Appendix F. Public Involvement

Notice of Availability and Newspaper Affidavit

Comment Letters

Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Middle Venada Arroyo Water Quality Improvement Project
Sandoval County, NM

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, in collaboration with the Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority, has completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the **Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project, Sandoval County, New Mexico**. The Draft EA evaluates alternatives that would provide stormwater treatment in the Venada Arroyo. The project is located northwest of Paseo del Vulcan and east of Westphalia Boulevard NE in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

The proposed project would involve construction of a single off-channel storage pond on the west tributary of Upper Venada Arroyo. A side weir would be built to drop into the off-channel pond when flow in the main stem reaches a certain level. Inflow would be controlled with hardened inlets, bypass, or drop structures. The inlet/bypass structures would be sized to carry the 100-year flow. Any water stored in the off-channel pond would be treated for floatable debris using an inverted ported riser system prior to discharge back into the downstream conveyance. Flows from more frequent return period storms would bypass the off-channel pond.

The proposed construction period would be approximately 9 months and is expected to start in August of 2025.

The Draft EA is electronically available for viewing and copying at the Albuquerque District website (under "FONSI/Environmental Assessment") at:

https://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Compliance-Documents/Environmental-Assessments-FONSI/

A hard copy of the Draft EA will be available at the Loma Colorado Main Library. The Draft EA and FONSI will be available for public review from April 28, 2025, until May 28, 2025. Written comments may be sent to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Resources Section
Attn: CESPA-PM-LE (Stephanie Jentsch)
4101 Jefferson Plaza Avenue NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
or
stephanie.jentsch @usace.army.mil

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NEW MEXICO } SS
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO }

Ad Cost:	$114.84
Ad Number:	220300
Account Number:	1009497
Classification:	NOT FOUND

I, Steve Yoder, the undersigned, Legal Representative of the Albuquerque Journal, on oath, state that this newspaper is duly qualified to publish legal notices or advertisements within the meaning of Section 3, chapter 167, Session Laws of 1937, and payment of fees has been made of assessed and a copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said publication in the daily edition, 1 times(s) on the following date(s):

April 27, 2025

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.
SIGNED:

Legal Representative

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 28th day of April 2025.

David Lindsey Montoya
Notary Public
County Bernalillo
ID#: 1140229
My commission expires: 04-26-2027

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
NOTARY PUBLIC
DAVID LINDSEY MONTOYA
COMMISSION NUMBER 1140229
EXPIRATION DATE 04-26-2027

SOUTHERN SANDOVAL CNTY ARROYO
FLOOD CONT
FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY
1041 COMMERCIAL DR SE
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124

Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
Middle Venada Arroyo Water Quality Improvement Project
Sandoval County, NM

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The proposed project would involve construction of a single off-channel storage pond on the west tributary of Upper Venada Arroyo. A side weir would be built to drop into the off-channel pond when flow in the main stem reaches a certain level. Inflow would be controlled with hardened inlets, bypass, or drop structures. The inlet/bypass structures would be sized to carry the 100-year flow. Any water stored in the off-channel pond would be treated for floatable debris using an inverted ported riser system prior to discharge back into the downstream conveyance. Flows from more frequent return period storms would bypass the off-channel pond.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Attn: CESPA-PM-LE (Stephanie Jentsch)
4101 Jefferson Plaza Avenue NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
or
stephanie.jentsch @usace.army.mil

Journal: April 27, 2025.

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY
CABINET SECRETARY

May 28, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Environmental Resources Section
Attn: CESPA-PM-LE (Stephanie Jentsch)
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Submitted electronically to: stephaine.jentsch@usace.army.mil

RE: Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project

Dear Stephanie Jentsch,

Thank you for providing the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) the opportunity to review the materials regarding the proposed Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project in Sandoval County. Strong intergovernmental coordination is essential to ensure protection of human health and the environment. Each bureau has listed their comments below.

Based the comments from the respective agencies below, NMED opposes the plans for Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project.

Please reach out to env.review@env.nm.gov with further questions you may have and use the environmental review request portal at https://www.env.nm.gov/review-request/ for new review requests.

Sincerely,

Signed by:
313D52420257438...
Christina Keyes, Acting Director
Office of Strategic Initiatives

Attachment

After reviewing the documents submitted, NMED opposes the proposed Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project. The Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) opposes the project due to concerns regarding the project's potential impact on surface water quality due to increased impervious surfaces and reliance on stormwater ponds, which can concentrate pollutants. SWQB recommends incorporating Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure to mitigate long-term environmental impacts. The draft environmental assessment should also be revised to reflect current water quality impairments in the Rio Grande and to consider additional alternatives. Other bureaus noted no opposition, provided compliance with applicable environmental and regulatory requirements is maintained throughout construction and operation. The project poses minimal risk to regulated public water systems if proposed best management practices are followed.

Drinking Water Bureau

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau (DWB) does not oppose this project. There are no regulated public groundwater system sources within 1000 feet of the proposed project area. There is a regulated public water system surface water intake within 10 miles of the proposed project area. The proposal lists best management practices that will be utilized to manage sedimentation, erosion, fuels and lubricants, and solid waste materials during the construction phase of the project. The proposal also describes how the project site around the proposed construction would be revegetated at the completion of construction. Utilizing the best management practices listed in the proposal, this project is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on any regulated public water system.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

SWQB Comment 1:

For the reasons outlined in the comments below, the Surface Water Quality Bureau opposes the draft EA for the Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project.

SWQB Comment 2: Purpose and Need

Section 1.2 Purpose and Need of the draft EA for Upper Venada Arroyo says that the watershed is currently mostly undeveloped, but that future development and hardened surfaces will increase the volume of runoff and lead to severe erosion; Therefore, the proposed project is needed to mitigate future development impacts. The Surface Water Quality Bureau strongly encourages Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc. (DBS&A), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (SSCAFCA), the City of Rio Rancho, and Sandoval County to take this opportunity to incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) into the future developments for the Venada Arroyo Watershed – minimizing hardened surfaces will improve runoff management and erosion control and may prevent the need to develop additional, large, expensive stormwater management systems that have the potential to cause further harm to surface waters.

Threats to surface water quality associated with increased impervious areas:

- The percentage of impervious area at which degradation of water quality begins is varied, ranging from 4–5% to 10–12% (USEPA Office of Water, Recovery Potential Metrics Summary Form, Watershed Percent Impervious Cover[1]).
- Urban runoff increases directly with imperviousness and is associated with pollutants that include pathogens and oxygen-demanding substances (USEPA, Urban Stormwater Preliminary Data[2]).
- Higher percentage of metal exceedances occur in water samples collected during high flows due to accumulations of metals on impervious surfaces (USGS, Effects of urbanization on stream water quality in the city of Atlanta, Georgia, USA[3]).
- Concrete lined channels experience greater maximum water temperature and facilitate algae growth (USACE, Environmental Engineering for Local Flood Control Channels[4]).
- Impervious surfaces in headwater urban watersheds prevent the recharge of oxygen-rich waters during storm events (University of Maryland, Effects of concrete channels on stream biogeochemistry, Maryland Coastal Plain[5]).
- Cement lined channels increase event water contributions, shorten transport times, and magnify geochemistry variability (Saint Louis University, Hyporheic zone flow disruption from channel linings: implications for the hydrology and geochemistry of an urban stream, St. Louis, Missouri, USA[6]).
- The capacity of the plant and sediment community to adsorb and retain pollutants is also a function of retention time, as velocities increase, retention times decrease and the capacity of the system to adsorb and retain pollutants may be significantly reduced (City of San Diego, Emergency Channel Maintenance Technical Studies Memorandum for the Parkside Channel[7]).

Threats to surface water quality associated with water storage ponds:

- Sediment basins can act as reservoir for pathogenic bacteria (Clemson University, Attachment of *Escherichia coli* to fine sediment particles within construction sediment basins[8]).
- Stormwater ponds concentrate contaminants from urban runoff (Lulea University, Contamination of Urban Stormwater Pond Sediments: A Study of 259 Legacy and Contemporary Organic Substances[9]; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Distribution, Toxic Potential, and Influence of a Land Use on Conventional and Emerging Contaminants in Urban Stormwater Pond Sediments[10]).

[1] https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-11/documents/rp2wshedimperv1109.pdf
[2] https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/usw_b.pdf
[3] https://water.usgs.gov/webb/publications/2009/peters_2009.pdf
[4] https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/portals/76/publications/engineermanuals/em_1110-2-1205.pdf
[5] https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2005AGUSMNB21F..02P/abstract
[6] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12583-016-0632-5#citeas
[7] https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/pc_substantial_conformance_review_memo.pdf
[8] https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=29270
[9] https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.0c07782
[10] https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30637461/

SWQB Comment 3: Section 3.1.2 Water Resources

Section 3.1.2 of the draft EA should be updated to include the following information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, NPDES permit number NMR04A00, which includes the City of Rio Rancho, SSCAFCA, and Sandoval County.

NPDES NMR04A000, Part 1. Individual Permit Conditions, Section D. Stormwater Management Program, Subsection 5. Control Measures, Paragraph b. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment:

i. The permittee must develop, revise, implement, and enforce a program to address stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than or equal to one acre, including projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale, that discharge into the MS4. The program must ensure that controls are in place that would prevent or minimize water quality impacts. Permittees previously covered under NMSOOOlOI or NMR040000 must continue existing programs, updating as necessary, to comply with the requirements of this permit. (Note: Highway Departments and Flood Control Authorities may only apply the post-construction stormwater management program to the permittee's own construction projects)

ii. The program must include the development, implementation, and enforcement of, at a minimum:

a. Strategies which include a combination of structural and/or non-structural best management practices (BMPs) to control pollutants in storm water runoff.

b. An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment projects to the extent allowable under State, Tribal or local law. The ordinance or policy must:

Incorporate a stormwater quality design standard that manages on-site the 90'" percentile storm event discharge volume associated with new development sites and 80'" percentile storm event discharge volume associated with redevelopment sites, through stormwater controls that infiltrate, evapotranspire the discharge volume, except in instances where full compliance cannot be achieved, as provided in Part l.D.5.b.(v). The stormwater from rooftop discharge may be harvested and used on-site for non commercial use. Any controls utilizing impoundments that are also used for flood control that are located in areas where the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer requirements at NMAC 19.26.2.15 (see also Section 72-5-32 NMSA) apply must drain within 96 hours unless the state engineer has issued a waiver to the owner of the impoundment.

Options to implement the site design standard include, but are not limited to: management of the discharge volume achieved by canopy interception,

soil amendments, rainfall harvesting, rain tanks and cisterns, engineered infiltration, extended filtration, dry swales, bioretention, rooftop disconnections, permeable pavement, porous concrete, permeable pavers, reforestation, grass channels, green roofs and other appropriate techniques, and any combination of these practices, including implementation of other stormwater controls used to reduce pollutants in stormwater (e.g., a water quality facility).

SWQB Comment 4: Section 3.1.2 Water Resources

Section 3.1.2 of the draft EA should describe the current water quality impairments. The segment of the Rio Grande from the Alameda Bridge to the HWY 550 Bridge is currently listed as impaired under Clean Water Act Section 303(d) for alpha particles, E. coli, and fish consumption advisories for mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and does not support the designated uses for livestock watering, aquatic life, or wildlife habitat. The CWA 303(d) List and Integrated Report is available at: https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/. Water quality data from the MS4 permit should also be described.

SWQB Comment 5: Section 2.1 Alternatives Considered

In addition to the Preferred Alternative (i.e. a single off-channel storage pond) and the No-Action Alternative, the SWQB strongly recommends that the draft EA be revised to include an alternative that fully incorporates LID, GI, and other MS4 permit requirements into future development scenarios.

SWQB Comment 6: Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

Urbanization significantly impacts watershed function and water quality. The draft EA should consider the cumulative effects of developing the Venada Arroyo Watershed and re-consider if changing what is currently a mostly undeveloped watershed into one that is fully developed with hardened surfaces will truly result in no significant impacts to water quality.

Solid Waste Bureau

The Solid Waste Bureau does not oppose the Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvement Project. If solid waste is generated during the project, it should be disposed of properly at an approved transfer station or landfill. As it states in the Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.2.8.D NMAC, anyone who generates, stores, processes, transports or disposes of solid waste shall do so in a manner that does not create a public nuisance.

Air Quality Bureau

The Air Quality Bureau does not oppose the plans for the Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvement Project to channel water from the Rio Grande River during periods of high flow, and appreciates that, “construction areas would be watered for dust control and comply with local sedimentation and erosion-control regulations” to minimize impacts to the environment. Revegetation by native grasses as proposed in the Draft will also help to prevent erosion.

Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau

Prevention and Inspection Program response:
The request contains no actions that will impact storage tank systems currently regulated under 20.5 NMAC and does not propose the installation of new storage tank systems. There are no active facilities within one half mile of the proposed site.

Remedial Action Program response:
There are no confirmed release sites that are active or have a "no further action" status directly associated with the project area or within a half mile of the project area.

Summary:

If an abandoned storage tank system or petroleum impacted soil and/or water is discovered during construction, the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau must be notified (20.5.118 NMAC, etc.). In the event that an abandoned storage tank system or petroleum impacted soil and/or water is discovered during any construction activity, please notify the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau during business hours via the "Leak of the Week" at: https://www.env.nm.gov/petroleum_storage_tank/ (see box to the right, Report a Leak or Spill) or call 505-476-4397. During non-business hours, please call 505-827-9329. Owners, operators, and others dealing with petroleum storage tank systems must comply with all regulations in 20.5 NMAC, New Mexico's Petroleum Storage Tank regulations.

From:	Marchetti, Jack, DGF
To:	Jentsch, Stephanie A CIV USARMY CESPA (USA)
Cc:	DGF-EEP-TG
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] RE: Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project; NMERT Project No. NMERT-4548
Date:	Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:32:02 PM
Attachments:	project_report_upper_venada_arroyo_stormwa_38712_38731.pdf

Dear Stephanie Jentsch,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed your 25 April 2025 announcement of the prepared Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project (Project). Upon receiving the announcement, Department staff entered the Project into the New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (NMERT) which auto-generated project report that contains several recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from your project. The project report is attached here for your review. Please consider the recommendations in the project report, and the recommendations below, as the Department's comments regarding the Project.

Due to the large amounts of soil proposed for removal, in addition to the burrowing owl and prairie dog surveys recommended in the NMERT-generated report, the Department recommends surveying the project area for any burrowing wildlife species prior to the initiation of any soil moving activities. If disturbance of any detected burrowing wildlife cannot be avoided, then a qualified biologist should be engaged to capture and move any such wildlife.

All migratory birds are protected against direct take under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 703-712), and hawks, falcons, vultures, owls, songbirds, and other insect-eating birds are protected under New Mexico State Statutes (17-2-13 and 17-2-14 NMSA), unless permitted by the applicable regulatory agency. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, nests, eggs, or nestlings, the Department recommends that ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities be conducted outside of the primary migratory bird breeding season of April 15-September 1. Breeding season may begin earlier for raptors or when working in low-elevation habitats such as deserts. If ground disturbing and clearing activities must be conducted during the breeding season, the area should be surveyed for active nest sites (with birds or eggs present in the nesting territory) and avoid disturbing active nests until young have fledged. For active nests, establish adequate buffer zones to minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Buffer distances should be at least 100 feet from songbird and raven nests; 0.25 miles from most raptor nests; and 0.5 miles for ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) nests. Active nest sites in trees or shrubs that must be removed should be mitigated by qualified biologists or wildlife rehabilitators. Department biologists are available to consult on nest site mitigation and can facilitate contact with qualified personnel.

The list of New Mexico SGCN (see link, page 14, table 5) and the federal list of Birds of Conservation Concern should be reviewed to fully evaluate potential effects to migratory birds from your proposed project. Federal agencies are also required under Executive Order 13186 to implement standards and practices that lessen the amount of unintentional take attributable to agency actions. These conservation measures are strongly recommended to ensure persistence of migratory bird species whose populations are small and/or declining within New Mexico.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your project. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jack Marchetti (he/him)
Aquatic/Riparian Habitat Specialist
Fisheries Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Cell: 505-479-1269
jack.marchetti@dgf.nm.gov

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project
Project Type:	WATER MANAGEMENT, GENERAL
Latitude/Longitude (DMS):	35.322764 / -106.622564
County(s):	SANDOVAL
Project Description:	

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:	
Contact Name:	Jack Marchetti
Email Address:	jack.marchetti@dgf.nm.gov
Organization:	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Address:	1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe NM 87507
Phone:	5054791269

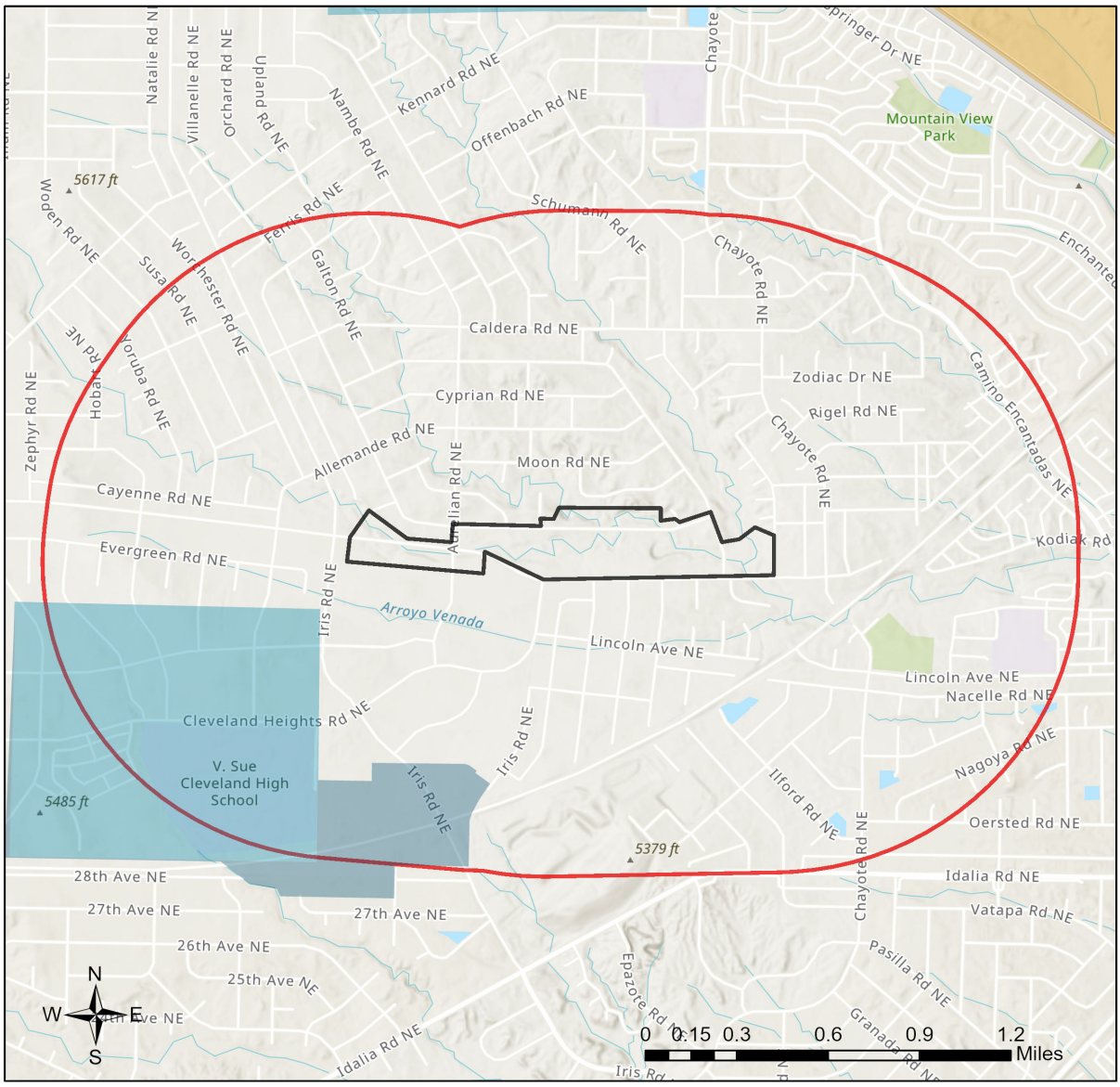
OVERALL STATUS

This report contains an initial list of recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from the proposed project; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. Your project proposal is being forwarded to a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) biologist for review to determine whether there are any additional recommendations regarding the proposed actions. A Department biologist will be in touch within 30 days if there are further recommendations regarding this project proposal.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their Information for Planning and Consultation tool.
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA), Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for New Mexico; all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool, the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.

Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements F



- Buffered Project Boundary
- Project_Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- City Land
- County Land
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- NM Department of Game & Fish
- NM State Forestry Division
- NM State Parks
- National Park Service
- Other Federal Agency
- Other Federal Agency
- State Land Office
- State of New Mexico
- Tribal Land
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

City of Rio Rancho, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata			SGCN			
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Flammulated Owl	Otus flammeolus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus			SGCN			
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus			SGCN			
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga columbiana			SGCN			
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN			
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN			
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides			SGCN			
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Thick-billed Longspur	Rhynchophanes mccownii			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Chestnut-Collared Longspur	Calcarius ornatus			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Cassin's Finch	Haemorhous cassinii			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus			SGCN			
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse	Zapus hudsonius luteus	LE	E	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Mountain Lion	Puma concolor			SERI			
Elk	Cervus canadensis			SERI			
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			

Common Name hyperlink takes you to species account in bison-m.org; Scientific Name hyperlink takes you to information in NatureServe Explorer; ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this website; WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need; USFS = U.S. Forest Service, Sensitive Species = A species likely to occur on USFS lands that is of concern for a potential reduction in population viability; SCC = Species of Conservation Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management, BLM SENSITIVE = A species that occurs on BLM lands and whose viability is at risk, BLM WATCH = Species that may be added to the sensitive species list in future pending new information regarding species status.

Project Recommendations

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- Additional coordination and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Upper Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements Project
Project Type:	WATER MANAGEMENT, GENERAL
Latitude/Longitude (DMS):	35.322764 / -106.622564
County(s):	SANDOVAL
Project Description:	

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:	
Contact Name:	Jack Marchetti
Email Address:	jack.marchetti@dgf.nm.gov
Organization:	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Address:	1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe NM 87507
Phone:	5054791269

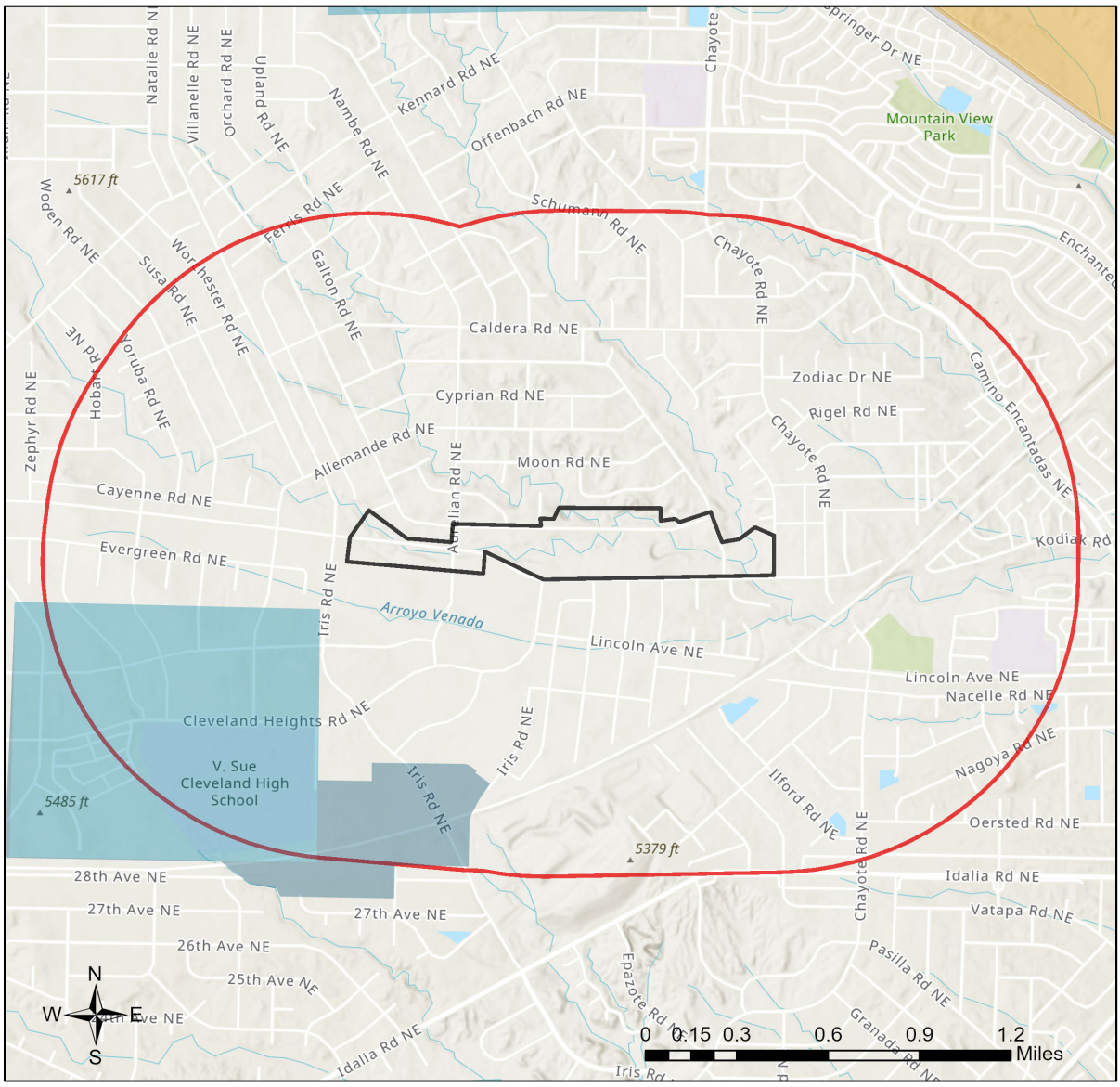
OVERALL STATUS

This report contains an initial list of recommendations regarding potential impacts to wildlife or wildlife habitats from the proposed project; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. Your project proposal is being forwarded to a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) biologist for review to determine whether there are any additional recommendations regarding the proposed actions. A Department biologist will be in touch within 30 days if there are further recommendations regarding this project proposal.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their Information for Planning and Consultation tool.
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA), Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for New Mexico; all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool, the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.

Venada Arroyo Stormwater Drainage and Infiltration Improvements F



- Buffered Project Boundary
- Project_Boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- City Land
- County Land
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- NM Department of Game & Fish
- NM State Forestry Division
- NM State Parks
- National Park Service
- Other Federal Agency
- Other Federal Agency
- State Land Office
- State of New Mexico
- Tribal Land
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

City of Rio Rancho, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS NHNM, USGS, USFS, US Census Bureau, NMDGF
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA

Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI	USFS	USFS SCC	BLM
Boreal Chorus Frog	Pseudacris maculata			SGCN			
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN			
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN			BLM WATCH
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM WATCH
Flammulated Owl	Otus flammeolus			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN			
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Red-Headed Woodpecker	Melanerpes erythrocephalus			SGCN			
Williamson's Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus thyroideus			SGCN			
Olive-Sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi			SGCN			
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN			
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Clark's Nutcracker	Nucifraga columbiana			SGCN			
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN			
Western Bluebird	Sialia mexicana			SGCN			
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides			SGCN			
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN		USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM WATCH
Black-Throated Gray Warbler	Setophaga nigrescens			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Thick-billed Longspur	Rhynchophanes mccownii			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE

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Chestnut-Collared Longspur	Calcarius ornatus			SGCN			BLM SENSITIVE
Cassin's Finch	Haemorhous cassinii			SGCN			BLM WATCH
Evening Grosbeak	Coccothraustes vespertinus			SGCN			
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens			SGCN	Sensitive Species	USFS R3 SCC	BLM SENSITIVE
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	Cynomys ludovicianus			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	Cynomys gunnisoni			SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
New Mexican Meadow Jumping Mouse	Zapus hudsonius luteus	LE	E	SGCN	Sensitive Species		BLM SENSITIVE
Mountain Lion	Puma concolor			SERI			
Elk	Cervus canadensis			SERI			
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI			
Pronghorn	Antilocapra americana			SERI			
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN			

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