



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

December 19, 2022

Ms. Stephanie Garcia Richard
State of New Mexico
Commissioner of Public Lands
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
P.O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-1148

SUBJECT: El Paso Sector Proposed Remediation Actions Associated with the Construction of Border Barrier in Luna and Doña Ana counties, New Mexico

Dear Commissioner Richard,

I am writing to update you on planned border barrier remediation work within U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)'s El Paso Sector.

[The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security recently announced](#) that remediation work for border barrier project sites previously funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) using 10 U.S.C. § 2808 Military Construction funds in El Paso sector has been approved as part of CBP's focus on addressing and mitigating potential safety risks to USBP agents, surrounding communities, landowners, and the environment.

[In December 2021](#), the Secretary approved remediation work for border barrier projects previously funded by the DoD using 10 U.S.C. § 284 counter narcotics funding. USBP awarded contracts in September 2022 and remediation work is underway. The goal of these remediation activities, which are expected to last a period of one year, is to address life, safety, environmental, and remediation requirements.

In response to the letter dated April 13, 2022 regarding trespass on New Mexico state trust lands, your concerns are duly noted. USBP assures the New Mexico State Land Office that work will remain within the 60-foot Roosevelt Reservation. We would like to schedule a call with you or appropriate staff to further discuss the status of USBP's remediation projects and any other concerns you may have. Please provide times in early January so that we may be able to further discuss these issues.

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USBP places a high priority on interaction with, and feedback from, federal agencies, local officials, landowners, and community members about the border barrier remediation process, and continues to strive for a transparent process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Enriquez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Enriquez
Director, Infrastructure Portfolio
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
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