douglas-Naco Corridor. The San Pedro Valley's eastern border is the Dragoon and Mule Mountain ranges. To the southwest are the Huachuca Mountains (adjacent to the Mexican border) and to the west are the Whetstone Mountains.

The Nogales corridor encompasses the Sonoita and Nogales Border Patrol Station areas of operation. A significant amount of illegal alien traffic attempts to enter the United States through this corridor.

The West Desert corridor consists of the Ajo, Tucson, and Casa Grande Border Patrol Stations and begins 18 miles east of the Sasabe Port of Entry and heads west to the Tucson county line. The West Desert corridor also encompasses Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. To the south of the West Desert corridor lies Altar, Sonora, Mexico. An existing infrastructure of ranch roads leading north to or near the international boundary line makes this area attractive to illegal entrants (IE).

SBlnet's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of IEs in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operating.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in the Tucson Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the Tucson Sector. Illegal cross-border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of Illegal cross-border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site

Selection Criteria will be applied to assess site feasibility, analyze frequency availability, and balance it with stakeholder input, engineering assessments, and other environmental factors. The design phase of this proposal is planned for completion around Fall 2007. Pending acquisition of all required permits and approvals, construction initiation is planned for late 2007 and is expected to continue for approximately 12 months.

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- Geology/Soils/Geotechnical concerns
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- Floodplains
- Wetlands
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- Visual Quality
- Recreational Resources
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- Vehicular Transportation
- Air Resources/Air Quality
- Radiofrequency Emissions
- Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice
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- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Mitch Ellis
Manager
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
US Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, AZ 85021-4915

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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While no final decisions have been made, the proposed action to be described and analyzed in an EA would cover a portion of the United States-Mexico border designated as the Tucson Sector. The sector is comprised of twelve Arizona counties, and contains eight Border Patrol Stations (Ajo, Casa Grande, Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sonoita, Tucson, and Wilcox). The Sector is divided into three geographic operational corridors.

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- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



for Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Ned Norris
Chairperson
Tohono O'odham Nation
PO Box 837
Sells, AZ 85634

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Norris:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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SBI*net* intends to evaluate the following potential environmental impact areas:

- Land Use and Zoning
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- Visual Quality
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- Energy Use
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Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



for Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Nina Siqueiros
Bureau of Indian Affairs
P.O. Box 578
Sells, AZ 85748

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Ms. Siqueiros:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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ranges and to the west by the Chiricahua Mountains, within the Coronado National Forest. The San Pedro Valley is in the western portion of the Douglas-Naco Corridor. The San Pedro Valley's eastern border is the Dragoon and Mule Mountain ranges. To the southwest are the Huachuca Mountains (adjacent to the Mexican border) and to the west are the Whetstone Mountains.

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Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 West Congress Street, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBInet Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

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- Energy Use
- Utilities Infrastructure

Please submit your comments within 30 days after receipt of this notice. Agencies are requested to indicate their applicable statutory responsibilities in connection with this proposed project when responding. Responses should be sent to: Michael Potter, Project Manager at (202) 344-1928 or Michael.B.Potter@cbp.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Rowdy Adams, Deputy

 Kirk Evans
Program Manager, SBI*net*



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

Patrick Madigan
Field Director, Tucson Field Office
US Bureau of Land Management
12661 E. Broadway Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85748-7208

Re: Request for information in support of an Environmental Assessment for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system near Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Madigan:

The Secure Border Initiative (SBI), SBI^{net} Program Management Office, a program in the Commissioner's Office of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting, construction, and operation of a technology-based border security system that will cover a portion of the international border in Arizona. The EA will be prepared in compliance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. 1500 et seq., and Department of Homeland Security's *Management Directive 5100.1 – Environmental Planning Program*.

SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal immigration. SBI^{net} is the component of SBI that is developing and implementing technology and tactical infrastructure that will secure the border by immediately detecting and identifying border entries, classifying the threat, and implementing effective and efficient resolution. For this proposed action, SBI^{net} plans to design, develop, and deploy a technology-based solution to decrease illegal border activities and deter and prevent illegal entry in the Tucson Border Patrol Sector.

While no final decisions have been made, the proposed action to be described and analyzed in an EA would cover a portion of the United States-Mexico border designated as the Tucson Sector. The sector is comprised of twelve Arizona counties, and contains eight Border Patrol Stations (Ajo, Casa Grande, Douglas, Naco, Nogales, Sonoita, Tucson, and Wilcox). The Sector is divided into three geographic operational corridors.

The Douglas/Naco corridor is adjacent to the New Mexico state line. The San Bernadino Valley is bordered on the east by the Guadalupe and Peloncillo Mountain ranges and to the west by the Chiricahua Mountains, within the Coronado National Forest. The San Pedro Valley is in the western portion of the Douglas-Naco Corridor. The San Pedro Valley's eastern border is the Dragoon and Mule Mountain ranges. To the southwest are the Huachuca Mountains (adjacent to the Mexican border) and to the west are the Whetstone Mountains.

The Nogales corridor encompasses the Sonoita and Nogales Border Patrol Station areas of operation. A significant amount of illegal alien traffic attempts to enter the United States through this corridor.

The West Desert corridor consists of the Ajo, Tucson, and Casa Grande Border Patrol Stations and begins 18 miles east of the Sasabe Port of Entry and heads west to the Tucson county line. The West Desert corridor also encompasses Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. To the south of the West Desert corridor lies Altar, Sonora, Mexico. An existing infrastructure of ranch roads leading north to or near the international boundary line makes this area attractive to illegal entrants (IE).

SBI-net's proposed action would strengthen and support the Border Patrol's enforcement strategies. The technology components (communication towers, ground sensors, cameras, and other electronic surveillance, communication, and detection equipment) that would be a part of this proposed action are intended to supplement and enhance the effectiveness of existing tactical infrastructure such as fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads near the United States – Mexico border. The technologies that would be utilized under this proposed action would enhance apprehension of IEs in the proximity of the border, which may result in a more compact patrol and enforcement area, and could allow for relocation of agents as necessary. The operational effectiveness of the Border Patrol would be enhanced by increased surveillance capabilities once the technologies are installed and operating.

The need for this proposed action is to decrease illegal border activities in the Tucson Sector. Not only does illegal border activity have direct and indirect costs for all U.S. citizens, it has environmental costs as well. IEs have contributed heavily to the destruction of native vegetation and left litter throughout the Tucson Sector. Illegal cross-border activity threatens public lands, destroys historic and cultural structures and artifacts, harms endangered plant and animal species, and adversely affects other sensitive resources. Additionally, vehicles used by smugglers and IEs are abandoned in national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Dealing with the detrimental effects of Illegal cross-border activity is an ever-increasing burden on Federal and State land managers and private landowners.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) of this proposed action will be defined through the identification of a range of areas within which communications towers and supporting technological components may be placed, accounting for radio frequency connectivity requirements between towers, end users, and a central communications location. Site