Northgate Diversion Channel
El Paso, Texas

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Prepared for

El Paso Water Utilities

And

United States Army Corps of Engineers

Albuquerque District

Prepared by

ESSCO ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

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1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

On behalf of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Albuquerque District, and El Paso Water (EPWater), **ESSCO Environmental, Inc. (ESSCO)** has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Northgate Diversion Channel in northeast El Paso, Texas, hereon referred to as the PROJECT SITE (see Figure 1: Project Location Map and ***A-1 – Site Location Map***). The site is located to the northwest of Hondo Pass Drive at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains (latitude 31.8688053°, longitude -106.4580162°). The existing channel to be improved under this project conveys runoff intercepted by the Northgate Diversion Levee to the Northgate Dam, providing flood protection to the adjacent residential area. The stormwater event known as Storm 2006 resulted in failure of downstream embarkment, leading to damage to downstream properties.

The purpose of this project is to design improvements that enhance the channel to more effectively convey stormwater, which would ensure the upstream levee performs as originally designed; prevent degradation downstream; address inundation concerns of adjacent and downstream properties; and to provide improvements that blend with existing site aesthetics, including native revegetation. Proposed improvements are illustrated in Figure 2.

The purpose of this EA is to enable informed decision making and public participation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.). This EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers NEPA implementing regulations (33 C.F.R. part 230).

ESSCO conducted field surveys for critical habitat and landforms and potential environmental impacts, and consulted with Regulatory Agencies regarding any specific stipulations they may have for the project to develop this EA documenting the findings of the environmental analysis.

1.1 Environmental Assessment Process

ESSCO conducted the analyses outlined in this EA in a manner consistent with the level of care ordinarily exercised by members of the environmental profession currently practicing under similar conditions. The analyses performed during the preparation of this EA include:

1. Review of historical documents to document the historical use of the PROJECT SITE including aerial photographs.

2. Review of standard scientific information to determine the physical characteristics of the PROJECT SITE and local, state, and federal regulatory agency records relevant to the PROJECT SITE, including the following:

- FEMA Floodplain Maps,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Web application,
- National Wetland Inventory,
- Hydrological Surveys,
- NCRS Soil Surveys,
- State Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Registry,
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) National Priorities List,
- USEPA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS),
- USEPA Resource Conservation Recovery Information System (RCRIS),
- USGS Quad Maps, and
- Others such as Landfills, Spills, Releases, Leaks, etc.

3. Perform a field survey to obtain pertinent information (i.e., general landforms, vegetation) and complete the required information for submittal to the following agencies:

- Texas Historical Commission (THC),
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

4. Request consultation with the following regulatory agencies:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers,
- Texas Historical Commission,
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
- United States Department of Agriculture,
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, and
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

1.2 Description of the Proposed Action

EP Water proposes to improve the existing earthen channel that conveys water from the Northgate Diversion Levee to Northgate Dam. The earthen channel would be graded and lined with concrete, enabling it to better handle significant precipitation events. These proposed improvements are illustrated in Figure 2.

- Vegetation situated within the existing arroyo would be cleared and the surface would be graded prior to constructing the concrete channel lining.
- The channel would have retaining walls with guard rails along either side.
- The upstream end would be stabilized with grouted rock riprap before the concrete-lined portion begins.
- A series of baffles to act as an energy dissipator would be constructed at the downstream end to reduce the force of water where the channel changes back from concrete to earthen.
- The channel bottom would be 10 feet wide for most of its length, and 20 feet wide at the downstream end.
- Side slopes would range from 1.5 horizontal: 1 vertical (H/V) to 3:1 (H/V).
- A 10- to 16-foot-wide access road would begin at the intersection of Virgo Lane and Hondo Pass Drive and run alongside the channel on its south side.

1.3 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Alternatives to the Proposed Action include only the No Action alternative since no other improvements of the existing stormwater system can adequately address the significant soil erosion and extensive flooding which occurs along the westernmost portion of Hondo Pass Drive.

1.4 No Action Alternative

EPWater would not improve the existing dirt arroyo to handle significant precipitation events, would not install concrete conduit, riprap, or improve the access road. The arroyo and north-south orientated berm would remain severely eroded and extensive flooding would continue along Hondo Pass Drive when significant precipitation occurs.

1.5 Significant Assumptions

No significant assumptions were made in the preparation of this EA.

1.6 Uncertainty and Risk

This EA was prepared by **ESSCO** on behalf of EPWater and USACE to document environmental conditions in the Northgate Diversion Channel project area. Some degree of uncertainty always exists in conducting an EA concerning the presence or absence of a recognized environmental condition. During the preparation of this EA, **ESSCO** relied on documents, statements, and information gathered from outside sources and through observations and interviews collected by qualified environmental professional(s). The conclusions and recommendations presented within this EA are based upon readily available information collected and evaluated by qualified environmental professionals along with surveys conducted at the PROJECT SITE.

Figure 1: Project Location Map

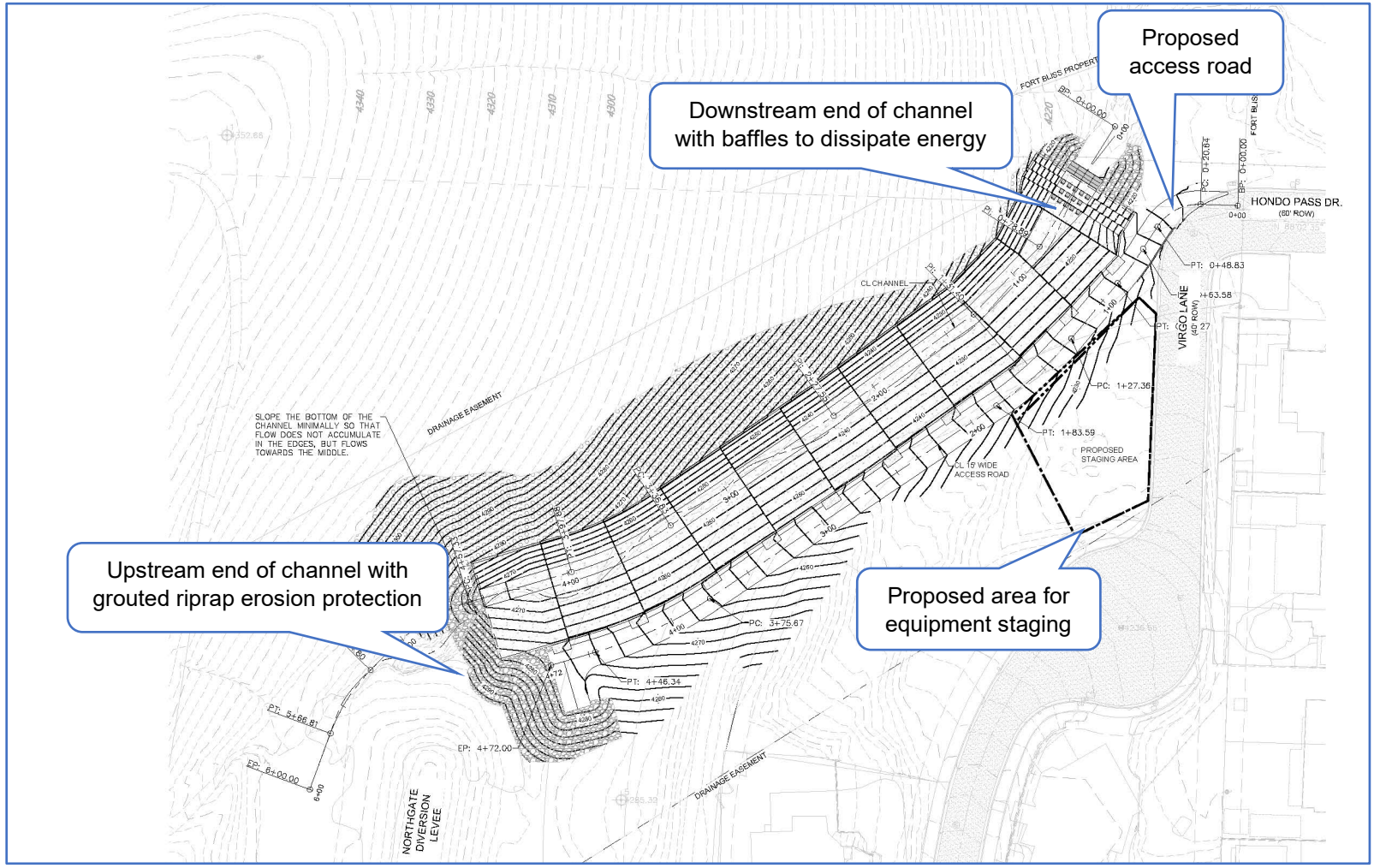

Figure 2: Drawing showing proposed grading and channel improvements

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

As depicted on the Site Location Map (***A-1 – Site Location Map***), the PROJECT SITE is located to the west of the terminus of Hondo Pass Drive and Virgo Lane at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains (31.8688053°, -106.4580162°). The PROJECT SITE consists of an arroyo and north-south orientated berm, constructed to divert stormwater flow from the Franklin Mountains towards the Northgate Dam to the northeast.

2.2 Climate Setting

The PROJECT SITE is in the Chihuahuan Desert of North America, a semi-arid, warm desert climate with hot summers and mild, dry winters. Precipitation averages 8.74-inches per year, mainly occurring July through August, with small amounts of frozen precipitation occurring December though January.

Summer high temperatures typically range in the upper 90 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) with an average high of 97°F (36°C) to an average low of 68°F (20°C). Winters are mild with average highs of 55°F (13°C) to average lows of 28°F (-2°C). Predominantly southwesterly winds are a mechanism for aeolian transportation of sediment resulting in strong dust storms during the spring season. Fall typically has mild temperatures and little wind.

2.3 Site and Vicinity Characteristics

The PROJECT SITE was observed by **ESSCO** as a naturally occurring arroyo with a north-south oriented berm, constructed to divert stormwater flow from the Franklin Mountains towards the Northgate dam to the northeast, totaling approximately 0.32 miles in perimeter, and approximately 3 acres in area, located to the west of the terminus of Hondo Pass Drive and Virgo Lane at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains. (***A-2 – Site Plan Map/Project Footprint***).

In proximity to the PROJECT SITE, to the north is a continuation of the large naturally occurring arroyo. Southern sectors feature residential housing and graded terrain, while eastern zones predominantly exhibit residential developments. To the west lie the foothills of the Franklin Mountains. Highway 54 is positioned eastward of the PROJECT SITE. Access to the project site is facilitated though a gate situated along a side road adjacent to Virgo Lane.

2.4 Geology

According to the *Geologic Map of the West Hueco Bolson;* El Paso Region, Texas (***A-3 – Geologic Map***), the PROJECT SITE is situated on Piedmont alluvium of alluvial fans, incised fans, and bajadas (Qf2) as well as undivided alluvium of drainageways, young fans (Qf4) and young arroyo terraces (Qt4).

The geomorphic setting of the PROJECT SITE presents a naturally occurring arroyo that has been partially reworked to divert stormwater runoff away from the Mountain Hills Estates subdivision to the east. An alluvial fan is situated down gradient from the PROJECT SITE which has largely been graded and developed into single family residential dwellings. The PROJECT SITE is mostly underlain by bedrock and marks the (approximate) eastern edge of the Franklin Mountains fault escarpment along a normal fault boundary.

2.5 Soils

Based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey of El Paso County, the soils located on the PROJECT SITE consist of igneous Rock Land (IN), primarily granitic in composition. Additionally**, ESSCO** observed surface soils comprised of poorly sorted gravels of Igneous and Sedimentary origin, as well as loosely consolidated windblown sands (***B-1 – NRCS Soil Survey & Prime and Important Farmland***).

2.6 Topography

The Site Topographic Map (***A-4 – USGS Topographic Map***) depicts the PROJECT SITE elevation at approximately 4300 feet above mean sea level. The surface of the PROJECT SITE is relatively rocky with drastic differences in high occurring within several feet of each other and consists of extremely gravelly sandy loam that has been constructed to mitigate the risk of flooding in the area.

2.7 Historic and Current Uses of Property

ESSCO reviewed aerial photographs obtained from Banks Environmental Database (BED), dated 1936, 1942, 1956, 1967, 1974, 1984, 1995, 2004, 2010, 2016, and 2022 to determine the historical land use of the PROJECT SITE. Historically, the aerial photographs depict the PROJECT SITE as a naturally occurring arroyo at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains until 1967 when residential developments appear to the southeast (***A-5 – Aerial Maps***).

Photographs of the PROJECT SITE obtained from Google Earth and a field reconnaissance depict the PROJECT SITE as an arroyo used for flood control to mitigate the risk of flooding in the area. Photographs taken during the field reconnaissance depicting the current use of the PROJECT SITE are presented in ***B-2 – Photographic Documentation***).

2.8 Description of Structures & Improvements

The channel was since reshaped; however, subsequent storm events have caused progressive erosion of the channel and downstream areas.

2.9 Current Uses of Adjacent Properties

North – The continuation of large naturally occurring arroyo.

South – Residential development and graded land was observed to the south.

East – Residential housing was observed to the east and Highway 54.

West – Foothills of the Franklin Mountains were observed to the west.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

To understand the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and other alternatives, a snapshot of the existing environment was created and summarized in the following subsections. Additionally, the potential Primary Impacts, Short-term Impacts, Secondary Impacts (Indirect Impacts) were evaluated, and the cumulative environmental and socio-economic impacts were also assessed. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are described as how to prevent, reduce, and/or mitigate impacts to the environment, local population, and cultural resources.

Impacts can be potentially positive, neutral, or negative to the affected resource, though assessment of the negative attributes with regards to the depletion or destruction of a resource are those which are most focused upon for the purposes of mitigation. Primary Impacts are potentially long-term impacts that occur at the corresponding time and place of the action, such as the conversion of undeveloped land into developed infrastructure. Short-term Impacts are those which occur at the same time as the Primary Impacts, but are mitigated by the passing of time, such as emissions of equipment during construction that cease emitting once the action is completed. Secondary Impacts are those which occur later but are further removed from the time of the initial action, but are still reasonably foreseeable, such as the depletion of a finite resource that is currently in abundance. Cumulative impacts are those impacts which result from the action and the combined effect of other potential past, present, and future impacts, such as the combined effect of emissions on the planet's atmosphere.

This EA assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and other alternatives on the greater community, including portions of the locale immediately adjacent to project construction areas referred to as the PROJECT SITE.

3.1 Land Use

The PROJECT SITE has historically been a naturally occurring arroyo until the period between 1967, when residential developments begin to appear to the southeast.

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The PROJECT SITE consists of historically unutilized land along the foothills of the Franklin Mountains.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 Proposed Action

Since construction will be limited to public right-of-way (ROW), the Proposed Action is not anticipated to impact land use conversion, important farmland or classified lands, alteration of existing properties or purchase of additional properties. Direct surface disturbance would be minimized to what is necessary to construct the project. A traffic control plan should be implemented during appropriate hours of operation to reduce the impact of construction-related disturbances by using traffic control measures such as flaggers, traffic signs and other traffic-control devices.

3.1.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative will have no environmental impacts on land use, formally classified lands or important farmland.

3.2 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires federal agencies to avoid actions, to the extent practicable, which would result in the location of facilities in floodplains and/or would affect floodplain values. Facilities located in a floodplain may be damaged or destroyed by a flood or may change the flood-handling capability of the floodplain or the pattern or magnitude of the flood flow.

Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory map indicated no floodplains are situated within the vicinity of the PROJECT SITE.

3.2.1 Affected Environment

ESSCO accessed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Rate Insurance Map (FIRM) Geographic Information System (GIS) database and plotted the Project Site for evaluation. Based on available data it appears the project site is largely classified as Zone C, area of minimal flooding (***A-6 – Flood Zones Map***).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 Proposed Action

There are no 100- or 500-year floodplains within the Project Area which is situated within a natural runoff zone of the Franklin Mountains. The Proposed Action will have no impact on floodplains.

3.2.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative will have no environmental impacts on floodplains.

3.3 Wetlands

Wetlands perform valuable functions in restoring and maintaining the quality of the nation's waters, including floodwater storage, sediment trapping, nutrient removal, chemical detoxification, aquatic food chain support, fish and wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. Wetlands may be located within man-made irrigation ditches and other types of man-made waters designed primarily for flood control and irrigation. They may be lined with vegetation communities that support wildlife and may serve as travel corridors for some species.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Wetlands in the vicinity of the PROJECT SITE were evaluated via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services National Wetlands Inventory (contained in ***A-7 – National Wetlands Inventory Map***). No wetlands are located in or around the vicinity of the Project Site.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 Proposed Action

No wetlands areas would be impacted by the Proposed Action as a result of construction activities associated with the Project.

3.3.2.2 No Action Alternative

No wetlands areas would be impacted by the No Action Alternative.

3.4 Historic Properties/Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic archeological sites, structures, districts, artifacts, and/or any materials that have been made or modified through past human activity that embodies cultural significance. In this document, the term "cultural resources" refers specifically to prehistoric and historic archeological sites, the materials associated with these sites, and historic architectural resources. A cultural resources evaluation of the proposed Area of Potential Effect is required to meet legal responsibilities under existing federal and state guidelines, including Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and the Native American Graves Repatriation Act.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

ESSCO performed a search of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) On-Line Atlas listing potential and known historically significant sites in conjunction to a formal request for consultation submitted to the THC. A response from THC contained the following recommendations (***B-3 – Cultural Resources***):

Above Ground Resources

- No historic properties are present or affected by the project as proposed. However, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties are present. Please contact the THC History Division at 512-463-5853 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties.

Archeology Comments

- No historic properties affected. However, if cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.

As part of the THC submittal, Native American tribes with a vested interest in El Paso County were also contacted. At the time of reporting, **ESSCO** received a response from the White Mountain Apache Tribe of Oklahoma and the Ysleta del sur Pueblo Tribe in El Paso County. Neither tribe has vested interest in the PROJECT SITE. Upon receipt of any further tribal correspondence, **ESSCO** will evaluate and issue an addendum if warranted.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Due to the developed nature of the PROJECT SITE, the Proposed Action will have minimal impact on cultural resources within the PROJECT SITE. However, the project sponsor and its contractor should contact the Texas Historical Commission in the event historical materials are encountered.

3.4.2.1 Proposed Action

Cultural resources will not be impacted by Proposed Action, however, if cultural materials are encountered during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area. Work can continue in areas where no cultural materials are present. The Texas Historical Commission should be contacted to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect cultural remains.

3.4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Cultural resources will not be impacted by the No Action Alternative.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Report

Information obtained from the Biological Survey was entered into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's IPaC report generator ***(B-4 Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Report)***, used to assist in making an effect determination for any protected and endangered species located in the area. The report generator identified seven (7) threatened or endangered species which potentially could be found in the area. Of the seven species, none were deemed to have a high probability of occurring in the action area.

3.5.2 Affected Environment

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 gives the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) federal authority for the protection of threatened and endangered (T&E) species, including prohibiting the killing or harassment (take) of T&E species and destruction of critical T&E habitat. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Code has established a state regulatory mandate for protection of state-listed T&E species by prohibiting the take of such species. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) maintains the authority to protect state-listed T&E species.

ESSCO consulted United States Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species Critical Habitat Mapper and did not locate any mapped areas of critical habitats. However, **ESSCO** also consulted with TPWD regarding any directives concerning the PROJECT SITE. A response letter, which can be found within ***B-5 – Biological Resources (Biological Survey)*** was received via email as of March 12th, 2024, containing the following comments and recommendations:

- *TPWD recommends excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends surveying the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be destroyed by construction. Nest surveys should be conducted not more than five days prior to clearing activities to maximize detection of active nests. TPWD generally recommends a 100-foot radius buffer of vegetation remain around active nests until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged; however, the size of the buffer zone depends on various factors and can be coordinated with the local or regional USFWS office.*
- *TPWD recommends avoiding disturbance of the Texas horned lizard, its burrows, and colonies of its primary food source, the harvester ant (Pogonomyrmex spp.), during clearing and construction. TPWD recommends a permitted biological monitor be present*

during construction to relocate Texas horned lizards, if found. If the presence of a biological monitor during construction is not feasible, Texas horned lizards observed during construction should be allowed to safely leave the project site.

- *TPWD recommends reviewing the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Texas online application for El Paso County, as rare and protected species could be present in the project area, depending upon habitat availability. Providing information prior to construction will educate personnel of the potential occurrence of rare and protected species within the project area, and the relevant rules and regulations that protect plants, fish, and wildlife. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting wildlife.*
- *The proposed project activities may require a Marl, Sand, Gravel, Shell or Mudshell Permit from TPWD. The TPWD Aquatic Resources Permitting and Consultations Program can be contacted at sand.gravel@tpwd.texas.gov for additional information. Information regarding these permits may also be found on the TPWD website.*
- *TPWD recommends the judicious use and placement of sediment control fence to exclude wildlife from the construction area. In many cases sediment control fence placement for the purposes of controlling erosion and protecting water quality can be modified minimally to also provide the benefit of excluding wildlife access to construction areas. The exclusion fence should be buried at least six inches and be at least 24 inches high. Construction personnel should be encouraged to examine the inside of the exclusion area daily to determine if any wildlife species have been trapped inside the area of impact and provide safe egress opportunities prior to initiation of construction activities.*
- *TPWD recommends that any open trenches or excavation areas be covered overnight and/or inspected every morning to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. For open trenches and excavated pits, install escape ramps at an angle of less than 45 degrees (1:1) in areas left uncovered. Excavation areas should be inspected for trapped wildlife prior to refilling.*
- *For soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas, TPWD recommends erosion and seed/mulch stabilization materials that avoid entanglement hazards to snakes and other wildlife species. TPWD recommends the use of no-till drilling, hydromulching and/or hydroseeding due to a reduced risk to wildlife.*
- *Because the mesh found in many erosion control blankets or mats pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife, TPWD recommends avoiding the use of plastic mesh matting. If erosion control blankets or mats containing netting must be used, the netting should be loosely woven, natural fiber material where the mesh design allows the threads to move, therefore allowing expansion of the mesh openings.*

3.5.3 Biological Survey

El Paso Water (EPW) contracted **ESSCO** Environmental, Inc. (**ESSCO**) to conduct a Biological Survey for the Northgate Diversion Channel project, herein attached as ***B-5 – Biological Resources (Biological Survey)***. The purpose of this survey is to identify and describe any federal- and state-listed threatened or endangered species, or their habitat, within or adjacent to

the Project Site and to assess potential impacts under Department of the Interior 50 CFR 454.12.

Potential habitat for two state-listed threatened species and one species listed as endangered at both the federal and state level has been identified within the limits of the Project Site. The threatened Texas horned lizard and Mountain short-horned lizard could potentially occur in the project area and construction activities in the area may affect, directly or indirectly, each species. The Biological Survey conducted a search for the endangered Sneed's pincushion cactus, but this species was not found. It should also be noted that construction activities may take place during the Migratory Bird Nesting Season (March 15 – September 15), during which no active nests may be disturbed.

Based on the findings presented in this biological report and implementation of the Best Management Practices recommended by TPWD, the project has a minimum probability to effect state-listed threatened or endangered species as well as federally protected species.

3.5.4 Environmental Consequences

3.5.4.1 Proposed Action

Although this project was found to have a minimum probability of affecting state-listed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on federally protected species, **ESSCO** recommends having a qualified professional perform biological surveys prior to any ground disturbing activities to monitor for threatened and endangered species.

3.5.4.2 No Action Alternative

Biological resources will not be impacted by the No Action Alternative.

3.6 Water Resources

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) require all states to identify and characterize waters that do not meet, or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the agency responsible for ensuring that all waters of the state remain in compliance with applicable surface water quality standards (30 TAC 307). The TCEQ Texas Integrated Report for CWA Sections 303(d) and 305(b) describes the compliance status of Texas natural waters based on historical data and identifies water bodies that do not meet standards set for their use for inclusion on the 303(d) list, an inventory of impaired waters.

Projects that disturb more than one acre of land require a TCEQ General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities. This permit is designed to minimize or eliminate the introduction of harmful pollutants into storm water runoff and subsequent discharge into local surface waters such as streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands. The proposed project would disturb approximately 1.5 to 2 acres of land; therefore, a TCEQ General Storm Water Permit for Construction Activities would be required.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The major aquifer adjacent to the Project Areas is the Hueco Bolson Aquifer. The aquifer is approximately 9,000 feet thick and consists of silt, sand, and gravel in the upper portion, and clay and silt in the lower portion. The upper several hundred feet of the aquifer contains fresh to slightly saline water. The chemical quality of groundwater differs according to location and depth.

Dissolved solids concentrations in the upper portion of the aquifer range from less than 500 milligrams per liter (mg/L) to more than 1,500 mg/L, with an average concentration of 640 mg/L. Historical, large-scale groundwater withdrawals, especially in municipal wells in the downtown areas of El Paso, have caused major decreases in water levels. The decreases have considerably changed the direction of flow, rate of flow, and quality of groundwater chemistry within the aquifer. Declining groundwater levels also have resulted in a minor amount of land surface subsidence.

Groundwater is not expected to persist beneath the Project Area for extended periods of time as the Project Area is situated at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains where bedrock is just below alluvial deposits at the surface.

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

3.6.2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed action is not expected to impact the adjacent aquifer.

3.6.2.2 No Action Alternative

Water quality issues will not be impacted by the No Action Alternative.

3.7 Coastal Resources

The Project Area is located within the Basin and Range Physiographic province of the southwestern United States and the project limits are not located within the boundaries of any Texas Coastal Zone. Coastal resources are not present in the PROJECT SITE and were not analyzed.

3.8 Socio-Economic Considerations

Socio-economic characteristics of the project area obtained from census data are used to avoid the disproportionate placement of any adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from federal actions and policies on a community, and to allow all portions of the population an opportunity to participate in the development of, compliance with, and enforcement of federal laws, regulations, and policies affecting human health of the environment regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

3.8.1 Affected Environment

3.8.1.1 Population

The Proposed Action is located within the boundaries of El Paso County, Texas. Information regarding socio-economic conditions in the project area was obtained from census data. According to the US Census, the population of El Paso County was 831,324, with a population of 10,018 people residing within a 1.5-mile radius of the PROJECT SITE. Within the same radius, 77% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin with an average per capita income of $28,509. On average, approximately 49% of the population tracts is considered low income. The communities to be serviced by the Proposed Action consist of approximately 50% homeowners.

The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine poverty level. **Table 3.8.1.1** presents data from the 2015 Census ACS 5-year estimate for the PROJECT SITE.

Table 3.8.1.1 – Race and Poverty Conditions for Population for Project Site

Population	% White	% Black	% Native	% Asian	% Islander	% Other/ 2 Or More Races	% Hispanic
10,018	14	5	<1	2	<1	2	**77**

% Population in Affected Census Tracts Below Poverty Line %	**49%**

Margin of error is at least 10% of the total value on these statistics.

3.8.1.2 Morbidity

Morbidity rates for El Paso County exceed the state morbidity rate for strokes, certain cancers (breast, colon, rectum, anus, and male prostate), diabetes, Alzheimer's, chronic liver diseases and cirrhosis, and fetal deaths. Morbidity rates for El Paso County are lower than the state morbidity rate for heart disease, all cancers, chronic lower respiratory disease, nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, influenza and pneumonia, septicemia, and infant deaths. Suicides and accidents are also lower than the state rate.

Table 3.8.1.2 – Morbidity Rates for El Paso County

Mortality Rates							
	Deaths	County	State		Deaths	County	State
Deaths from all Causes	4,524	757.8	808.8	Accidents	214	31.7	41.4
Heart Disease	884	152.4	194.3	Motor Vehicle Accidents	83	11.5	15.3
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	335	58.9	49.4	Diabetes	209	35.4	25.4
All Cancer	987	162.8	172.4	Alzheimer's	166	30.7	28.7
Respiratory/Lung Cancer	174	28.9	47.0	Influenza and Pneumonia	60	10.0	18.3
Female Breast Cancer	81	23.1	22.3	Assault (Homicide)	20	---	5.9
Colon, Rectum and Anus	105	17.4	16.4	Suicide	63	9.0	11.0
Male Prostate Cancer	75	32.4	20.8	Septicemia	88	14.7	14.8
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	234	41.4	45.8	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	133	20.8	11.7
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis	101	17.0	17.9	Infant Deaths	74	5.3	6.1
				Fetal Deaths	83	5.9	5.6

Notes:

- Infant death rates are per 1,000 live births.
- Fetal deaths rates are per 1,000 live births plus fetal deaths.
- All other death rates were age-adjusted to the 2000 standard per 100,000 population. No age-adjusted rates were calculated if based on 20 or fewer deaths. Infant and fetal death rates were not calculated if 20 or fewer births or births plus fetal deaths occurred.
- Missing rates are indicated by "---"
- Current mortality rates by cause are not comparable with data reported prior to 1999.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

3.8.2.1 Proposed Action

The implementation of improvements to the Northgate Diversion Channel would highly benefit down-gradient residents in the event of a prolonged high-precipitation event. Potential release of hazardous chemicals and other potential pollutants stored by residents would be minimized in addition to damage to property by waters breaching the existing channel. The proposed action would have a positive impact to socio-economic conditions within the Park Foothills subdivision.

3.8.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative could potentially cause residences down-gradient from the existing channel to be at risk to stormwater breaching the existing channel banks in the event of a prolonged high-precipitation event, and would have a negative impact on socio-economic conditions in the Project Area.

3.9 Air Quality

3.9.1 Affected Environment

In August 2018, the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico and environmental petitioners challenged the EPA's attainment/unclassifiable designation for El Paso County. On July 10, 2020, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued its opinion to remand (without vacatur) the El Paso County attainment designation to the EPA and require the EPA to issue a revised El Paso County designation for the 2015 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS) as expeditiously as practicable.

On December 21, 2020, TCEQ submitted supplemental information to the EPA in support of retaining El Paso County's original attainment designation. The EPA sent a 120-day letter to Texas on May 25, 2021, notifying the governor that the EPA intends to modify the designation for El Paso County to nonattainment as part of the existing Doña Ana partial-county (Sunland Park) ozone nonattainment area.

On July 26, 2021, the TCEQ submitted a response requesting that the EPA not modify El Paso County's existing attainment/unclassifiable designation consistent with all the information submitted by the state. On November 30, 2021, the EPA published a final nonattainment designation for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS for El Paso County, effective December 30, 2021. The EPA expanded the Sunland Park marginal nonattainment area to include all of El Paso County and renamed the area as the "El Paso-Las Cruces, Texas-New Mexico nonattainment area.

For Particulate Matter 10 (PM10), El Paso is designated as Moderate Nonattainment. Modeling of U.S. emissions along the border with Mexico in the El Paso area indicated that the nonattainment area would have been in attainment if not for emissions transported from outside the U.S., based on Section 179B of the Federal Clean Air Act, which provides that an area does not have to meet the moderate nonattainment if the state demonstrates attainment if not for emissions from another country.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

3.9.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction activities during installation of the Proposed Action will cause minor nuisances such as fugitive dust. Measures for dust control during construction would adhere to EPA standards for the protection of air quality. Pursuant to regulations, excavations, embankments, stockpiles, access roads, plants sites, waste sites, borrow areas and all other work areas within

or without the project boundaries must be free from dust which could cause the PM Standards for air pollution to be exceeded, and which would cause a hazard or nuisance to others.

As this project will include earth moving equipment (i.e., excavators, backhoes, dump trucks), **ESSCO** has prepared an Air Emission Inventory spreadsheet demonstrating emissions are well below allowable levels. Air pollution emissions from the Proposed Action will come from a combination of construction activities and earth-moving equipment with exhaust pipe emissions. Construction and other vehicle information was obtained from engineering design plans, the schedule for the Proposed Action and from local contractors, and included information on number of vehicles, emissions of construction equipment and duration of construction activities. Additionally, hot mix asphalt concrete (HMAC) will be replaced in the disturbed roadway.

The Air Emission Inventory results are presented in **Table 3.9.2.1**:

Table 3.9.2.1 – Air Emissions

Emissions Process	VOC[(2)]	NOX[(2)]	CO[(2)]	PM 2.5[(2)]	PM 10[(2)]
Earthwork and Pipe Installation	283,650	3,961,500	850,680	283,560	133,440
Paving Operations	2,826,541	1,445,600	330,820	100,080	50,040
Ancillary Sources	133,440	1,801,440	311,360	133,440	66,720
Total Emissions (grams)	3,243,541	7,208,540	1,492,860	517,080	250,200
Total Emissions (tons)	3.6	7.9	1.6	0.6	0.3

NOTE: Based upon standard 8-hour workday.

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 impacts from construction activities.

3.9.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is not expected to impact air quality in within the vicinity of the PROJECT SITE.

3.10 Transportation

The PROJECT SITE is located at the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, at the northwest limits of Hondo Pass Drive, in Northeast El Paso, Texas.

3.10.1 Affected Environment

Construction activities within the PROJECT SITE would likely cause temporary delays during the transportation of heavy construction equipment and materials to the PROJECT SITE.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

3.10.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would have temporary minor impacts on local transportation notably during the delivery of construction materials and heavy equipment. A traffic control plan should be implemented, when necessary, along with a dedicated staging area for construction materials, and coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TX-DOT).

3.10.2.2

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to transportation systems would occur.

3.11 Noise and Aesthetics

Noise is defined as a sound that is undesirable. Federal and local governments have established noise guidelines and regulations for protecting citizens from potential hearing damage and from various other adverse physiological, psychological, and social effects associated with noise. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has developed noise guidelines in terms of day-night average sound level (DNL) metered in decibels (dB). In general, the noise environment at a site will be considered:

- "unacceptable" where the noise exposure to noise-sensitive receptors exceeds DNL 75 dB
- "normally unacceptable" where the noise exposure to noise-sensitive receptors is between DNL 65 and 75 dB, and "acceptable" where the noise exposure to noise-sensitive receptors is DNL 65 dB or less

Noise-sensitive receptors are land uses associated with indoor or outdoor activities that may be subject to stress or substantial interference from noise. These land uses generally include residences, hotels/motels, nursing homes, schools, and libraries.

3.11.1 Affected Environment

The area in the vicinity of the Proposed Action contains numerous residential properties, and recreational areas, that would be considered aesthetically pleasant, as well as being considered a noise sensitive land use. The primary source of noise within the PROJECT SITE currently is from traffic along residential streets.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

3.11.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction activities temporarily would increase ambient noise levels due to additional construction vehicle traffic. Trucks would bring additional construction materials to the PROJECT SITE for activities associated with the Proposed Action. It is estimated that the shortest distance between an equipment noise source and a receptor (i.e., person[s]) would be 50 feet. If a person were within this distance, the person could be exposed to noise as high as 73 to 85 dB based on typical construction equipment noise reference levels provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHW A) Construction Noise Handbook (FHW A, 2006).

During project construction activities, measures such as limiting unnecessary idling of construction vehicles, maintaining vehicles in proper working condition, and shutting down construction machines that are not in use would be employed to minimize additional noise impacts from construction activities. It is anticipated that construction activities would occur between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. five days per week during construction activities, minimizing noise impacts to residences located near the PROJECT SITE.

Construction equipment is generally considered as aesthetically unpleasant; however, equipment would only be present during the duration of project construction. Therefore, there would be only a short-term negative impact to aesthetics.

3.11.2.2 No Action Alternative

No facilities would be built nor would land be disturbed by construction activities as part of the No Action Alternative; thus, no noise or aesthetic impacts are anticipated.

3.12 Hazardous Materials

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act regulate hazardous materials and waste sites. There are two general types of potential hazardous materials impact: 1) encountering existing hazardous materials during construction activities that, in turn, has the potential to expose workers or the public; or 2) introducing hazardous materials into the PROJECT SITE as part of project activities (e.g., storage and use of hazardous materials at the proposed maintenance facility or accidental spills of hazardous materials during construction). In general, hazardous materials and hazardous wastes include substances that, because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may present substantial danger to public health or welfare or to the environment when released or otherwise improperly managed.

On behalf of **ESSCO**, Banks Environmental Data (BED) conducted a search of available environmental database listings for the PROJECT SITE within applicable search radiuses, dated February 08, 2024. The BED report compiles with minimum requirements presented in ASTM E 1527-21 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process. The following is a synopsis of pertinent information presented in the BED report regarding the PROJECT SITE and sites located within appropriate search radiuses.

The BED search identified 3 mapped sites of interest related to ASTM E 1527-21 within the appropriate search radiuses of the PROJECT SITE. Sites listed include one (1) PST Petroleum Storage Tank, and two (2) LPST Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank, each within or potentially within one mile of the PROJECT SITE. The BED search also identified six 6 unmapped sites

within the search radius of the PROJECT SITE. Two (2) VCP Voluntary Cleanup Program, and four (4) HW Hazardous Waste sites. Refer to the BED report in ***B-6 – Banks Environmental Database*** for acronym definitions.

3.12.1 Affected Environment

The area in the vicinity of the Proposed Action most likely to be affected is Chihuahuan Desert shrubland.

3.12.1.2 Proposed Action

Potential impacts from the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials such as fuels, solvents and gases during construction or operation of the proposed project are anticipated to be minimal since construction activities would involve relatively limited use of hazardous materials and any such use would be regulated by existing federal and state requirements. Spill prevention measures would be implemented during construction equipment refueling, thus minimizing potential impacts from spills during fuel transfer activities.

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.

Routine transport, use or 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. Spill prevention measures would be implemented during construction equipment refueling, minimizing potential impacts from spills during fuel transfer activities.

3.12.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no facilities would be built, nor would land be disturbed by construction activities beyond repairs, as needed; therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no direct, indirect or cumulative effects from hazardous materials.

3.13 Climate

The USACE evaluated climate and potential vulnerabilities from changing conditions for the Central area of El Paso as part of the El Paso, TX Flood Risk Management Study (USACE 2024). According to the study, the region (and likely the PROJECT SITE) is experiencing increasing temperatures, increasing evapotranspiration, and is at risk for flash flooding and debris flows such as the events that occurred in 2016.

3.13.1 Affected Environment

El Paso, TX, has an arid climate characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, dry winters. Summer temperatures peak in June with average maximum temperatures around 96°F; the coolest winter month is typically January with average maximum temperatures around 58°F, and average minimum temperatures just below freezing (31.6°F). Annual precipitation averages 8.56 inches, with most of the precipitation falling in brief but intensive convective storms during the summer monsoon season (late June through early October). Precipitation in July, August and September averages approximately 1.5 inches per month (Western Regional Climate Center, 2021).

Changing conditions have already been observed in the project area, including increases in average temperature in all seasons of the year. Changes in precipitation over recent decades are less clear. Several studies point to small recent increases in the intensity of one-day rainfall, but these changes are small relative to precipitation variability.

West Texas is anticipated to become more arid in the future overall, although monsoon season precipitation may increase slightly. Monsoon storms may become more intense: some studies projected increases of 9%-20% in the 20-year return period event by mid-century (Wuebbles, et al., 2017).

Based on the results of USACE Civil Works Vulnerability Assessment tool, the primary factor contributing to future flood risk for the project area is the expectation that flood flows may be larger in the future with observed climate data. This is due to two factors: an increase in the frequency of larger storms, and an increase in the amount of precipitation that runs off. Under all scenarios, a larger share of the precipitation runs off compared to today, potentially increasing flood risk in the project area. This highlights the importance of the stormwater improvements EPWater has been making and the importance of improving the pump station.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

3.12.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would produce minor amounts of emissions during construction, as presented in **Table 3.9.2.1**. BMPs to prevent air quality impacts, such as limiting the idling of vehicles, would also help minimize CO_2 emissions.

The Proposed Action would prevent residences down-gradient from the existing channel from being at risk of stormwater breaching the existing channel banks in the event of a prolonged high-precipitation event. As noted above, this would also be an impact to socio-economic conditions.

3.13.2.2 No Action Alternative

Without the proposed improvements, residences down-gradient from the existing channel would be at risk of stormwater breaching the existing channel banks in the event of a prolonged high-precipitation event. As noted above, this would also be an impact to socio-economic conditions.

4.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

4.1 Land use/Formally Classified Lands/Important Farmland

No land use conversion or disturbance of classified lands or important farmlands is expected from the Proposed Action.

4.2 Floodplains

No floodplains would be affected by the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

4.3 Wetlands

No areas of wetlands are expected to be disturbed from the Proposed Action.

4.4 Historic Properties/Cultural Resources

If cultural materials are encountered during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area. However, work can continue in areas where no cultural materials are present. The Texas Historical Commission should be contacted to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect cultural remains.

4.5 Biological Resources

ESSCO consulted with TPWD to determine if the Proposed Action will impact state-listed threatened and endangered species. Based on the findings following a biological survey conducted by **ESSCO** and directives from the TPWD, the following best practices are recommended:

- A qualified professional should perform daily biological surveys prior to any ground-disturbing activities to inspect and monitor threatened and endangered species.
- The contractor should be made aware of recommendations stipulated by the TPWD.
- Avoid clearing vegetation during bird nesting season (March 15 – September 15) or conduct a bird nesting survey prior to any clearing any vegetation.

Based on the findings presented within this report, a qualified professional would perform daily biological surveys prior to any ground disturbing activities to monitor for threatened and endangered species.

4.6 Water Resources

No aquifers listed above have been designated as a sole source aquifer by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). USEPA defines a sole source aquifer as one which supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. Water quality will not be affected by the Proposed Action.

4.7 Coastal Resources

No coastal resources are located within the vicinity of the Project Site.

4.8 Socio-economic Considerations

The proposed action would have a positive impact to down-gradient residents in the Park Foothills subdivision, whereas the No Action alternative would fail to serve this community.

4.9 Air Quality

The Proposed Action would have short-term, minor impacts on air quality that would be minimized through construction Best Management Practices. There would be no long-term impacts on air quality. 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 impacts from construction activities.

4.10 Transportation

The Proposed Action would have short-term, minor impacts on transportation that would be minimized through traffic control planning. There would be no long-term impacts to transportation. Ensuring accessibility to all residential, commercial and institutional facilities during construction would minimize transportation impacts. A traffic control plan would be implemented in appropriate areas and during appropriate hours of operation to reduce the impact of construction-related traffic by using traffic control measures such as flaggers and traffic signs.

4.11 Noise and Aesthetics

Given the fact that the project will be taking place near residential dwellings, measures such as limiting unnecessary idling of construction vehicles, maintaining vehicles in proper working condition, and shutting down construction machines that are not in use would be employed to minimize additional noise impacts from construction activities. It is anticipated that construction activities would occur between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. five days per week during construction activities, minimizing noise impacts to residences located near the PROJECT SITE.

4.12 Hazardous Materials

No hazardous materials are known to exist at the PROJECT SITE. 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.

Routine transport, use or 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. Spill prevention measures would be implemented during construction equipment refueling, minimizing potential impacts from spills during fuel transfer activities.

4.13 Climate

The Proposed Action would prevent down gradient residents within the Park Foothills subdivision from being affected by an increase in flash flooding.

5.0 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best management practices represent specific actions to minimize potential for impacts to natural and cultural resources. The best management practices for the Proposed Action includes the following.

- The project contractor would be vigilant for the presence of cultural materials in construction areas. If cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work would cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. The Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division must be contacted at 512-463-6096 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 CW A 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 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 a native plant species seed mixture appropriate for the land type. Prompt application of native vegetation would allow for efficient establishment and would include the use of regionally native vegetation and approved seed mixes for landscaping.
- 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 ROWs 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 T&E species and nests of migratory birds to ensure the prevention of direct or indirect take of any federally or state-listed species.

- The construction contractor would be made aware of recommendations stipulated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for protection of State-listed species that could occur in the project area. A qualified professional biologist would perform daily biological surveys prior to any ground disturbing activities to monitor for threatened and endangered species.
- A traffic control plan would be implemented in appropriate areas and during appropriate hours of operation to reduce the impact of construction-related traffic to residences and business by using traffic control measures such as flaggers and traffic signs. 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.
- Comply with all federal, state, and local laws that protect fish and wildlife.
- If private land is to be acquired during the acquisition of previous developed property to facilitate the Proposed Action, fair market value should be paid to the owner of purchased lands.
- Equipment entering and leaving the site would be cleaned to prevent the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds (e.g. Salt Cedar), including invasive plant seeds or parts.

6.0 PUBLIC REVIEW

Comments from the Public Review and responses to comments will be included in this subsection, and in ***B-7 – Public Review***.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Consultation

ESSCO has requested consultation with the following regulatory agencies:

- City of El Paso Floodplain Administrator
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Highway Administration
- Native American Tribes
- Open Space Advisory Board
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Historical Commission
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- United States Border Patrol
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- United States International Boundary and Water Commission

The contacted tribes can be found in ***B-8 - Contacted Tribes***.

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following persons contributed to the preparation of this EA and development of technical support studies regarding the Proposed Action.

Table 8.1 – List of Report Preparers

Name	Title	Education	Years of Experience
Zakk Holguin, G.I.T.	Project Geologist **ESSCO Environmental**	B.S., Geological Sciences	5
Yvette Pereyra, M.S., P.G.	Project Manager **ESSCO Environmental**	M.S., Geological Sciences	7
Johanes Makahaube, PhD., P.E.	Senior Project Manager **ESSCO Environmental**	Ph.D., Civil Engineering	31

Table 8.2 – List of Report Reviewers

Name	Affiliation	Role
Brian Sanchez	CIV USARMY CESPA **USACE**	Project Manager
Robert Grimes	CIV USARMY CESPA **USACE**	Project Manager
Kaitlyn Fuqua	CIV USARMY CESPA **USACE**	Archaeologist
MAJ Robert Zebrowski	A21 SPA **USACE**	Reviewer
Dana Price	CIV USARMY CESPA **USACE**	Reviewer
Trevor Stevens	CIV USARMY CESPA **USACE**	Reviewer

9.0 REFERENCES

The following documents were utilized in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment:

- ASTM International (ASTM), 2021, ASTM E 1527-21, Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.
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