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DRAFT Environmental Assessment
Regina Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association
Water System Improvements Project –
Phase 3: Naranjo Creek Road

Regina, New Mexico

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1. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Regina Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Albuquerque District, Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA) has prepared this environmental assessment (EA) for Water System Improvements Project – Phase 3 (Naranjo Creek) in Sandoval County, New Mexico (Proposed Project).

This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers NEPA implementing regulations (33 C.F.R. part 230). The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) has removed most of the sections from 33 CFR 230 and indicated that the Civil Works program will follow the DoD implementing procedures for NEPA issued on 30 June 2025. However, actions that were ongoing as of the effective date of the new rule will continue to use the rule in place at the time the action was started. Therefore, this EA follows the USACE Procedures that were in place at the time the draft EA was prepared.

1.1 Background and Location

The MDWCA is planning nine phases (2-10) of water systems improvements, totaling approximately 112,300 linear feet along existing roadways where existing waterlines will be replaced or new waterlines completed (Figure 1). This EA evaluates impacts associated with the Water System Improvements Project – Phase 3 (Naranjo Creek) (Proposed Project).

Designs for future phases of water improvements are not complete and funding for future phases has not been secured. The completion of Phase 3 would provide benefits independent of whether future phases are constructed and would not obligate MDWCA to complete additional phases of improvements. Because the project stands alone, it would not result in the irretrievable commitment of federal funds. Therefore, this EA only provides a detailed analysis of impacts associated with the Proposed Project (Phase 3-Naranjo Creek). Future phases of system improvements, should they occur, would require additional analysis of impacts to the environment prior to construction.

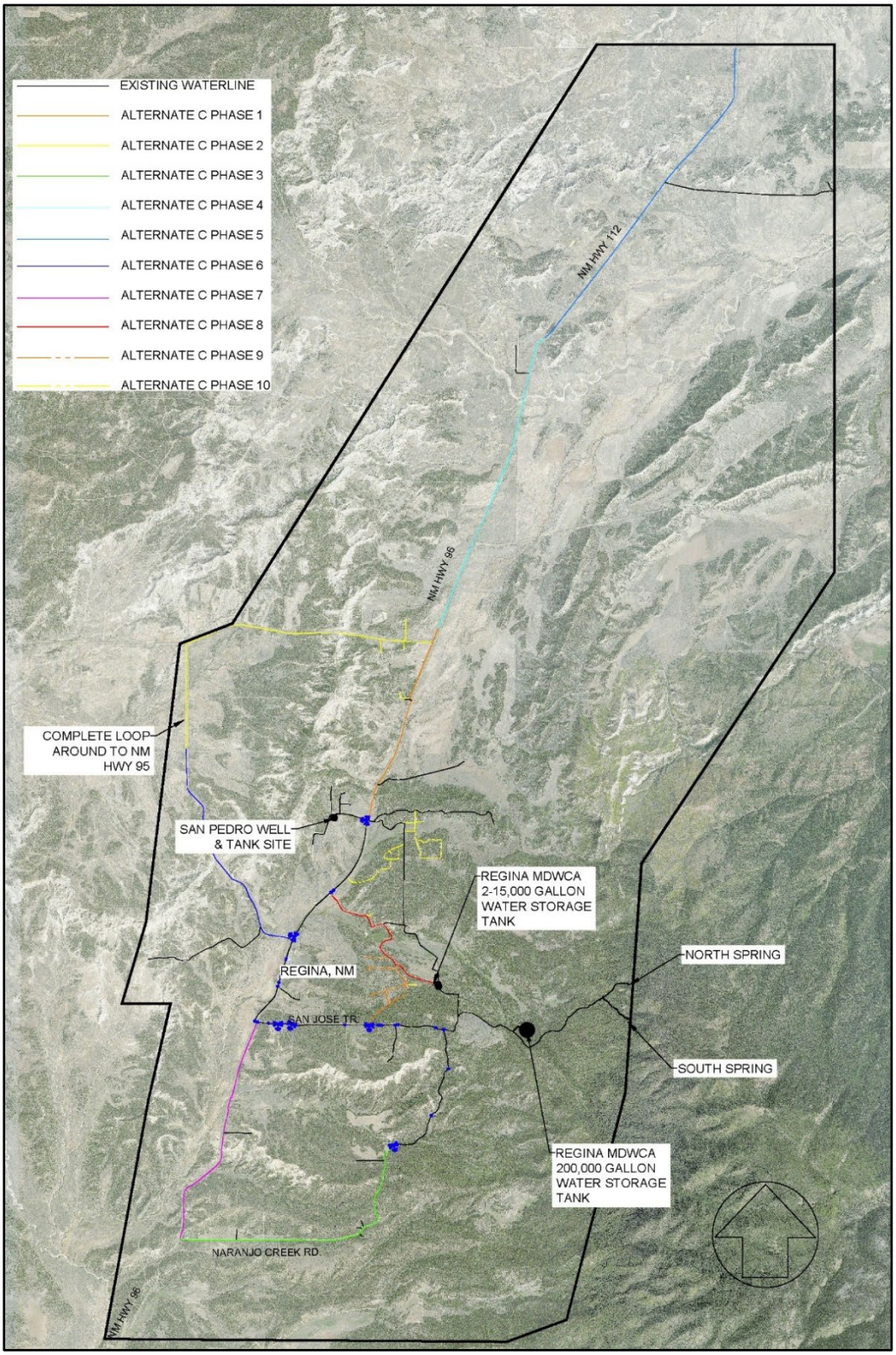

Figure 1. Nine proposed phases (2-10) by the Regina MDWCA to improve the water system.

The EA evaluates potential impacts associated with the Proposed Project and includes the purpose and need for the project, alternatives considered (including no action), and the evaluation of environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was prepared for the Regina MDWCA Water Improvements Project (SMA 2018). Regina MDWCA maintains a water distribution system for residents in Regina, New Mexico, and the surrounding area. The Regina MDWCA water system records that are available date most of the existing PVC distribution lines to the early 1970s. Drill logs obtained from the New Mexico Office of State Engineer (NMOSE) also date the water supply well to the early 1970s. In 2001 and 2014, water distribution system and water storage improvements were made, including installation of a booster station, construction of a 10,000-gallon water storage tank and a 200,000-gallon water storage tank, and increasing pipe sizes in areas throughout the water system.

According to available as-builts, the Regina MDWCA currently has four water storage tanks. Three of the tanks store potable water for consumption and the fourth tank provides raw water storage at the San Pedro Well for water that is disinfected and then pumped from the San Pedro Booster Station to the main 200,000-gallon water storage tank and throughout the distribution system (see Figure 1).

The number of active service connections to the water distribution system has grown since the water system was established in the late 1970s. Many of the connections were installed by homeowners themselves. Currently, Regina MDWCA has 251 metered connections. Prior to 2001 improvements, the water system consisted entirely of 2-inch waterline. In 2001, a new 6-inch line was installed between the San Pedro well site and the 200,000-gallon water storage tank. The new 6-inch line was connected to the existing system, and two pressure relief valves (PRV's) were installed at the connections. In 2014, 6-inch waterlines were installed along NM Hwy 96, San Jose Trail, and Forest Service Road 96H, along with four PRV's to reduce pressures due the static head imposed by the tank.

The Proposed Project (Phase 3) would replace an existing 2-inch waterline along Naranjo Creek Road with approximately 14,000 linear feet of 6-inch waterline from NM HWY 96 (36.144304°N, 106.975524°W) onto private land, north of the intersection with Deer Ridge Dr, where the previous phase of work ended (36.157068°N, 06.940929°W). This would include all appurtenances and replacement of customer meters within the Phase 3 project limits. The new waterline would be installed 4-10 feet below grade.

Naranjo Creek Road is approximately 8.3 miles north of Cuba, New Mexico, and approximately 2.7 miles south of Regina, in Sandoval County, New Mexico, as shown on the

location map (Figure 2). For the purposes of this evaluation, the "project area" is comprised of the waterline path and 50-meter buffer (See Appendix A for plan set). Regina is located along the border of Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties, approximately 15 miles north of the Village of Cuba, New Mexico along NM Highway 96. The Regina Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) manages the water system, which serves the Regina Census Designated Place (CDP) and surrounding areas.

1.2 Purpose and Need

Regina MDWCA is registered with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) as a public water system under the identification number NM3509523. The most recent Sanitary Survey Report, dated July 21, 2017, prepared by NMED-DWB evaluated the adequacy of the water source, water storage, distribution system, pump, pressure tanks, and associated facilities and controls, monitoring and reporting, system operations and management, and operator compliance with state requirements. The DWB Sanitary Survey identified six significant deficiencies in the Regina MDWCA water system.

The significant deficiencies are noted below:

1. Inadequate site security at major facilities.

2. Storage facility is not secured from the elements (e.g. hatch does not create a watertight seal, air vent not screened, overflow is not protected, roof has penetrations, direct access to water, hatch is not locked, etc.).

3. Inadequate or lack of an operations and maintenance plan or necessary operational policies.

4. Inadequate or lack of an emergency operations plan.

5. Wellhead or spring box is not secured from the elements or intrusion of susceptible to flooding.

6. No source water sampling point.

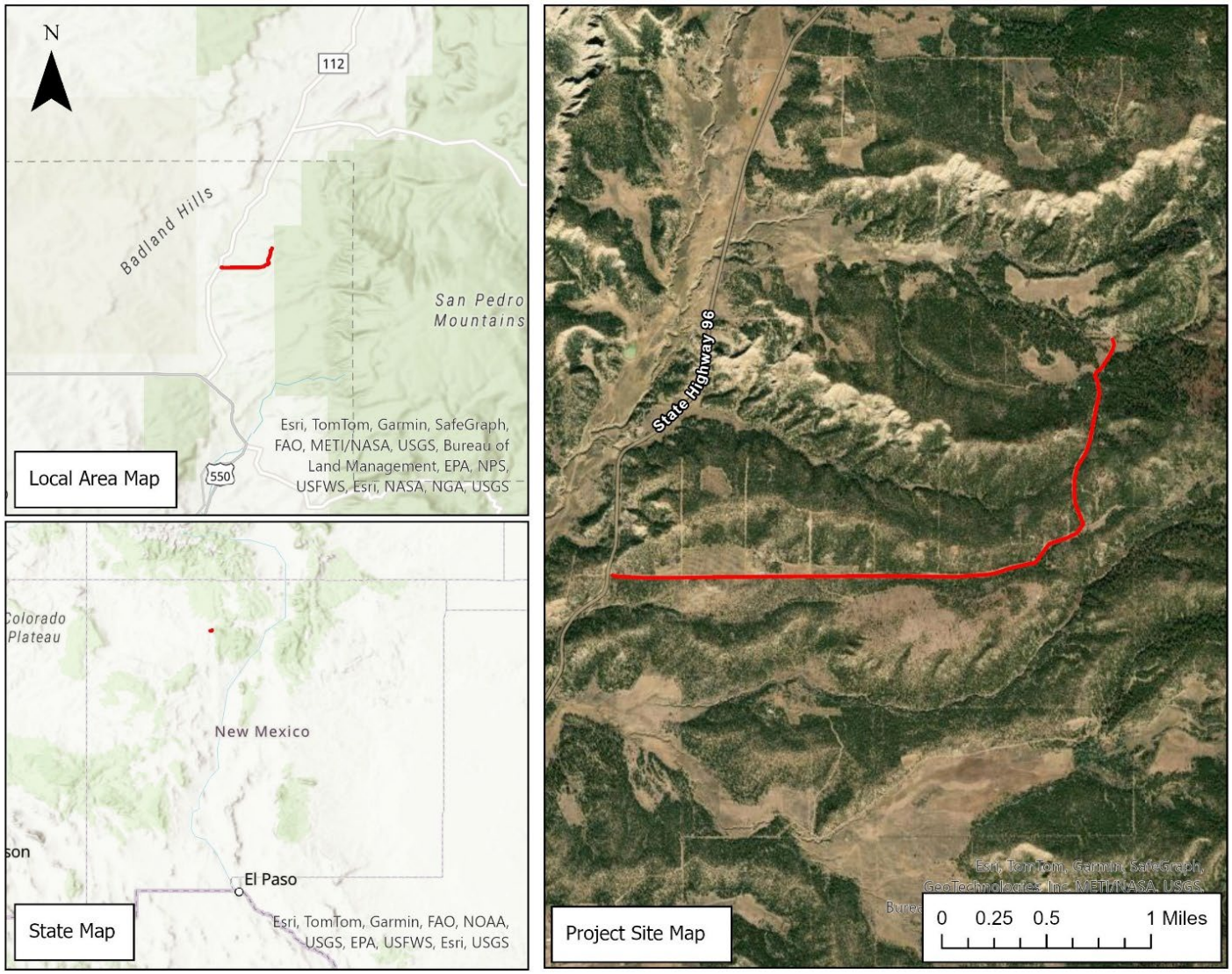

Figure 2. Project site location for the Regina MDWCA Naranjo Creek Rd Water System Improvements Project.

Regina MDWCA experiences areas with low pressures and deals with operations and maintenance issues mostly attributed to older, undersized, or deteriorated waterlines. Although the exact amount cannot be quantified, Regina MDWCA has experienced significant waterline leakage due to old and deteriorated pipes. Leaks in a distribution system can be sources of contamination and can threaten community health. The unavailability of water or its diminished supply poses health, sanitation, and security risks to the system users. Without sufficient water, basic sanitary needs are compromised, particularly for households with small children and elderly and/or disabled individuals.

The waterline that would be replaced by the Proposed Project is less than four inches in diameter. New Mexico Environment Department Construction Programs Bureau (NMED CPB) Recommended Standards for Water Facilities (2006) states, "the minimum size of water main in the distribution system where fire protection is not to be provided should be four (4) inch in diameter." SMA completed hydraulic modeling that confirms that these small diameter lines cause low pressure issues in the system. Therefore, the current system on Naranjo Creek Road does not have the infrastructure capacity to provide fire protection.

The Regina MDWCA water distribution system only has fire hydrants located on the 6-inch lines that were constructed in 2014 along Highway 96 and San Jose Trail. The system currently does not qualify for Public Protection Classification Eligibility (PPC). PPC is a classification system used by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) across the nation to rate a community's fire protection. To qualify for PPC Class 8, the system must be able to produce 250 gallons per minute (gpm) for a period of 2 hours. Some insurance companies use the ISO PPC to establish insurance premiums. Fire flow is also desired for the Regina system; the requirement to meet fire flow is that the system be able to deliver water at a minimum of 500 gpm at a pressure of 20 pounds per square inch (psi). The most significant benefit to Regina MDWCA in qualifying for PPC and being able to provide fire flow is the reduced risk of losses due to fire.

The Proposed Project (Phase 3) will replace the existing 2-inch waterline along Naranjo Creek Road with approximately 14,000 linear feet of 6-inch waterline. This includes all appurtenances and replacement of customer meters within the Phase 3 project limits. These improvements would provide pressures in the range of 40 to 90 psi under periods of peak demand, enable the system to provide a minimum of 250 gpm to all end users during periods of average demand, and result in user eligibility for an ISO Public Protection Classification rating of Class 8.

The system cannot currently provide fire protection for customers, which causes public health and security risks.

1.3 Regulatory Compliance

This EA was prepared in compliance with all applicable Federal Statutes, regulations, and Executive Orders (EO), as amended, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C 1251 et seq.)
- Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)
- National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.)
- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)
- Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
- National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C 4321 et seq.)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.)
- Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
- Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Procedures for Implementing NEPA (33 CFR Part 230; ER 200-2-2)
- Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.)
- Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species
- Federal Noxious Weed Act (7 U.S.C. 2814)
- Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140, Section 438, 121 Stat.1492, 1620 (2007))
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act, (16 U.S.C. 703, et seq.)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 48 Stat. 401; 16 USC 661 et. seq.

This EA also reflects compliance with all applicable State of New Mexico and local regulations, statutes, policies, and standards for protecting the environment such as water and air quality, endangered plants and animals, hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW), and cultural resources.

To satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and USACE, this EA has been prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and to identify avoidance measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) necessary to reduce or eliminate impacts. The EA will describe the Proposed Project and alternatives, and evaluate impacts on: Physical Resources, Biological Resources, Archaeological/Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Environmental Engineering, Land Use and Socioeconomic Considerations, and Human Health and Safety.

2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The three alternatives considered include:

- Alternative A - No Construction/No Action
- Alternative B - Waterline Replacement for Future Peak Demand and Fire Flow
- Alternative C - Preferred Action - Waterline Replacement for Public Protection Classification Eligibility Class 8

2.1 Alternative A - No-Action Alternative

Under this alternative, no improvements would be made to the existing water system located within the Phase 3 area. The system would continue to operate as it is. System components would continue to deteriorate and water losses would continue to increase. The existing waterline along Naranjo Creek Road is comprised of 2-inch diameter pipes, which are undersized according to NMED-CPB *Recommended Standards* and would be unable to supply fire flow. Operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements and costs would increase over time and emergency repairs would occur with greater frequency as the 50-year-old system remains in use.

This alternative would not address the concerns identified in *Section 1.2 Purpose and Need*. The No Action alternative would negatively affect public health, safety and security because the unavailability of water or its diminished supply poses health, sanitation, and security risks to the system users and residents would experience increased fire risk without the recommended fire protection capacity.

2.2 Alternative B – Waterline Replacement for Future Peak Demand and Fire Flow

Alternative B includes replacing the existing 2-inch waterline with 14,000 linear of 4-inch distribution waterline along Naranjo Creek Rd. to NM Highway (Hwy) 96. This would include all appurtenances and replacement of customer meters within the Phase 3 project limits.

This alternative would increase the diameter of all 2-inch waterlines to 4-inch PVC in the middle part of the system where the majority of residences are located. The proposed improvements consist of eliminating all 2-inch pipes, except those providing water to individual homes. This alternative would address the deficiencies in service and sanitary concerns; however, this alternative does not address reducing fire risks.

2.3 Alternative C – Preferred Action: Waterline Replacement for Public Protection Classification Eligibility Class 8

Under Alternative C, Regina MDWCA would modify the existing water system to provide pressures in the range of 40 to 90 psi under periods of peak demand and to enable the system to provide a minimum of 250 gpm to all end users during periods of average demand. These improvements would result in user eligibility for an ISO Public Protection Classification rating of Class 8. The proposed improvements consist of eliminating all 2-inch pipes, except for those that provide water for individual homes. Alternative C improvements would build off what has been previously completed in 2001 and 2014 which included a 6-inch fill/distribution line from the San Pedro Well, the 6-inch waterline along San Jose Trail, and the 6-inch waterline along Deer Ridge Dr southward to Naranjo Creek Rd.

Alternative C proposed improvements include replacing the existing 2-inch waterline along Naranjo Creek Rd with approximately 14,000 linear feet of 6-inch waterline from NM HWY 96 to Deer Ridge Dr (see project location description above). This would include all appurtenances and replacement of customer meters within the Phase 3 project limits (see plan set in Appendix A). This alternative would address the service and sanitary deficiencies, as well allow the Regina MDWCA to provide a minimum of 250 gpm for a period of two hours for its users to qualify for PPC Class 8 and the benefits described above. The proposed construction schedule for both Alternative B and Alternative C is from April 2026 to October 2026, with an assumption of approximately 100 feet of waterline installed per day.

All work related to the installation of the proposed waterline, including staging of materials, storage of construction equipment, and storage of materials and supplies, will take place within existing ROWs or easements. For both Proposed Alternatives B and C, the proposed waterline would be installed with a minimum bury depth of 4 feet. Where the proposed waterline crosses an existing underground utility line or culvert, at least 24 inches of vertical clearance will be maintained. Most of the existing waterline will be abandoned in place, and any existing waterline or appurtenances that are removed will be stored within the ROW and hauled away and disposed of by the contractor.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND FORESEEABLE EFFECTS

3.1 Physical Environment

3.1.1 Physiography, Geology, and Soils

The project area is located north of the Arroyo Naranjo and east of the Arroyo San Jose between the Badland Hills and San Pedro Mountains. This falls within the level 3 ecoregion Southern Rockies within the greater Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic region. The project area is also within the level 4 ecoregion, Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands ecoregion, a sub-region within the Southern Rockies (Griffith et al. 2006). The project area is in the Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands ecoregion within the greater Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic region (Griffith et al. 2006). The Southern Rockies are composed of high elevation, steep, rugged mountains. Although coniferous forests cover much of the region, as in most of the mountainous regions in the western United States, vegetation, as well as soil and land use, follows a pattern of elevational banding. The lowest elevations include Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands and are generally grass or shrub covered.

Regional geology is composed of the San Jose Formation (Eocene) of the San Juan Basin. This is the most extensively preserved and exposed Eocene rock-stratigraphic unit in New Mexico. The San Jose Formation is made up of beds of sandstone and mudrock that can typically be shown to be lenticular over outcrop to basin-wide scales. The Regina Member, the most widely distributed unit in the present map area, is composed of complexly interbedded mudstone, fine- to very coarse-grained sandstone, and minor amounts of shale.

The soil map units delineated on the detailed soil maps represent areas dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas (Appendix B). A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. The dominant soil map unit within the project area is Pinitos loam, 1 to 15 percent slopes. This occurs on mesas, cuestas, fan remnants, and hills, and is primarily loams to clay loams. The parent material is fan alluvium derived from sandstone and shale. It is not designated as prime farmland nor as a hydric soil. It is well drained.

Minor soil map units include: Menefee clay loam, 5 to 35 percent slopes, Badland-Menefee complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, and Sedmar loamy sand, 1 to 15 percent slopes. Menefee clay loam, 5 to 35 percent slopes, occurs on mountainsides, mesas, and hillslopes, and is

primarily clay loam over bedrock. The parent material is colluvium over residuum weathered from shale. It is not designated as prime farmland nor as a hydric soil. It is well drained. Badland-Menefee complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, occurs on mountainsides, mesas, and hillslopes, and is primarily loam and clay loam over bedrock. The parent material is colluvium over residuum weathered from shale. It is not designated as prime farmland nor as a hydric soil. It is well drained. Sedmar loamy sand, 1 to 15 percent slopes, occurs on ridge and cuestas, and is primarily loamy sand and sandy loam over bedrock. The parent material is slope alluvium over residuum weathered from sandstone. It is not designated as prime farmland nor as a hydric soil. It is excessively drained.

The soils encountered in borings conducted during the geotechnical engineering field investigation consist primarily of clays with various amounts of fine sand (Appendix C). Lesser amounts of non-plastic silty sand and low plasticity clayey sand were encountered in some of the borings. Although this material was logged as soils, it is possible that some of the material encountered may be weathered sedimentary bedrock of the San Jose Formation.

The No-Action Alternative would have no impact on physiography, geology, or soils.

Under Proposed Alternatives B and C, disturbed ground surfaces would be restored to their original condition by grading and seeding with native plant species. Following work, the contractor would restore any existing roadways or driveways to their existing condition or better. Therefore, Proposed Alternatives B and C would have short-term, minor adverse effects to soils during construction, but these impacts would be minimized by implementing best management practices and would end upon project completion (see Basic Requirements and Technical Specifications; Appendix D). Therefore, the Alternatives B and C Actions would have minimal impact on existing physiography, geology, and soils.

3.1.2 Climate

The nearest weather stations with historic data were located in Regina (approximately 2.7 miles to the north) and Cuba (approximately 8.2 miles to the south), New Mexico. Forty-nine years (1914 – 1963) of weather data was collected at weather station 297346 in Regina, NM, and 76 years (1938-2014) at weather station (292241) in Cuba, NM (WWRC 2025) (Figure 3).

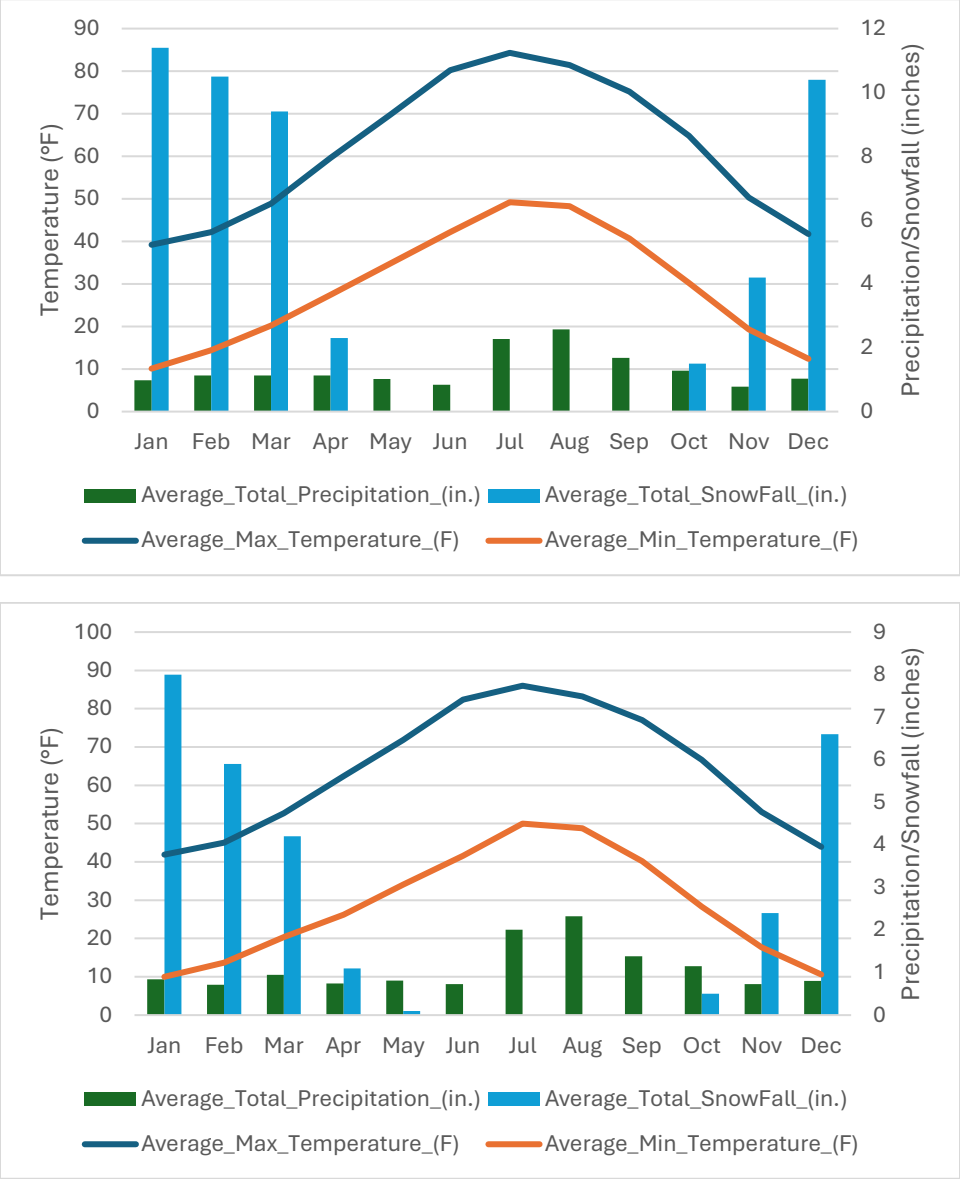

Figure 3. Climate data from the Regina and Cuba NOAA coop weather stations. Summary data is presented for the Regina (top) NOAA coop weather station (297346) at Regina, New Mexico, and Cuba (bottom) NOAA coop weather station (292241) in Cuba, New Mexico. Regina is at a higher elevation than the project area and Cuba is at a lower elevation than the project area.

The project area is located between the two weather stations and climatic conditions are likely to be between those being reported at these two weather station locations. For the Regina, NM, weather station, data indicates that the annual average maximum temperature is 61.5°F, with July experiencing the highest average maximum temperature of 84.3°F. The annual minimum temperature is 29.1°F, with January experiencing the lowest minimum

temperature of 10.1°F. Annual mean precipitation is 15.84 inches, concentrated during the July to September monsoon period. Annual mean snowfall is 49.7 inches, concentrated during December to March. For the Cuba, NM, weather station, data indicates that annual average maximum temperature is 63.8°F, with July experiencing the highest average maximum temperature of 86.0°F. The annual minimum temperature is 28.5°F, with January experiencing the lowest minimum temperature of 10.0°F. Annual mean precipitation is 13.15 inches, concentrated during the July to September monsoon period. Annual mean snowfall is 28.6 inches, concentrated during December to March.

Motor equipment would be kept in repair and equipped with anti-pollution devices, if possible, to cut down on exhaust emissions. Burning as a method of cleaning or disposal would not be permitted without approval of the proper authorities. Therefore, neither the No-Action Alternative nor Alternative Actions B or C would have impacts on the climate.

3.1.3 Water Resources

The project occurs within the Headwaters Arroyo San Jose HUC 12 watershed, which is part of the Rio Puerco Subbasin HUC 8 watershed within the Rio Grande Region HUC 2 watershed (USGS 2025).

Regina MDWCA currently draws water from the San Pedro Well and two springs (North Spring and South Spring). New Mexico Office of State Engineer (NMOSE) has classified Regina's water sources as surface diversion and as ground water from the Rio Grande Basin. Based on the current permit, Regina MDWCA has claimed 27.78 acre-feet of water rights from the springs and 50 acre-feet of water rights from the San Pedro Well totaling 77.78 acre-feet per year. The current amount of water pumped based on available records is 28.68 acre-feet per year.

The San Pedro Well (RG 31671A), located at the intersection of Rincon Road and Healing Way, was completed in January 1971. According to the NMOSE Well Record and Point of Diversion Summary, the well was drilled to a total depth of 1,472 feet with 7-7/8" outside diameter (OD) casing. After completion of the well, it produced 41 gpm and has maintained that capacity according to the system operators. According to NMED-Drinking Water Watch (DWW), the static water level in the well is 900 feet. The San Pedro Well currently has a 20HP 460Volt Franklin Electric submersible pump that was installed in 2012.

Regina MDWCA obtains much of their water during certain times of the year from the North and South Springs, which is conveyed via 2-inch waterline to the 200,000-gallon water storage tank where the combined flows from both springs are measured prior to entering the

tank. The flows from the springs fluctuate throughout the year and are not consistent from year to year.

No groundwater was encountered in the geotechnical engineering field investigation borings and soil moisture contents were generally low to moderate throughout the extent of the borings (see Appendix C for details).

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et. seq.) as amended, regulates point-source discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States and specifies that storm-water discharges associated with construction activities shall be conducted under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) guidance. The NPDES general permit guidance would apply to the Proposed Action because the total Project Area is over 1 acre in size. Therefore, a SWPPP would be required and prepared by the contractor for this project.

Section 404 of the CWA (CWA; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), as amended, provides for the protection of waters of the United States through regulation of the discharge of dredged or fill material. The Corps' Regulatory Program (33 CFR Parts 320-330) requires that a Section 404 evaluation be conducted for all construction that may affect waters of the United States. The project area has no jurisdictional wetlands present and no connection to nor presence of waters of the United States. Therefore, no 404(b)(1) analysis under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 197 would be required.

Section 401 of the CWA, as amended, requires that a Water Quality Certification Permit be obtained for anticipated discharges associated with construction activities or other disturbance within waterways. Because there would be no discharge to waters or wetlands of the United States, a Water Quality Certification Permit would not be required.

Under the No-Action alternative, there would be no water quality impacts due to construction; however, improvements to water quality and a reduction water loss due to leakage would not take place. Under Alternative B and Alternative C Actions, ground disturbance would occur. However, the depth of disturbance would not impact ground water. There are no wetlands nor waters present, and the contractor would implement the necessary site erosion control devices in accordance with NPDES Best Management Practices and in accordance with the project SWPPP. Therefore, there would be no effect to water resources resulting from Alternative B and Alternative C Actions.

3.1.4 Floodplains and Wetlands

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) provides federal guidance for activities within the floodplains of inland and coastal waters. The order requires federal agencies to take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

The United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) designate special flood hazard areas, base flood elevations, and insurance risk zones. The project area falls within an area of minimal (0.2%) chance of flooding (Figure 4).

Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) requires the avoidance, to the greatest extent possible, of both long and short-term impacts associated with the destruction, modification, or other disturbance to wetland habitats. Wetlands and streams are defined as waters of the United States in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and construction within such areas may require a U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). SMA utilized the United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory to identify wetlands and riparian areas surrounding and within the project area. The inventory indicates that one palustrine wetland occurs within a 50-meter buffer of the Naranjo Creek Rd waterline improvements project route (Appendix E). However, this palustrine feature is a 0.09-acre earthen stock tank located at 36.144283°N, 106.970829°W and it is s neither a wetland nor jurisdictional. The field reconnaissance visit on June 3rd, 2025, confirmed that no wetlands, jurisdictional wetlands, nor waters of the United States occur within the project area.

There are no wetlands within or near the project area, and therefore, no impacts to wetlands would occur from the No-Action alternative or Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions.

3.1.5 Air Quality, Noise, and Aesthetics

The Albuquerque-Mid Rio Grande Intrastate Air Quality Control Region 152 is located in central New Mexico along the north-south oriented Rio Grande Valley. It is composed of portions of Sandoval and Valencia Counties, and Bernalillo County in its entirety. The northwest corner is bounded by the Continental Divide.

Sandoval County is “in attainment” (does not exceed State and Federal Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards) for all criteria pollutants (NMED/AQB 2024). Air quality in the project area is generally good.

The closest Class I area is the San Pedro Parks Wilderness, located approximately 8 miles to the east of the project site. Class I areas are special wilderness areas of scenic beauty and natural wonder, such as national parks, national monuments, and wilderness areas, where air quality should be given special protection. Class I areas are subject to maximum limits on air quality degradation.

All vehicles involved in construction would be required to pass a current New Mexico emissions test and have required emission control equipment. The project would maintain the work area within or outside the project boundaries free from particulates in accordance with Federal, State, and local air pollution standards.

The contractor would implement the necessary site erosion control devices for inhibiting dust, wind, and air sediment movement offsite throughout construction in accordance with NPDES Best Management Practices and in accordance with the project SWPPP.

The Proposed Action would result in a temporary but negligible increase in suspended dust particles from construction activities in the vicinity of the project site. However, air quality in Regina, Sandoval County, NM, would not be affected by the Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions or by the No-Action alternative.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC 2024), a typical, quiet residential area has a noise level of 40 decibels. A residential area near heavy traffic has a noise level of 85 decibels. Heavy machinery has a noise level of 120 decibels. The Noise Center (Center for Hearing and Communication 2024) advises that noise levels above 85 decibels would harm hearing over time, and noise levels over 140 decibels can cause damage to hearing after just one exposure.

During construction, noise would temporarily increase in the vicinity during vehicle and equipment operation. However, the increase in noise during construction would be minor and temporary, ending when construction is complete. In addition, no work shall occur before 7:00am or after 7:00pm, on Sundays, or on legal holidays, except as necessary for the proper care and protection of work already performed, or during emergencies. Every effort will be made to minimize noise caused by operations by utilizing silencers or mufflers designed to operate with the least possible noise. Therefore, Alternatives B or C Actions would have no significant effect on noise. The No-Action alternative would have no effect on noise.

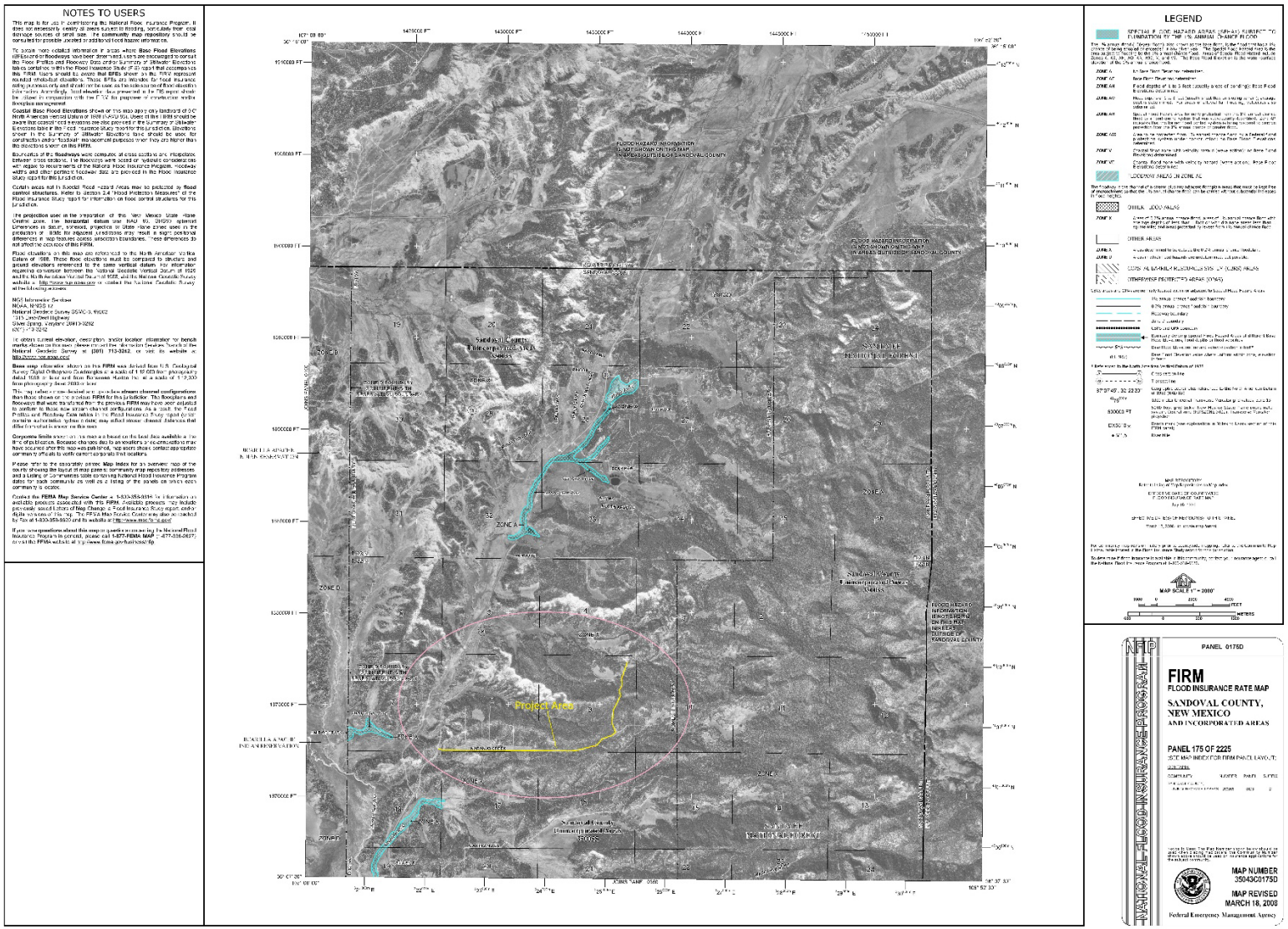

Figure 4. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the Naranjo Creek (Regina, NM) area (route colored yellow).

3.2 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste Environment

To identify and document the recognized environmental conditions (i.e., hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW)) in connection with the proposed project, an EDR Area/Corridor Report was generated for the project and surrounding area on September 4, 2025 (Appendix F). A search of available environmental records was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc (EDR). The report was designed to assist parties seeking to meet the search requirements of EPA's Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries (40 CFR Part 312), the ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments (E1527 - 21), the ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments for Forestland or Rural Property (E2247 - 16), the ASTM Standard Practice for Limited Environmental Due Diligence: Transaction Screen Process (E1528 - 22) or custom requirements developed for the evaluation of environmental risk associated with a parcel of real estate.

A 1-mile buffer was searched by EDR for records of federal NPL (Superfund) sites, federal delisted NPL sites, federal sites subject to CERCLA removals and CERCLA orders, federal CERCLA sites with NFRAP, federal RCRA facilities undergoing corrective action, federal RCRA TSD facilities, federal RCRA generators, federal institutional controls / engineering controls registries, federal ERNS, state- and tribal hazardous waste facilities, state and tribal leaking storage tanks, state and tribal registered storage tanks, state and tribal institutional control / engineering control registries, state and tribal voluntary cleanup sites, state and tribal brownfield sites, local brownfields, landfill / solid waste disposal sites, local lists of hazardous waste / contaminated sites, records of emergency release reports, and local land records.

The EDR report revealed no evidence of recognized environmental concerns within a 1.0-mile buffer of the proposed project.

The following best management practices would be implemented to ensure that the release of HTRWs does not occur during construction:

- All equipment would be washed prior to the initiation of work at the study site and following completion of all tasks. Fueled equipment that enters the site should be inspected at least once every working day for dripping or leaking fluids. Dripping or leaking equipment would be repaired immediately at an off-site location. All fueled equipment would carry a spill control kit which would allow the immediate control of small fuel drips and spills, and removal of stained soil resulting from this project work.

- No hazardous materials would be used in the execution of this project.

If excavation or trenching operations uncover non-native soils, discolored soil, soils with unusual odors, or debris of unknown composition, the Contractor's Work Leader must halt all activities in the affected area. They shall immediately notify the lead regulatory agency. Excavation may only resume once the lead regulatory agency formally determines in writing that the material is unregulated and poses no contamination concerns.

The No-Action alternative would have no effect on known HTRW, as no recognized environmental concerns occur within or near the proposed construction project.

The Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions would have no effect on known HTRW, as no recognized environmental concerns within or near the proposed construction project were identified. Based on the evidence derived from the EDR report, a Phase II investigation (ASTM E1903) is not warranted at this time.

3.3 Biological Environmental

3.3.1 Vegetation Communities

The project area is located between the Arroyo San Jose and Naranjo Creek. This falls within the level 3 ecoregion Southern Rockies within the greater Southern Rocky Mountains physiographic region. The project area is also within the level 4 ecoregion, Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands ecoregion, a sub-region within the Southern Rockies (Griffith et al. 2006).

The Southern Rockies are composed of high elevation, steep, rugged mountains. Although coniferous forests cover much of the region, as in most of the mountainous regions in the western United States, vegetation, as well as soil and land use, follows a pattern of elevational banding. The lowest elevations are generally grass or shrub covered and heavily grazed. Low to middle elevations are also grazed and covered by a variety of vegetation types including juniper-oak woodlands, ponderosa pine, aspen, and Douglas-fir. Middle to high elevations are largely covered by coniferous forests and have little grazing activity. The highest elevations have alpine characteristics. Numerous perennial mountain streams with deciduous riparian vegetation support cold water fisheries and serve as wildlife corridors.

The Foothill Woodlands and Shrublands ecoregion is the low elevation portion of the Southern Rockies and extends from southern Wyoming through Colorado and into New Mexico. In New Mexico, it is a transition area from the higher elevation forests to drier and lower plains and plateaus. Typical topography includes hills, ridges, and foot slopes with

moderate to high gradient perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams. Typical vegetation includes piñon-juniper (*Pinus edulis*, *Juniperus* spp.) woodlands, sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*) shrublands, Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) woodlands. Other common low shrubs are serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.), skunkbush (*Rhus trilobata*), and sumac (*Rhus* spp.). Interspersed are some varied foothill-mountain grasslands with blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), prairie junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), or western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*).

During site visits by a SMA biologist (June 3, 2025), no rare plant species were observed within the project area. However, two noxious weeds listed on the NM Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed List were observed within the project area (Appendix G). This included Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), a Class C Species, observed along the roadcuts; and Spiny cocklebur (*Xanthium spinosum*), a Class B Species, observed along the roadside ROW in a moist meadow where Naranjo Creek Rd turns north. In general, the project area is a mix of ponderosa pine forest, piñon-juniper woodlands, and big sagebrush shrubland, with many ecotonal areas. The project area is adjacent to an unpaved, maintained road (Naranjo Creek Rd) with multiple secondary, unpaved but maintained public roads and private residential access roads. There was an obvious natural, ephemeral drainage to the south of Naranjo Creek Rd as well as a man-made earthen dam/tank along this channel with some wetland vegetation. Common flora and fauna were observed as described below (see Appendices H and I for complete observed species lists).

No plants listed on the NM Rare Plant List for Sandoval County, maintained by the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council (NMRPTC) were observed. No species of interest on the BLM New Mexico Special Status Plant List for Farmington Field Office, were observed within the project area.

The following best management practices would be implemented to minimize impacts to vegetation:

- Activities would be limited to the designated or otherwise approved areas and would be shown on the construction drawings for construction areas, staging, and access.
- Any area disturbed by construction and not covered by an impervious surface would be revegetated by seeding with an appropriate seed mix according to the ecological zone or as prescribed by the appropriate regulatory agency such as BLM or NMDOT.

The Proposed Action would have minor adverse effects to vegetation within the project area as vegetation would be removed to construct project features, but these impacts would be minimized by implementing best management practices. Due to the limited amount of

disturbance within the project area, the previously disturbed nature of the site, and measures that would be implemented to reduce impacts to vegetation, the Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions would not result in significant adverse effects on vegetation. The No-Action alternative would have no effect on vegetation.

3.3.2 Wildlife

Sandoval County contain many wildlife species including game animals such as mule deer, north American elk, wild turkey, and grouse. Animals or evidence of animals observed during the site visit include birds, coyotes, small mammals, and insects.

Charles Britt, a Biologist/SMA Senior Scientist conducted a pedestrian survey of the entire project area on June 3, 2025. Adjoining properties were observed from the project area boundaries and/or public ROW. Site reconnaissance notes and photographs were collected for positive identification to adequately describe the fauna observed in the project area (Appendix J). During a site visit, wildlife observed included Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Virginia Warbler (*Leiothlypis virginiae*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), Steller's Jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), Woodhouse's Scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*), Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), Mountain Chickadee (*Poecile gambelii*), White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), Cassin's Finch (*Haemorhous cassinii*), Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), and Abert's squirrel (*Sciurus aberti*).

SMA did not observe any active nests during the site reconnaissance. However, many probable breeding birds were present as well as pocket gopher mounds and rodent burrows. SMA did not observe any, or any evidence of, state or federal threatened or endangered (T&E) species in the project area. However, twenty-one migratory bird species protected under the MBTA were observed. There is suitable habitat for avian nesting and roosting within the project area. Therefore, there is still a possibility that migratory birds could nest and/or roost within and adjacent the project areas during their identified breeding seasons.

Disturbance of wildlife from construction of the Proposed Action would be temporary and limited to the project area. The following measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to wildlife:

- All potential nesting habitat to be disturbed in the work area must be surveyed for nesting birds by a qualified biologist. For any active nest found with eggs or nestlings, the area of the nest would be avoided by implementing buffers and any other requirements deemed necessary in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

- Open trenches would be protected according to the Technical Specifications (Appendix D). Any trenches left overnight would be covered to prevent trapping of wildlife or ramps would be installed to allow animals to safely escape. Earthen escape ramps should be installed at least every 30 meters and be no steeper than 1:1.

Due to the limited amount of disturbance within the project area, the previously disturbed nature of the habitat, and measures that would be implemented to reduce impacts to wildlife, the Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions would not result in significant adverse effects on wildlife. The No-Action alternative would have no effect on wildlife.

3.3.3 Special Status Species

Three agencies have primary responsibility for protecting and conserving plant and animal species within the proposed project area. The USFWS, under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531) (ESA), as amended, has the responsibility for federally listed species. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) has the responsibility for state-listed wildlife species. The New Mexico State Forestry Division (Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department) (NM EMNRD) has the responsibility for state-listed plant species. Each agency maintains an updated list of species that are classified, or are candidates for classification, as protected based on their present status and potential threats to future survival and recruitment into viable breeding populations. These types of status rankings represent an expression of threat level to a given species survival as a whole and/or within local or discrete populations. Special status species listed by the USFWS and New Mexico for the project area were identified using the IPaC (Appendix K) and NM-ERT (Appendix L) tools (Table 1).

USFWS and NMDGF Effects Determinations and Rationale:

a. No effect: This effect determination is used when it is concluded that the proposed action will have no effect on the species in question. Either no individuals were observed in the project area or no 'suitable habitat' exists within the project area. No consultation with management agencies is required when the effect determination is "no effect".

b. May affect, not likely to adversely affect: This effect determination is used when the proposed action is beneficial, insignificant, or discountable to the species in question. This effect determination requires informal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS and concurrence with the determination for federally listed species.

This determination may also require informal consultation with NMDGF for state listed species.

c. May affect, likely to adversely affect: This effect determination is used when the proposed action will cause unavoidable adverse effects to the species in question, either directly or indirectly. In the event the overall effect is beneficial to the listed species, but is also likely cause adverse effects, the appropriate effect determination for the proposed action is "likely to adversely affect" the listed species. This effect determination requires formal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS and NMDGF.

No federally or state listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species were observed in the project area. Desktop studies indicated the possibility of five USFWS-listed species and two proposed species occurring within or adjacent to the project area at some point during their annual cycles (Table 1). Following the site visit, one proposed species has the potential to be present within the project area at some point during their annual cycles. The Proposed-Threatened Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) was not observed nor were any milkweed plants observed, however, their life migratory patterns make it possible they could be present at some point during their annual cycle.

Four New Mexico-listed species were identified as possibly occurring within the project area. Following the site visit, three of these species were determined to have the potential to be present within the project area at some point during their annual cycles. Breeding and roost habitat for the Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*) is not present within the project area. However, suitable foraging habitat is present within the project area. Similarly, breeding habitat for the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is not present within or adjacent to the project area. However, non-breeding individuals may utilize the area for hunting. Any presence within the project area is anticipated to be temporary by non-breeding individuals. Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*) breeding habitat includes piñon-juniper woodland, which is found within and adjacent to the project area. However, due to the proximity of the project area to adjacent development, breeding use is of low likelihood. The remaining species had a determination of "**no effect**."

Table 1. Federal- and New Mexico-listed species identified during desktop studies for the project area, and their respective impact determinations following the field reconnaissance. Listing abbreviations are as follows: E = Endangered, T = Threatened, PE = Proposed Endangered, PT = Proposed Threatened. Determination acronyms are as follows: NE = No effect, NLAA = May affect but not likely to adversely affect, and LAA = May affect.

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS	NM	Determination
Mammals				
Mexican Wolf	*Canis lupus baileyi*	E		NE
Spotted Bat	*Euderma maculatum*		T	NLAA
Birds				
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*		T	NLAA
Mexican Spotted Owl	*Strix occidentalis lucida*	T		NE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	T		NE
Gray Vireo	*Vireo vicinior*		T	NLAA
Amphibians				
Jemez Mountain Salamander	*Plethodon neomexicanus*	E	E	NE
Insects				
Monarch Butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	PT		NLAA
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee	*Bombus suckleyi*	PE		NE
Plants				
Knowlton's Cactus	*Pediocactus knowltonii*	E		NE

Based on the analysis above, the Proposed Action would have an effect determination of "**may affect, not likely to adversely affect"** for three New Mexico-listed species. However, the likelihood of these species occurring in the project area or being impacted by project work is low.

Although the monarch butterfly, proposed for listing as federally threatened, could potentially occur within the project area, the limited disturbance to vegetation from the proposed project is unlikely to result in significant effects to milkweed plants, the host plant for monarch butterflies and consultation with USFWS is not required for species that are proposed for listing. The Proposed Action would have "no effect" on other federally listed species.

Therefore, Proposed Alternatives B or C Actions would not result in significant effects to state or federally listed species or their critical habitat.

The No-Action alternative would have no effect on USFWS-listed species or New Mexico-listed species.

3.3.4 Wetlands

There was no evidence of riverine or palustrine jurisdictional wetlands or waters of the United States observed in the project area (see Appendix J for photos). Two small earthen tanks that catch runoff from seasonal rainfall are present within the 50-meter buffer. In addition, the identified drainage to the south of Naranjo Creek Rd is a shallow, ephemeral drainage.

3.4 Cultural Resources

The undertaking for Phase 3 includes replacement of approximately 14,000 linear feet of existing, 2-inch pipe with 6-inch pipe along Naranjo Creek Road, east of NM Hwy 96 in the community of Regina, New Mexico. Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), provided Class I cultural resource records search and Class III archaeological survey in support of this undertaking (Appendix M).

SRI conducted a Class I cultural resource records search using both the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) database and the Archaeological Records Management Section (ARMS) on September 23, 2022. The records search identified 13 previously recorded cultural resources within 100 feet of the project area of potential effects (APE), but no previously recorded resources were identified that intersect the project APE.

SRI conducted Class III archaeological pedestrian survey on September 29 and 30, 2022. The total area surveyed consisted of 25 acres within a 100-foot corridor along the project centerline. Surface visibility along the edges of the survey corridor was significantly limited by vegetation, including both oak and piñon-juniper overstory and a dense understory of grasses and forbs. Visibility was excellent in the portion of the survey area within Naranjo Creek Rd, primarily along the project centerline. No cultural resources were identified within the project area.

SRI conducted the survey with a field crew of two people spaced at 15-meter transects. The crew's positions were monitored using an Android mobile device with Esri's ArcGIS Field Maps software and a Trimble R1 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver with submeter accuracy that included the boundaries of the survey area and the locations of previously recorded sites.

Archaeological fieldwork was conducted primarily on land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management; however, a small portion of the project

APE is located on private property. Phase 3 is located entirely within Sandoval County, New Mexico.

Because no cultural resources were identified within the survey area, SRI provides no treatment recommendations for the Phase 3 undertaking. Post survey, SMA consulted with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on November 17, 2022, regarding the project footprint. A response was provided by Mr. Richard Reycraft, stating for Phase 3 "We understand that you have engaged Statistical Research, Inc (SRI) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to survey Phase 3 of the project area. Our records show that no historic properties were encountered by this survey (NMCRIS#151323). Thus, construction for Phase 3 of this project will have no effect on historic properties." (Appendix M).

SMA sent consultation letters to the following Tribes on November 1, 2022 (Appendix M): Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Tesuque, The Hopi Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Cochiti, Pueblo of Jemez, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Zia, Ohkay Owingeh, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Santo Domingo (Kewa Pueblo), Pueblo of Zuni, Kiowa Tribe, Pueblo of Picuris, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and Pueblo of Taos. SMA received responses from Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Santa Ana, and Pueblo of Sandia. Navajo Nation responded, "that there are no known Navajo TCP's within the proposed project areas" and the project could proceed (Appendix M). The Pueblo of Sandia acknowledged receipt and had no comments (Appendix M). The Pueblo of Santa Ana requested additional information regarding recent cultural resource surveys in the area (Appendix M). SMA provided the SRI survey report to the Pueblo of Santa Ana.

Although SMA had previous correspondence with SHPO and Tribes, USACE conducted consultation as the lead federal agency to fulfill its responsibilities under 36 CFR 800 on September 12, 2025 (Appendix M). USACE determined that the proposed undertaking of replacing the waterline along Naranjo Creek Rd, Phase 3 of the Water System Improvements Project for the Regina MDWCA, would result in **No Historic Properties Affected**. SHPO concurred with this determination on October 9, 2025 (Appendix M).

USACE sent consultation letters to the following tribes on September 12, 2025: Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Tesuque, The Hopi Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Cochiti, Pueblo of Jemez, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Zia, Ohkay Owingeh, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Santo Domingo (Kewa Pueblo), Pueblo of Zuni, Kiowa Tribe, Pueblo of Picuris, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and Pueblo of Taos. No comments were received.

3.5 Land Use and Socioeconomic Environment

The project area is located in Sections 7, 8, and 9 of Township 22 North, Range 01 West (New Mexico Meridian). Regina is a rural community. Land use within the Proposed Project Area (PPA) is primarily rural residential and uninhabited forested terrain. Residential developments are primarily along NM Hwy 96 and along short segments of side roads. Within the PPA are private roads, private easements, and roads maintained by New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and Sandoval County.

SMA used the 2020 Census data to estimate the population for Regina CDP, Sandoval County and Rio Arriba County (USCB 2025). The population declined from 105 people in 2010 to 73 people in 2020. Most of the population are male and over the age of 65. Approximately 18% are below the poverty line.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides detailed soil maps and identifies soils as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland – those soils best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. The entire PPA is classified by the NRCS as “not prime farmland”. Proposed system improvements in this will be confined to areas that are not currently used as farmland and to areas that have been previously disturbed. The proposed project improvements will either remain within existing roadway rights-of-way or will not permanently affect ecological sites. Furthermore, the referenced NRCS report did not indicate any restrictions with respect to development within these soils.

The NRCS identifies soils that are forestland ecological sites with characteristic soils, infiltration, runoff, and plant community that have developed over time. There are minimal forestland ecological sites within the PPA; these include piñon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, skunkbush, sumac, and the shallow sandy plant community. The proposed project improvements will ensure that forestland disturbance is minimized and that disturbed areas are reseeded with native vegetation according to relevant NMDOT, USFS, and BLM specifications.

The No-Action Alternative would have no effect on Land-use or the socioeconomic environment. The Proposed Alternative B Action will result in improved water supply and the Proposed Alternative C Action will result in an improved water supply as well as improved public safety. The impact of both alternatives to land-use will be minimal. The impact of both alternatives to the socioeconomic environment will be positive.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Action evaluated in this EA addresses the method and potential effects for proposed water system improvements. Impacts to the environment would be non-significant, short-term, and related solely to construction. The proposed project would not result in any moderate or significant short-term or long-term adverse effects. Therefore, the proposed project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and is recommended for implementation.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following protective measures would be implemented during construction:

- The bird breeding season for observed species varies greatly but is generally from May to August for the migratory birds utilizing the project area. Ideally, ground and vegetation disturbing activities would be planned for late fall through early spring only (outside of the bird breeding season) to minimize potential impacts. However, as planned construction is estimated to occur between April and October, preconstruction nesting surveys should be conducted by qualified personnel. In addition to species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, surveys for the New Mexico-listed species should be conducted within pinyon-juniper and open shrubland habitats, respectively.

- Open trenches and ditches associated with construction of maintenance of underground or other features can trap small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, and can cause injury to large mammals. High levels of mortality to these wildlife species are possible within trenches. Periods of highest activity for many of these species include nighttime, summer months and wet weather. For open trenches, even for temporary periods, best management practices should be implemented (see NMDGF 2022).

- Areas where vegetation has been removed should be reseeded using region-appropriate native seed mixes approved by New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), or the BLM.

- If undocumented cultural resources are discovered within the Project area, we recommend that construction immediately cease and that the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and USACE be contacted. No work shall occur within 100 ft (30 m) of the discovery until further notice from the SHPO is provided. If

human remains are encountered during the remediation, all activity must cease in the vicinity and the SHPO and the appropriate law enforcement agency should be contacted immediately.

6. PREPARATION, CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 Preparation

This EA was prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District by Souder, Miller and Associates (SMA). Personnel primarily responsible for preparation include:

Charles Britt	SMA Senior Scientist II
Nicole Harings	SMA Senior Scientist III

6.2 Quality Control

This EA has been reviewed for quality control purposes. Personnel who reviewed the Draft EA include:

Jesse Serna	SMA Project Scientist II
Stephanie Jentsch	USACE Biologist
Kaitlyn Fuqua	USACE Archeologist
Micael Albonico	USACE Environmental Engineer

6.3 Consultation and Coordination

The public will be provided a 30-day review period of this Draft EA (see Appendix N).

Agencies and entities that were contacted in preparation of this EA include:

Mr. Shawn Sartorius
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office

Ms. Jennifer Faler
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Albuquerque Area Office

Mr. Mike Sloane
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Conservation Services Division

Ms. Jennifer Baca
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
Office of the State Engineer

Ms. Shelly Lemon
Surface Water Quality Bureau
NM Environment Division

Mr. John Rhoderick
Water Protection Division
NM Environment Department

Dr. Michelle Ensey
State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Division

Maureen Joe
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington Field Office

Shaun Sanchez
U.S. Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest

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