



August 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Del Rio Sector Proposed Remediation Actions Associated with the Construction of Border Barrier

To Whom It May Concern:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking your input on proposed remediation actions associated with the construction of border barrier in Maverick and Val Verde Counties, Texas, within the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Del Rio Sector.

As directed by the Secretary of Defense, all border barrier construction projects have been canceled. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been assessing the status and condition of border barrier project sites and working closely with the Department of the Interior to determine the scope and extent of remediation. More information concerning the proposed remediation work in the Del Rio Sector is included in the enclosed Del Rio Sector Remediation Plan. Current conditions of the border barrier project sites can be viewed on the StoryMap at: www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management.

DHS intends to prioritize funding on those remediation projects that are needed to address life and safety, including the protection of the public, USBP agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further environmental damage or degradation.

CBP would like your feedback on the Del Rio Sector Remediation Plan. Specifically, CBP is seeking input and information to the following questions:

- Are there any other immediate actions that are needed to address life and safety issues, including the protection of the public, USBP agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further environmental damage or degradation as a result of border barrier construction since 2019?
- What are the highest priority actions?
- Are there best practices the remediation contractor should follow when implementing these activities?

CBP is accepting comments until September 1, 2022. Comments can be submitted on the StoryMap at www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management or emailed to CBP at DelRioComments@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include "Del Rio Remediation Plan Comments" in the

subject of your email. Comments received in by CBP, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become a part of the public record.

You may also provide comments, questions, or concerns by calling 1-800-308-2962 or by mail:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039
Washington, D.C. 20229-1100
ATTN: Michelle Barnes

We appreciate your feedback and help with prioritizing potential remediation activities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Enriquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Enriquez".

Paul Enriquez
Real Estate and Environmental
Infrastructure Portfolio Deputy Director
Program Management Office Directorate
U.S. Border Patrol

Enclosure: Del Rio Sector Border Barrier Remediation Plan



Del Rio Sector Border Barrier Remediation Plan

Background

On June 11, 2021, the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) completed plans for the redirection of funds concerning the southern border barrier, as directed by Presidential Proclamation No. 10142. As directed by those plans, DoD has canceled all undertaken border barrier projects funded by 10 U.S.C. § 284 Counter Narcotics (DoD 284 projects), and DHS will not undertake any new border barrier construction on the former 284 projects.

On December 20, 2021, DHS authorized CBP to move forward with activities necessary to address life, safety, environmental and remediation requirements for the DoD 284 projects. The activities will be undertaken utilizing DHS Fiscal Year 2021 border barrier appropriations.

Since the termination of the DoD 284 projects, DHS has been working to implement the remediation component of its Plan, including assessing the statuses and conditions of the project sites to determine the scope and extent of remediation work. DHS intends to prioritize funding on those remediation projects needed to address life and safety, including the protection of the public, U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agents, and nearby communities from potential harms, and avert further potential environmental damage or degradation. This plan summarizes the remediation activities anticipated in the USBP's Del Rio Sector.

Project Location

There are two project segments, totaling 4 miles of replacement border barrier, located in Maverick and Val Verde counties, Texas, within the Del Rio Sector.

In Del Rio, which is located in Val Verde County, planned construction included replacing approximately 2 miles of existing pedestrian barrier with new bollard barrier. However, only approximately 0.5 miles of new barrier was constructed and the remaining approximately 1.5 miles of the alignment still consists of the existing pedestrian barrier. In Eagle Pass, which is located in Maverick County, planned construction included replacing approximately 2 miles of existing pedestrian barrier with new bollard barrier. However, activities were paused when this segment was in the early stages of construction and the majority of the alignment still consists of the existing pedestrian barrier.

An overview of the DoD 284 project segments can be found at: www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management.

Proposed Activities

In the USBP Del Rio Sector project segments, the proposed life, safety, environmental and remediation activities will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Erosion control measures: Short-term and long-term erosion control measures will include installation of rip rap and other embankment/slope stabilization along slopes and drainages.
2. Completion of safety work on border and access roads: Work will include slope paving and associated erosion control in areas with steep slopes. CBP will work with USBP and other relevant agencies to determine which construction roads will be retained and which will be decommissioned.
3. Revegetation of disturbed areas: Remediation will include reseeding staging areas and vehicle turn-arounds.



4. Drainage completion and/or repair: All drainage crossings will be protected by appropriate measures such as, but not limited to, articulated concrete block, concrete pavement, inlets/outlets, culverts, roadside ditches, debris posts, or a combination thereof.
5. Implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Best Management Practices: Activities will include removal of sediment from drainages, removal of temporary structures from waterways, and installation of wattle and silt fencing to prevent accumulation of sediment in waterways.
6. Invasive species control: CBP will take steps to control or mitigate the spread of invasive species.
7. Removal of construction materials: CBP will remove construction materials, such as rip rap and spoil piles, from the project areas.
8. Gate installation and repair: Complete and repair automated vehicle gates and associated foundation work.
9. Plant care and use: Plants within the salvaged plant nursery will continue to be cared for and used as necessary to revegetate disturbed areas.
10. Guardrail installation: CBP will install guardrails at low water crossings.
11. Based on CBP's assessment of the DoD 284 project areas, CBP does not believe that it will be required to backfill open trenches or install cattle guards. However, CBP may take such actions, as appropriate, if site conditions show them to be necessary.
12. Installation of small wildlife passages: CBP will also accept comments and suggestions regarding the installation of small wildlife passages in appropriate places along the border.

More detailed information concerning the proposed remediation activities, including proposed project locations, can be found at: www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management.

Proposed Schedule

Beginning in August 2022, CBP will hold a 30-day comment period to collect input and information from the public on this Del Rio Sector Remediation Plan. Feedback from the public will be reviewed and incorporated into direction to the contractors or formal contract modifications. Following the comment period, CBP will award remediation contracts and work is estimated to begin as soon as 30-60 days following awards. It is anticipated that remediation work will take approximately 12-28 months. ♻️