

### **Secondary and Cumulative Effects**

Upon completing the Project, dust and noise from construction would be eliminated. As a result, no cumulative effects are expected in the future.

#### **4.3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.**

Seepage to the regional aquifer from the lined Canal would decrease. Vegetation currently existing on the banks of the Canal would be impacted but should return on open soil areas. Federal and District funds would be committed towards construction of the Project.

#### **5.0 Environmental Commitments**

**5.1.** Construction activities would be coordinated with the Pueblo so as not to interfere with their religious ceremonies.

**5.2.** Reclamation is committed to ongoing government to government relations with the Pueblo.

**5.3.** A letter from the THC can be found at Appendix A. The letter lists a few conditions if the project were to be implemented.

The THC requires that the section of the Canal that would be lined should be the same width (or as close to the same width as possible) as the current historic canal. In addition, the THC requires that a representative section of the canal shall be maintained in its original appearance and condition in the event of any future improvements to the Canal.

**5.4.** Should evidence of possible scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archeological data be discovered during the course of this action, work shall cease at that location and the Area archaeologist shall be notified by phone immediately, with the location and nature of the findings. Care shall be exercised so as not to disturb or damage artifacts or fossils uncovered during operations, and the proponents shall provide such cooperation and assistance as may be necessary to preserve the findings for removal or other disposition by the Government.

Any person who knows or has reason to know that he or she has inadvertently discovered human remains on Federal or tribal lands, must provide immediate telephone notification of the inadvertent discovery, with written confirmation, to the responsible Federal agency official with respect to Federal lands, and, with respect to tribal lands, to the responsible Indian tribe official. The requirement is prescribed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3042) of November 1990 and National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a)(2)(E)(iii) (P.L. 102-575, 106 Stat. 4753) of October 1992.

## 6.0 Consultation and Coordination

Consultation took place with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TPW, the Service, Friends, Pueblo, THC, UTEP, District, and several private individuals who attended the public meeting.

A public meeting was held September 10, 2003 to present the proposed Project and receive comments from those who attended.

Additional meetings have taken place with the Friends, to share Project information, identify their concerns about the Project, and describe how the Project would not affect groundwater or the Park's vegetation.

The following is a series of technical and formal meetings undertaken with the Pueblo as part of the government to government process:

- September 25, 2003, to brief the Governor and his staff regarding the proposed Project. During that time, the Pueblo provided their concerns regarding air quality and noise during religious ceremonies, and impacts of lining the Canal. They requested that construction be scheduled to avoid conflicts with religious ceremonies.
- May 24, 2004, follow-up meeting in the field with the War Captain to discuss sacred plants.
- July 28, 2004, to continue government to government consultation with the Governor. This discussion included sacred plants and issues regarding potential impacts to the Park.
- August 1, 2007, to continue government to government consultation with the Governor. It had been three years since communication took place regarding the proposed Project, and therefore helped to reconfirm the Pueblo's concerns and issues. Several informal field trips were conducted with the Pueblo to consult further and understand their needs.
- March 19, 2008, a meeting to brief Governor Paiz and his staff regarding the proposed Project. The Lt. Governor, War Captain, and Environmental Manager were present.
- May 22, 2008, to continue government to government consultation with Governor Paiz and his staff. The meeting centered on Pueblo consultation policies and the draft EA.
- February 28, 2009, a meeting with Governor Paiz, the District, and Reclamation personnel to update the progress of the Project and EA.
- Previous issues and letters submitted by the Pueblo since 2003 have been addressed through all the meetings listed above and in the final EA for the Project.
- April 15, 2009, letter from the Governor to Reclamation providing comments after additional review of another draft revision of the EA (see Appendix C addressing comments in the letter).

**7.0 List of Preparers**

NAME	JOB TITLE	EA RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
Robert Maxwell	NEPA team leader for the project	Author of the EA	Consulted with the Pueblo on environmental issues and ITAs
Woodrow Irving	Project Engineer	Coordinated issues with the Pueblo, reviewed design for Reclamation requirements	Reviewed and commented on EA
Al Blair	Lead Project Engineer and EP #1 Engineering Consultant	Supervised the Design of project proposed action	Reviewed and commented on EA, Provided Aquifer Test Analysis and Technical Report and Water Resources Section
Jeff Hanson	Archaeologist	Reviewed cultural resources section EA for accuracy	Provided SHPO letter and comments for EA

**8.0 References**

Alvarez, Henry and Wayne Bucker, 1980, Report 246, Groundwater Development in the El Paso Region, Texas with Emphasis on the Resources of the Lower El Paso Valley, Texas Water Development Board.

International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), 1993, Final Environmental Assessment Rio Grande American Canal Extension, El Paso, Texas, Ground Water Resources, page 17.

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New Mexico-Texas Water Commission 1998, 1999. El Paso-Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project. Community Newsletter. 1:1 and 1:4.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Prevention and Control of Animal Damage to Hydraulic Structures. U.S. Government Printing Office. April 1991.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1997. *Jonathon Rogers Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project Environmental Assessment*. December 1997.

Axiom-Blair Engineering, L.P. September 2007. El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, Water Conservation Program, Aquifer Test Analysis for the Riverside Canal Improvement Project.

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