

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
12th Street – Avenue A to Avenue B

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Yuma Area Office

Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and based on the following, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action to issue the city of Yuma (City) a right-of-way authorization to cross land held in fee or right-of-way (East Main Canal) for implementing the City's proposed 12th Street improvement project would not result in a significant impact on the quality of human health and the environment. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) provides details on the Proposed Action and an analysis of potential impacts and should be used as a companion document to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to improve the connectivity between Avenue A and Avenue B by increasing east–west transportation capacity along 12th Street across the East Main Canal. The project improvements would allow 12th Street to function as an arterial road, provide an additional east–west arterial road connection between Avenue A and Avenue B, improve the overall area's traffic capacity, relieve current traffic congestion, and improve emergency service access. Currently, 12th Street is discontinuous between Avenue A and Avenue B because no bridge crosses the East Main Canal.

Resource Analysis

The EA focused on those resource areas identified as potentially impacted by the alternatives considered, including the No Action Alternative. Those resource areas were aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous and solid waste, water resources, land use and ownership, noise levels, Indian trust assets, socioeconomic, and environmental justice. Based on the location and nature of the Proposed Action no negative effects are anticipated to land use and ownership, and Indian trust assets.

Potential negative effects of the Proposed Action were identified for aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous and solid waste, water resources, noise levels, socioeconomic and environmental justice.

1. Aesthetics would include changing the visual character by modifying a portion of the existing roadway from unpaved to paved and constructing a span bridge. Design aspects

for the transportation and bridge structures would include a “dulled” finish to reduce reflection and minimize the appearance of these new features in the landscape and the alignment of 12th Street would follow existing landforms to minimize changes in the landscape.

2. Air quality will be affected by temporarily increasing dust emissions during construction, effects are minimal, short term, and localized and therefore do not pose any threat to the overall air quality in the community. During construction, dust-abatement measures such as watering will be implemented to minimize dust emissions.

3. Biological resources may be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action. There will be no impacts to vegetation, and endangered species and/or critical habitat. To minimize impacts to wildlife in the project work area, the City will employ a biologist to complete a preconstruction survey for western burrowing owls within 90 days prior to construction activities. If western burrowing owls and/or active burrows are identified during the preconstruction surveys or during construction, no construction activities should take place within 100 feet of any active burrow. If the burrow is within 100 feet of an active construction site, construction should cease until the owl can be removed by an authorized agent.

4. Because the project area has undergone previous disturbance, Reclamation determined that a cultural resources survey was not required. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with this determination on April 10, 2010. In addition, as stipulated in the Yuma Irrigation Programmatic Agreement, the portion of East Main Canal, within the area of potential effect will be photographed and documented before and after construction.

5. The Propose Action may have short-term direct and indirect effects to the local soil composition. Ground disturbance by construction activities could potentially result in negative effects to soil properties in the project area and may increase the potential of soil erosion. Disturbed soils should be compacted tightly in order to prevent any excess erosion.

6. Construction activities could create relatively small quantities of construction waste that would require appropriate disposal. Surface contamination could occur from accidental spills of petroleum-based products, as well as other potentially hazardous materials used during construction. This potential would be reduced by implementing a site-specific contingency spill plan. The plan should consist of reporting guidelines in the event of a spill, good housekeeping techniques, and employee training in the use of required equipment and proper handling of potentially hazardous materials.

7. To minimize any potential effects to water resources a project-specific Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan would be developed to reduce potential negative effects to water resources.

8. An increase in noise from the Proposed Action is anticipated during construction; to minimize noise levels construction equipment should be permitted to operate prior from 0700 hours to 1700 hours and no construction equipment should be permitted to operate on weekends without prior approvals. Additionally, a slight increase in future noise level will result, however, most of the residences currently have privacy walls along the 12th Street right-of-way, which would effectively reduce noise levels at the properties.

9. As part of the Proposed Action, the City would acquire new right-of-way to widen 12th Street and construct a detention basin west of the canal at the beginning of the property acquisition process; the City will prepare an acquisition-stage relocation plan to identify the specific needs and desires of the displaced residents. The City would conduct all property acquisition in accordance with the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act of 1970, as amended. Also, the City would develop the detention basin as a multiuse facility: a basin and park. This facility would be walled into the neighborhood for added value to the community.

NEPA Finding

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts, mitigation measures and other conservation commitments, as presented in the EA, Reclamation finds no significant impact and recommends implementation of the Proposed Action.

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Yuma Area Office

Date