FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Clardy Fox Pump Station

El Paso, Texas

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated March 2025, for the Clardy Fox Pump Station addresses improvements to the Clardy Fox pump station facility in Southeast El Paso, Texas. The final recommendation is contained in the Environmental Assessment, dated March 2025. The Proposed Action would be conducted under authority of Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. The Proposed Alternative would design and construct improvements to the current Clardy Fox pump station along the border in south central El Paso, TX. The work would enable the pump station to operate up to its designed maximum capacity which could handle runoff from a 100-year flood. The facility is currently operating at less than 50% capacity. Improvements required consist of the installation of three new pumps and pump cans, a new backup generator, relocation of the existing transformer, a new electrical building, and a new fence around the expanded facility.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	☐	☐	☒
Air quality	☒	☐	☐
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Invasive species	☐	☐	☒
Fish and wildlife habitat	☐	☐	☒
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☐	☐	☒
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☐	☐	☒
Floodplains	☒	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Hydrology	☐	☐	☒
Land use	☐	☐	☒
Navigation	☐	☐	☒
Noise levels	☒	☐	☐
Public infrastructure - – Beneficial effect	☐	☐	☒
Socioeconomics	☐	☐	☒
Soils	☐	☐	☒
Tribal trust resources	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☐	☐	☒

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts, including the following:

- If cultural materials are encountered during construction, work would cease in the area. The Texas Historical Commission must be contacted to consult on the preservation of cultural materials.
- During construction activities, erosion controls would be maintained until disturbed areas are stabilized. Best management practices would be developed as part of the required SWPPP and in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations, including Sections 402 and 404 of the CWA and rules established under the 30 TAC (Texas Water Code).
- Standard dust suppression techniques, such as watering of active construction areas, stockpiled material, and cleared areas, as well as limiting unnecessary idling of construction vehicles, limiting unnecessary project-related travel, maintaining vehicles in proper working condition, and shutting down construction machines that are not in use would minimize air quality and noise impacts from construction activities.

- The amount of direct surface disturbance necessary to construct the project would be minimized. Following construction activities, unless otherwise requested by landowners, disturbed areas would be revegetated as soon as possible with an appropriate native plant species seed mixture.
- The removal of shrubs, clearing of Right of Way (ROW), and construction would be conducted outside of the migratory bird breeding season and/or the ROW would be surveyed for active nests prior to and during construction to ensure the preservation of the nests. If active nests are found during the survey, construction would not occur in the vicinity until the offspring fledge or the nest fails or is abandoned.
- If vegetation removal during migratory bird breeding season is necessary, a qualified environmental monitor would be provided during construction to survey for nests of migratory birds to ensure the prevention of take.
- A traffic control plan would be implemented during appropriate hours of operation to reduce the impact of construction-related traffic to residences and business. Ensuring accessibility to all residential, commercial, and institutional facilities during construction would minimize transportation impacts.
- Spill prevention measures would be implemented during construction equipment refueling, thus minimizing potential impacts from spills during fuel transfer activities. Routine transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials such as fuels, solvents and gases during construction or operation of the proposed project would be regulated by existing federal and state requirements.
- If hazardous materials or contaminated groundwater or soil are encountered at any time during construction efforts, the contractor would cease all work and notify the TCEQ and other pertinent agencies to determine the required course of action.
- The construction contractor must comply with all federal, state, and local laws that protect fish and wildlife.
- Equipment entering and leaving the site would be cleaned to prevent the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds, including invasive plant seeds or parts.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft EA and FONSI was completed on 15 January 2025. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan would have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is making a determination that historic properties will not be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Texas Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office) concurred with this determination on November 15, 2024.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, there would be no discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan. No section 404(b)(1) analysis is required.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

Matthew T. Miller
LTC, EN
Commanding