DRAFT FINDING OF NO SINGIFICANT IMPACT

REGINA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT- PHASE 3: NARANJO CREEK ROAD

REGINA, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps), in cooperation with the Regina Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA), has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Regina MDWCA Water System Improvements Project- Phase 3: Naranjo Creek Road, dated October 2025, (Proposed Project) addresses water system improvements in Regina, Sandoval County, New Mexico.

This EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated alternatives for water system improvements along Naranjo Creek Road south of Regina. The Proposed Project is located approximately 8.3 miles north of Cuba, New Mexico, and approximately 2.7 miles south of Regina, in Sandoval County, New Mexico; water system improvements are proposed along approximately 14,000 linear feet of Naranjo Creek Road. The New Mexico Department Drinking Water Bureau issued a Sanitary Survey Report in 2017 noting significant deficiencies in the Regina MDWCA water system. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to remedy deficiencies in the water system along Naranjo Creek Road.

The recommended plan involves replacing the existing 2-inch waterline along Naranjo Creek Road with approximately 14,000 linear feet of 6-inch waterline including all appurtenances and replacement of customer meters. The recommended plan would address service and sanitary deficiencies, as well allow the Regina MDWCA to provide a minimum of 250 gallon per minute for a period of two hours for its users to qualify for Public Protection Classification Class 8 for fire protection. In addition to a “no action” plan, one alternative entailing replacing the existing 2-inch waterline along Naranjo Creek Rd with 4-inch waterline, was considered. See Section 2 of this EA for a description of alternatives.

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	☒	☐	☐
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) are detailed in the EA, listed below, and will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts:

- Activities would be limited to the designated or otherwise approved areas shown on the construction drawings for construction areas, staging, and access.

- A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be required (SWPPP). Water resources would be protected with silt fencing, geotextiles, or straw bales according to the plan in order to prevent runoff of sediment from areas disturbed by construction.

- Measures for dust control and local sedimentation and erosion-control would be implemented in accordance with the SWPPP.

- All fuels, oils, hydraulic fluids, and other similar substances would be appropriately stored out of the floodplain. Construction equipment would be inspected daily and

monitored during operation to prevent leaking fuels or lubricants from entering any surface water.

- BMPs would be implemented regarding the treatment and disposal of waste material. Waste material would be disposed of properly at commercial disposal areas or landfills.

- Areas disturbed by construction and not developed would be revegetated with native plant species.

- In compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, all potential nesting habitat to be disturbed would 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.

- Open trenches would be covered to prevent trapping of wildlife or ramps would be installed to allow animals to safely escape.

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

Public review of the Draft EA and FONSI were completed from October 18 to November 18, 2025. A comment-response table is included in section [X] and comment letters are provided in Appendix [X] of this Final EA and FONSI.

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 no historic properties would be affected by the recommended plan. The New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (State Historic Preservation Office) concurred with this determination on October 9, 2025. Tribal consultation was conducted from September 9, 2025 through October 12, 2025. No comments were received.

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.

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.

Date

Matthew T. Miller
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander