

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Installation of Permanent Lighting Structures along the All American Canal near Calexico, Imperial County, California

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE: The primary purpose of the proposed action is to enhance the U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) effectiveness and health and safety while conducting their daily operations to gain and maintain control of the U.S. border. There is a need to install lighting systems at specific strategic locations along the All American Canal near Calexico, California to enhance USBP's capabilities of detecting illegal entries into the United States, to assist in the apprehensions of those illegal entrants who are detected, and to reduce the health and safety risks to USBP agents which are inherent to nighttime enforcement operations.

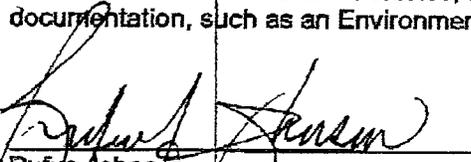
PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action requires USBP to install, operate and maintain permanent lighting systems near Calexico, California along the All American Canal. The project area encompasses approximately 12.25 miles of levee roadway adjacent to the canal. These lighting structures would be placed on the northern toe of the All American Canal levee road providing illumination along the levee road and within the canal. The project area can be broken down into two different sections: Calexico East and Calexico West. Calexico East is located 3.5 miles east of the Calexico Port of Entry (POE) and extends five miles in an eastern direction along the canal roadway ending at the Holt Canal. The proposed lights consist of Cobra style drop lens lights. These lights will be mounted upon pre-existing poles and will consist of one 200-watt Low Pressure Sodium (SPS) vapor bulb per pole. The Cobra lights in Calexico East are similar to those used for illuminating city streets and roads. The poles are wooden poles encased in concrete, approximately 30 feet in height, and the power will be supplied via aerial lines from adjacent grids. The lighting structures would be placed at intervals of approximately 11 per half mile. Calexico West begins 2.3 miles west of the Calexico POE and extends west 7.25 miles to Jackson Ranch. The first 10 lights in the Calexico West side of the project area will be the same as those used for Calexico East. The remaining lighting structures will consist of two high-pressure stadium style lights per pole. The lights will be mounted upon 40-foot steel poles and will be supplied power through underground sources. Each of the lighting structures will be spaced at intervals of approximately 200 to 300 feet. By completing the proposed action a more safe and effective work environment will be created for the USBP agents.

ALTERNATIVES: Alternatives addressed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) include the no action alternative, the portable lights alternative, and the proposed action alternative, described above. This EA was tiered from two previous documents: the 2001 Final Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (U.S. Army 2001) that addressed INS and Joint Task Force-Six (JTF-6) activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border and the 1997 Environmental Assessment for the JTF-6 Border Fence Construction and Maintenance near Calexico, Imperial County, California (U.S. Army 1997). This EA for the proposed action is tiered from the above-mentioned EA and EIS in accordance with the President's Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: Excluding agricultural areas, vegetation density of the project area is very low, with most of the area being void of native vegetation. The specific locations for the light poles (standards) are along the existing roads and canal banks, which have been previously highly disturbed. Due to the limited native vegetation, there is no potential to affect photosynthesis of native habitats or circadian rhythms of wildlife species. No cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, unique or sensitive areas, prime farmlands, or socioeconomic resources would be adversely impacted by the proposed action. Therefore, no significant adverse effects to the natural or human environment are expected upon implementation of the proposed action.

MITIGATION MEASURES: Environmental design measures to be implemented for the proposed action include the use of dust suppression methods during construction; regular maintenance on vehicles and equipment used to complete the project; use of disturbed areas to the maximum extent practicable; implementation of best management practices to reduce erosion; the use of secondary containment when handling, storing, and disposing hazardous and regulated materials during construction.

Based upon the results of the EA and the environmental design measures to be incorporated as part of the proposed action, it has been concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, I have concluded that no further National Environmental Policy Act documentation, such as an Environmental Impact Statement, is warranted.



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2/21/02
Date

Final Report

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
PERMANENT LIGHTING STRUCTURES
NEAR CALEXICO, CALIFORNIA**

February 2002

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Executive Summary

<p>PROPOSED ACTION:</p>	<p>The US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and US Border Patrol (USBP) propose to install lighting systems at specific strategic locations along the All American Canal near Calexico, California to enhance their capabilities of detecting illegal entries into the United States and to assist in the apprehensions of those illegal entrants who are detected.</p>
<p>PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION:</p>	<p>The purpose of the proposed action is to provide enhanced operational capabilities and a safe working environment for the USBP. The lighting structures would facilitate the detection of illegal entrants and undocumented aliens without increasing the number of field agents in the field.</p>
<p>PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:</p>	<p>The Proposed Action Alternative would require that 12.25 miles of the All American Canal levee roadway have permanent lighting structures installed. The No Action Alternative would preclude the installation of the lighting systems, which would further reduce the efficiency and success of the USBP's efforts in counter-drug and alien interdictions. The Portable Lights Alternative would be similar in nature to the Proposed Action Alternative, however, the lighting systems would consist of generator powered portable lights being implemented rather than permanent lights. Site specific locations were selected based upon proximity to existing roads, power sources, and topography.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:</p>	<p>The proposed action would involve minimal construction activities within sites that have been previously disturbed. All sites were surveyed for sensitive biological and cultural resources. No significant adverse effects to air quality, water quality, cultural resource, wetlands, protected species, or land use are expected.</p>
<p>CONCLUSIONS:</p>	<p>Based on the findings outlined in this document, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the proposed actions at the proposed lighting structure site locations. Increased or enhanced interdiction of illegal entrants and activities would have positive, indirect natural resources, and socioeconomic benefits. Therefore, no further analysis or documentation (<i>i.e.</i>, Environmental Impact Statement) is warranted. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, in implementing this decision, will employ all practical means to minimize the potential adverse impacts on the local environment.</p>

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SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of the proposed installation and operation of permanent lighting system structures near Calexico, Imperial County, California. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) propose to install the lighting systems at specific strategic locations along the All American Canal to enhance their capabilities of detecting illegal entries into the United States and to assist in the apprehensions of those illegal entrants who are detected.

This document is tiered from the 1994 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (U.S. Army 1994) that addressed INS and Joint Task Force-Six (JTF-6) activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border. Relative background information was obtained from the 1997 Environmental Assessment for the JTF-6 Border Fence Construction and Maintenance near Calexico, Imperial County, California (U.S. Army 1997). Site-specific surveys were conducted November 1, 2001 at each of the proposed locations along the All American Canal.

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.1 INS Organization

The INS has the responsibility to regulate and control immigration into the United States. In 1924 the U.S. Congress created the USBP to be the law enforcement arm of the INS. The USBP's primary function is to detect and deter the unlawful entry of aliens and smuggling along the nation's land borders and ports-of-entry (POE). With the increase in illegal drug trafficking, the USBP also has become the leader for drug interdiction between land and POEs. Since 1980, an average of 150,000 immigrants has been naturalized every year. At the same time, however, illegal aliens have become a significant issue. In fiscal year (FY) 1999, the USBP reported that almost one million illegal immigrants were apprehended and that more than 1.1 million pounds of marijuana and over 29,000 pounds of cocaine were seized (USBP 2000). The INS estimates that there are currently from three to six million illegal aliens in the United States. Other studies have indicated higher numbers, closer to 10 million.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The INS and the USBP are charged with the responsibility of protecting the sovereign borders of the United States. The INS has reported that the U.S.-Mexico border is breached more than any other international border in the world. It is a large, diverse, and difficult boundary to effectively enforce without the use of dedicated tactical infrastructure (fences, lights, roads, cameras, etc.).

Prior to the early 1990s, there was less awareness of southwest border issues and less national attention was given to illegal trans-boundary activity than is currently attributable. As a result, the USBP's growth was nominal, funding for enforcement efforts fell short, and the USBP functioned under severe constraints. Events over the last decade related to illegal immigration and narcotics smuggling, however, have increased the Nation's awareness and generated substantial interest in controlling the U.S.-Mexico border. National concern has led to increased funding and staffing, and has also created new opportunities in the development of proactive border control strategies as demonstrated in patrol and enforcement operations throughout the southwest border area (e.g. Operations Gatekeeper, Hold-the-Line, Safeguard, and Rio Grande).

The enforcement strategy pre-dating such operations was necessarily reactive and, because little emphasis was placed on deterring illegal crossing, it diminished the importance of an infrastructure (i.e., lights) along the U.S.-Mexico border. Instead, the USBP's efforts focused singularly upon making apprehensions *after* the international boundary was breached. This strategy utilized the "element of surprise" by deploying limited resources away from the border in concealed positions. However, as illicit trafficking continued to increase, the area that the USBP was required to patrol also increased. The USBP's inability to deter or contain illegal migration allowed an increase in the geographic footprint (and subsequent environmental impacts) of illegal migration patterns.

During recent years, the USBP has significantly increased its emphasis on deterrence. Deterrence is achieved only when the USBP has the ability to *create and convey the immediate, credible, and absolute certainty of detection and apprehension*. As such,

tactical infrastructure components, such as lights, are critical elements in the current enforcement strategy. Developing trends such as the continued urbanization and industrialization of the immediate border, the recognition of environmental preservation concerns, and the increase of criminal trans-boundary activity (including trafficking in people and drugs, and counter terrorism efforts) continue to pose a border enforcement challenge and compound the need for tactical infrastructure.

Consistent with the USBP's National Strategy it is critical to integrate lights with the current deployment of agents within the proposed action area. This will maximize the deterrent enforcement capability of the USBP and facilitate the desired level of border control by affecting a permanent state of deterrence through certainty of detection and apprehension. The lights will deny would-be illegal entrants the cover of darkness thereby facilitating deterrence as well as create a safer environment during the hours of darkness for both the agents and illegal entrants. Lights will allow fewer agents to patrol the same area during hours of darkness, thereby allowing the USBP maximum patrol efficiency, and substantially aid in the protection of neighborhoods, business districts, and sensitive environmental areas that are north of their location through deterrence and consequent reduction in illegal traffic.

Illegal entries are often accomplished by utilizing the cover of darkness, which will be eliminated by lighting. While night vision capability greatly aids the USBP in monitoring nighttime border activity, it is not as effective as lighting is in the creation of a credible sense of deterrence. Lighting immediately and visibly alters the operational environment and communicates effectively to would-be migrants/smugglers of the continuous presence of law enforcement agents.

Lighting, therefore, immediately facilitates a safer border environment in three ways: 1) it allows agents to better observe changing and dangerous terrain, 2) it helps agents prevent aliens from reaching the remote, unsafe areas of the desert, where deaths are common, by deterring illegal entries and facilitating apprehension, and 3) in much the same way it aids with creating a sense of deterrence, it denies border bandits, who prey upon migrants, the cover of darkness.

Lighting also allows fewer agents to monitor the same geographic area, as compared to the same area if unlit, thereby immediately enabling a more effective and efficient deployment of personnel resources. This results in critical operational flexibility necessary to expanding enforcement efforts and providing adequate security to more border areas.

Lighting will tremendously aid in the protection and preservation of neighborhoods, business districts, and sensitive environmental areas that are to the north of the project area. They are a necessary and important component of the border enforcement strategy. Without them, the ability of the USBP to establish an effective level of deterrence will be jeopardized. If deterrence is not established at the immediate border, then USBP agents will be unable to deter or contain illegal traffic to the immediate border, and the geographic footprint of the enforcement effort will necessarily grow larger than would otherwise be necessary if lighting were erected. Consequently, without the proposed lighting initiative, illegal migration will detrimentally affect a much larger environment than is necessary. In Douglas, Arizona where lights have been added to support border enforcement efforts, a dramatic change has occurred. With the advent of border lighting, illegal entries dropped by 74%, 63%, and 80%, respectively, in the three zones affected by the new lighting project. Conversely, there is a positive correlation between the onset of the lighting project and a rising quality of life within the City of Douglas.

Aided by border lighting projects, the apprehension rate in the El Centro Sector has dramatically decreased in the past year as a result of the deterrent strategy. Lights have been deployed at other Tucson Sector stations and have contributed immediately to border control. The lack of lighting complicates border enforcement efforts substantially and perpetuates conditions that are favorable to illicit border traffic and its ill effects.

1.3 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

This EA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Presidents Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for the Implementation of NEPA, and INS Procedures for Implementations-NEPA (28 CFR 61).

The primary sources of authority granted to officers of the INS are the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), found in Title 8 of the United States Code (8 U.S.C.), and other statutes relating to the immigration and naturalization of aliens. The secondary sources of authority are administrative regulations implementing those statutes, primarily those found in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 C.F.R. Section 287), judicial decisions, and administrative decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Subject to constitutional limitations, INS officers may exercise the authority granted to them in the Immigration and Nationality Act. The statutory provisions related to enforcement authority are found in Sections 287(a), 287(b), 287(c), and 287(e) [8 U.S.C. § 1357(a,b,c,e)]; Section 235(a) (8 U.S.C. § 1225); Sections 274(b) and 274(c) [8 U.S.C. § 1324(b,c)]; Section 274A (8 U.S.C. § 1324a); and Section 274C(8 U.S.C. § 1324c) of the INA. Other statutory sources of authority are Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C.), which has several provisions that specifically relate to enforcement of the immigration and nationality laws; Title 19 [19 U.S.C. 1401 § (i)], relating to Customs cross-designation of INS officers; Title 21 (21 U.S.C. § 878), and relating to Drug Enforcement Agency cross-designation of INS officers.

1.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report is organized into eight major sections including this introduction and the description of the purpose, need, and location of the proposed project. Section 2 describes all alternatives considered for the project. Section 3 discusses the environmental features potentially affected by the project, while Section 4 discusses the environmental consequences for each of the viable alternatives. Cumulative impacts are discussed in Section 5 and public comments are addressed in Section 6. Sections 7, 8, and 9 present a list of preparers, a list of references, and a list of acronyms and abbreviations, respectively. Appendix A includes photographs of representative sites within the project corridor. Appendix B includes supporting correspondence documents such as the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) coordination letters.

SECTION 2.0
ALTERNATIVES



2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the Proposed Action Alternative the USBP proposes to install, operate and maintain permanent lighting systems near Calexico, California along the All American Canal. The project area encompasses approximately 12.25 miles of levee roadway adjacent to the canal. Figure 2-1 is a regional map showing the proposed location of the lighting systems. These lighting structures would be placed on the northern toe of the All American Canal levee road providing illumination along the levee road and within the canal. The project area can be broken down into two different sections:

Calexico East and Calexico West. Figure 2-2 is an aerial photograph of Calexico East. Calexico East is located 3.5

miles east of the Calexico Port of Entry (POE) and extends five miles in an eastern direction along the canal roadway ending at the Holt Canal. The proposed lights consist of Cobra style drop lens lights. These lights will be mounted upon pre-existing poles and will consist of one 200-watt Low Pressure Sodium (SPS) vapor bulb per pole. The Cobra lights in Calexico East are similar to those used for illuminating city streets and roads. The poles are wooden poles encased in concrete, approximately 30 feet in height, and the power will be supplied via aerial lines from adjacent grids. The lighting structures would be placed at intervals of approximately 11 per half mile. Figure 2-3 is an aerial photograph of Calexico West. Calexico West begins 2.3 miles west of the Calexico POE and extends west 7.25 miles to Jackson Ranch. The first 10 lights in the Calexico West side of the project area will be the same as those used for Calexico East (Figure 2-3). The remaining lighting structures will consist of two high-pressure stadium style lights per pole. The lights will be mounted upon 40-foot steel poles and will be supplied power through underground sources. Each of the lighting structures will be spaced at intervals of approximately 200 to 300 feet. Either the Imperial County Irrigation District, Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) Units, California National Guard, USBP maintenance crews, or private contractors would complete construction of the lights. Photographs of representative sites within the proposed project corridor are contained in Appendix A.



Photograph of Cobra style light

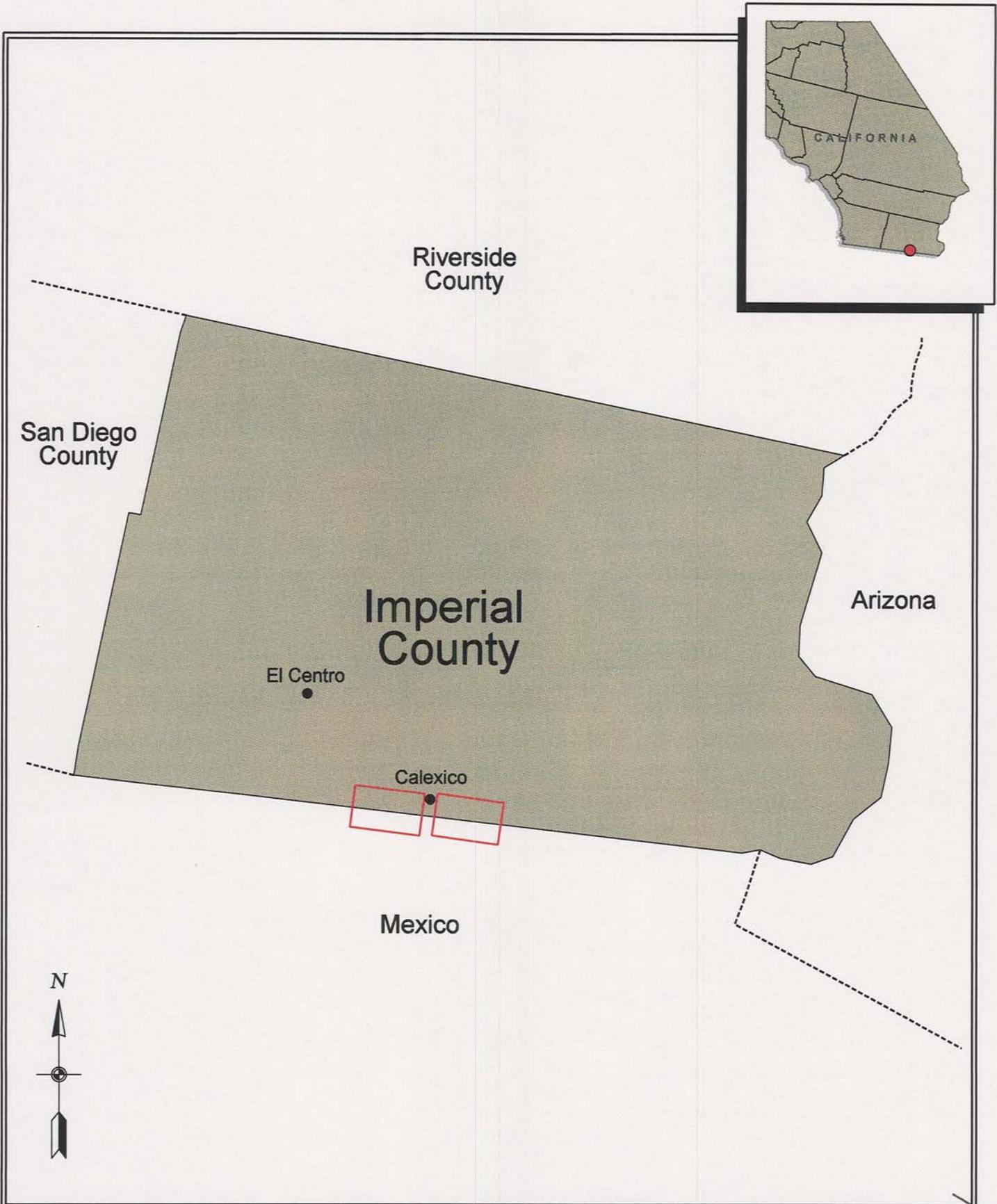
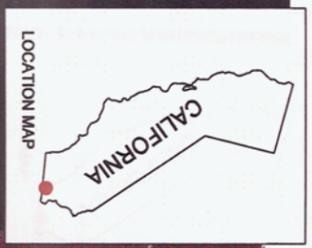


Figure 2-1: Project Vicinity Map

gsrc / GULF SOUTH
RESEARCH
CORPORATION

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

DATE: FEBRUARY 2002



Area with Cobra Lights

Source: Bonds Corner NW, Bonds Corner SW, Calexico NE & Calexico SE USGS Digital Ortho Quarter Quad

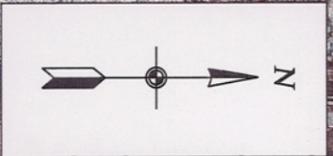
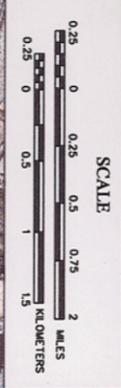
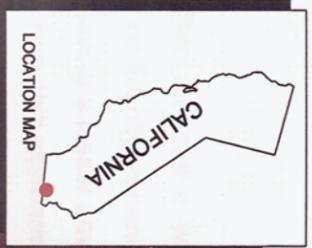


Figure 2-2: Calexico East Project Area



SCALE: on map

DATE: FEBRUARY 2002



Source: Bonds Corner NW, Bonds Corner SW, Calexico NE & Calexico SE USGS Digital Ortho Quarter Quad

Area with Cobra Lights

Figure 2-2: Calexico East Project Area



SCALE: on map

DATE: FEBRUARY 2002

This alternative would enhance the detection and deterrence of illegal activities and significantly enhance the USBP's ability to gain and maintain control of the border, while having a lesser environmental impact when compared to the installation of portable lighting. *Thus, this alternative is the preferred alternative.*

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative would not allow the acquisition and use of all proposed permanent lights along the canal. Under this alternative, conditions would remain the same, and illegal entrants would be less likely to be apprehended, or risk to the health and safety of USBP agents would increase by requiring that they enter high traffic areas without sufficient lighting.

2.3 PORTABLE LIGHTS ALTERNATIVE

Another alternative to the proposed action alternative is the use of portable lights rather than permanent lighting structures. These lights, too, would be placed on the northern toe of the roadway adjacent to the All American Canal. A 6-kilowatt self-contained diesel generator powers these lights. These portable lights would generally operate continuously every night and will require refueling every day prior to the next night's operation. The portable light systems can be towed to the desired location by USBP vehicles and they are typically spaced approximately 300 to 400 feet apart depending upon topography and known undocumented alien (UDA) traffic areas. Based upon typical spacing distances the total estimated number of portable lights needed to satisfy this alternative would be 161 units. Placement of the portable lights is estimated to affect 100 square feet (ft²), while the area affected by illumination from the lights is expected to be 200 feet from the light source in any direction (primarily directed southward). This alternative would result in greater impacts to the natural environment (due to air emissions, noise, and potential for accidental spills) than the preferred alternative; however, this alternative is still considered viable and could be implemented at some time in the future.

2.4 ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

The general locations of the lighting structures were determined based upon the known presence of illegal entry and activities and existing light sources along the All American Canal. Site-specific locations were selected for the lighting based upon proximity to existing roads, power sources, and topography. Because these lighting structure sites best fit the above criteria, no alternative locations were assessed.

SECTION 3.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT



3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing conditions of the natural and human environment within and surrounding the proposed project corridor. Only these resources affected by the proposed action are discussed, as recommended by CEQ. For example, climate and geology are not discussed herein since these resources would not be impacted.

3.1 LAND USE

Land use near the proposed lighting locations, as can be seen from the aerial photography of the project corridor (Figures 2-2 and 2-3), is entirely agricultural. Surrounding land use in the region is open rangeland and cropland.

3.2 SOILS

The *Soil Survey of Imperial County, California, Imperial Valley Area* produced by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (1981) was reviewed to determine general soil types found within the proposed project area. The soils located in the proposed project area consist of four dominant types: Imperial silty clay, wet; Imperial-Glenbar silty clay loams wet, 0-2 percent slope; Meloland very fine sandy loam, wet; and Vint loamy very fine sand, wet. Calexico West is comprised of the two Imperial soils while Calexico East has the Imperial-Glenbar, Meloland, and Vint soils. The Imperial and Meloland soils are formed on floodplains and basins. These soils generally tend to be described as having a slow permeability rate in conjunction with slight run-off and erosion hazards. The Vint soils are formed in alluvial and eolian sediments from diverse mixtures. These Vint soils are considered to have slight erosion hazards as well as slight run-off rates, however, are described as having a moderately fast permeability rate.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

The Clean Air Act, which was last amended in 1990, requires the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Act established two types of national air quality standards. Primary standards set limits to protect the public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the

elderly. Secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) has set NAAQS for six criteria pollutants (Table 3-1). Areas where air pollution levels persistently exceed the NAAQS may be designated non-attainment. Calexico (Imperial County) is located within EPA's Region 9 and is currently in non-attainment for particulates (PM₁₀) and ozone (O₃) (EPA 2001a).

3.3.1 Local Ambient Air Quality

As a result of the pollution problems within California's urban areas, there is a network of ambient air monitoring stations collecting data on the six criteria pollutants. Ambient air quality data collected from these monitoring stations are used to determine compliance with the NAAQS. The nearest monitoring station (to the project area) is located at 1029 Ethel Street in Calexico, California.

3.4 WATER QUALITY

The proposed project area falls within the Salton Sea Hydrologic Unit as designated by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Surface waters in the area include the New River, which runs near the western edge of Calexico, and the Alamo River, located approximately six miles east of Calexico. The All American Canal which parallels the U.S.-Mexico border and flows around Calexico is a man made water resource used for irrigation purposes. The New River, which crosses under the All American Canal, consistently has levels of excessive pollutants primarily due to raw sewage and industrial waste, which are discharged into it from within Mexico. There are several other smaller canals in the surrounding area, which also provide irrigation for agricultural purposes as well.

Groundwater in the project area is supplied from the Basin-Fill aquifer system, which underlies much of the desert in southeastern California (U.S. Army 1994). Groundwater on average throughout most of the Calexico area can be found six to eight feet below the surface (Bradshaw 2002). Common sources of contamination of groundwater include application of pesticides, improper waste disposal, and untreated wastewater.

**Table 3-1
National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

POLLUTANT	STANDARD VALUE	STANDARD TYPE
Carbon Monoxide (CO)		
8-hour average	9ppm (10mg/m ³)**	Primary
1-hour average	35ppm (40mg/m ³)**	Primary
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)		
Annual arithmetic mean	0.053ppm (100µm ³)**	Primary and Secondary
Ozone (O ₃)		
1-hour average*	0.12ppm (235µg/m ³)**	Primary and Secondary
8-hour average*	0.08ppm (157µg/m ³)**	Primary and Secondary
Lead (Pb)		
Quarterly average	1.5µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
Particulate<10 micrometers (PM-10)		
Annual arithmetic mean	50µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
24-hour average	150µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
Particulate<2.5 micrometers (PM-2.5)		
Annual arithmetic mean	15µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
24-hour Average	65µg/m ³	Primary and Secondary
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)		
Annual arithmetic mean	0.03ppm (80µg/m ³)**	Primary
24-hour average	0.14ppm (365µg/m ³)**	Primary
3-hour average	0.50ppm (1300µg/m ³)**	Secondary

Source: Environmental Protection Agency 2001b.

Legend:
 ppm = parts per million
 mg/m³ = milligrams per cubic meter of air
 µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter of air

* The ozone 1-hour standard applies only to areas that were designated non-attainment when the ozone 8-hour standard was adopted in July 1997.

** Parenthetical value is an approximate equivalent concentration.

3.5 NOISE

The three common classifications of noise are: (1) general audible noise that is heard by humans; (2) special noise, such as sonic booms and artillery blasts that can have a sound pressure of shock component; and (3) noise-induced vibration also typically caused by sonic booms and artillery blasts involving noise levels that can cause physical movement (i.e., vibration) and even possible damage to natural and man-made structures such as buildings and cultural resource structures. Most noise sources will fall within the audible noise classification because of the rural nature of the majority of the study area.

Audible noise typically is measured in A-weighted sound pressure levels expressed in decibels (dBA). The A-scale de-emphasizes the low and high frequency portions of the sound spectrum and provides a good approximation of the response of the average human ear. On the A-scale, zero dBA represents the average least perceptible sound (gentle breathing) and 140 dBA represents the intensity at which the eardrum may rupture (jet engine at open throttle) (National Research Council 1977).

Since the proposed activities are not capable of attaining the speed of sound and thus are incapable of causing special noises, all noise levels discussed herein will be measured on the A-scale (dBA). Normal rural noise levels in the study area would range from a low of 35 decibels (dBA) over the majority of the corridor to a high of 60 dBA.

3.6 NATURAL RESOURCES

3.6.1 Vegetation

The historic vegetation types within the Calxico area most resemble the Lower Colorado River Valley Subdivision of the Sonoran Desertscrub Biotic Community (Brown 1994). Because of a combination of high temperature and low precipitation, this subdivision is the driest of the Sonoran Desert Subdivisions. Plant growth is typically both open and simple, reflecting the intense competition existing between plants for the scarce water resources (Brown 1994). Vegetation known to inhabit this area includes: saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), fingergrass (*Chloris virgata*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata* var. *stricta*), bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), sage (*Salvia columbariae*), acacia (*Acacia* sp.), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), palo verde (*Cercidium*

floridum), and giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). Excluding agricultural areas vegetation density of the project area is very low, with most of the area being void of native vegetation. The specific locations for the light poles (standards) are along the existing roads and canal banks. Thus, little or no native vegetation occurs at these locations.

3.6.2 Wildlife

Mammals within the area are more commonly rodents, which include deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys montanus*), desert kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys deserti*), and whitetail antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*). Other mammals that are likely to occur within the area are the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*), blacktail jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk, (*Mephitis mephitis*), and racoon (*Procyon lotor*).

Snakes and lizards are the primary reptiles in this area. Representative species of reptiles are the gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), Texas longnose snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), twin-spotted spiny lizard (*Sceloporus magister*), and longnose leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*).

Birds are typical of the desert environment and associated habitats. Common species include the common ground dove (*Columbina passerina*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), common poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*).

3.6.3 Protected Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) currently list seven Federally protected species with the potential of occurring in Imperial County. Desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), Colorado squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) are listed as endangered. Peirson's milk vetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*) and the desert tortoise (*Xerobates agassizii*) are listed as threatened. The peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis cremnobates*) is listed as proposed endangered.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) currently list 10 additional state protected species within Imperial County. In addition to the species mentioned above, the state lists Algodones Dunes sunflower (*Helianthus niveus* var. *tephrodes*), western yellow-billed cockoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), gilded flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), Gila woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*), elf owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*), and Arizona Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii arizonae*) as endangered. The barefoot banded gecko (*Coleonyx switaki*) and California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*) are listed by the state as threatened. Wiggins's croton (*Croton wigginsii*) is state-listed as rare. A list of Federal and state protected species and their status are presented in Table 3-2.

3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Because little ethnographic and prehistoric archeological work has been conducted in the inland areas of Southern California in recent decades, Kroeber's landmark *Handbook of the Indians of California* (1925) remains the best general work for the project area. Moratto's (1984) review of the archeology of California contains important discussions of the prehistory of the region, as does Chartkoff and Chartkoff's (1984) similar review. The following paragraphs present a generalized, abbreviated summary of the cultural history of the Imperial Valley region.

The earliest accepted archeological manifestation of Native Americans in Southern California is the San Dieguito complex, dating to approximately 10,000 years ago (Warren 1967). San Dieguito was originally defined by Rogers (1939); Warren published a clear synthesis of the complex in 1967. The material culture of the San Dieguito complex consists primarily of scrapers, scraper planes, choppers, large blades, and large projectile points. Hunting was an important subsistence practice, but evidence suggests the exploitation of common plant foods such as screw-bean and mesquite beans as well; such exploitation continued throughout the prehistory of the region. Although Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984) refer to it as Early Archaic, San Dieguito is chronologically equivalent to Paleoindian complexes across North America. Contemporaneous with the San Dieguito occupation of the area was the occupation by the Lake Mojave complex, a very similar culture considered by some to be a regional variant of San Dieguito (e.g., Warren 1967, 1968).

**Table 3-2
Federal and State Protected Species Potentially Occurring within Imperial County**

Common/Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Algodones Dunes sunflower <i>Helianthus niveus</i> ssp. <i>tephrodes</i>		E
Peirson's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus magdalenae</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	T	E
Wiggins's croton <i>Croton wigginsii</i>		R
Colorado squawfish <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	E	E
Desert pupfish <i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	E	E
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	E	E
Barefoot banded gecko <i>Coleonyx switaki</i>		T
Desert tortoise <i>Xerobates agassizii</i>	T	T
Arizona Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii arizonae</i>		E
California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>		T
Elf owl <i>Micrathene whitneyi</i>		E
Gila woodpecker <i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>		E
Gilded flicker <i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>		E
Yuma clapper rail <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	E	T
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>		E
Willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>		E
Peninsular bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i>	E	T

Source: California Department of Fish and Game- Natural Diversity Database (2002).

Legend: E=Endangered

T=Threatened

R= Rare

Occupation of the Imperial Valley region was sparse during San Dieguito/Lake Mojave times, and remained so thereafter. Approximately 5,000 years ago, the Lake Mohave tradition gave rise to the Pinto (Moratto 1984) or Pinto Basin (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984) tradition. A Late Archaic adaptation, Pinto period material culture is characterized by thick-stemmed, distinctive dart-point styles, manos and milling stones, choppers, hammerstones, scrapers, and scraper planes. According to Moratto (1984), the Pinto culture was supplanted by the Gypsum Period culture about 4,000 years ago; this period is marked by the presence of large leaf-shaped Elko/Humboldt series dart points, rectangular based knives, T-shaped drills, and the common use of milling stones and manos. The bow and arrow was introduced into the region toward the end of the Gypsum period, as was pottery, which was traded from the Anasazi regions to the east. Approximately 1,500 years ago, the Gypsum cultures evolved into the diversified Saratoga Springs Period peoples, who lingered until approximately 800 years ago. Saratoga Springs assemblages are dominated by smaller Rose Spring/Eastgate series arrow points; ceramic assemblages include more local types produced by the Hakataya peoples, although the Anasazi influence was still felt.

Hayataka influence continued into the subsequent Protohistoric period, which lasted until after the Spanish claimed the area some 500 years ago. Brown and Buff wares from western Arizona appeared early in the period, in association with Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood point styles. The groups occupying the region appear to have belonged to the Yuman linguistic rootstock and were of Hakataya origin, and apparently represented the ancestors of the historic Cupezo, Cahuilla, possibly the Kamia, and some groups of the Dieguezo (Kroeber 1925).

The prehistoric period came to an abrupt end when Southern California was claimed by Spain in the early 1500s. Initial Spanish exploration during the 16th and 17th centuries left most Native Californian cultures undisturbed, but foreshadowed what was to come. Given Spain's massive New World holdings, the native populations had several centuries' reprieve before this portion of the continent was colonized; however, by 1769 San Diego Mission and the Presidio had been established at the site of present-day San Diego, on the coast about 62 miles west of Calexico, and colonization was well underway by 1770. In the succeeding decades (as was the case throughout both North and South America), the native populations were all but destroyed by newly-imported European diseases and by military aggression on the part of the colonists. By 1822, California had been acquired by Mexico;

after the Mexican-American War (1848), it was ceded to the United States. The influx of American settlers during the 1849 gold rush resulted in California entering the Union as the 31st state in 1850. Few, if any, Native American groups currently occupy this portion of the Colorado Desert; the nearest bands are located in eastern San Diego County, and include various offshoots of the Kumeyaay branch of the Dieguezo Indians, most prominent of which are the Campo, Manzanita, and Viejas.

3.7.1 Previous Cultural Resources Investigations

The following information was taken directly from the Environmental Assessment for JTF-6 Border Fence Construction and Maintenance near Calexico, Imperial County, California (U.S. Army 1997). A record search at the Southeast Information Center in Ocotillo revealed seven known sites, all of which were individually reported and were not elaborated upon in published reports. All are historic, and five consist of linear features: an old road segment, two segments of old U.S. military telegraph lines, and two canals. Site CA-IMP-3319H is recorded as an old road segment, based on field notes from an 1880 survey by one S.W. Blunt of the U.S. Government Land Office (USGLO). It is recorded as "previously destroyed;" the property currently at this location is Calexico's Cross Street. Site CA-IMP-3320H, which falls alongside CA-IMP-3019, consists of the location of an old U.S. military telegraph, which also no longer exists. Both the previously discussed sites lie west of downtown Calexico. Site CA-IMP-3499H is another segment of U.S. military telegraph line, located in the northwest portion of downtown Calexico, southeast of CA-IMP-3319H and CA-IMP-3320H. Again, this site was identified on the basis of S.W. Blunt's 1880 USGLO survey notes. There is no indication of the condition of the site, but it is likely that it has been destroyed as well.

Site CA-IMP-6906H, which lies about one-half mile east of Calexico, is recorded as the C-M and Bravo Ranch Headquarters. This site consists of the remains of a ranch operation founded in 1902. The site has been recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Historic Landmarks Registry, but the proposed nominations have not yet been initiated.

The remaining two sites are both canals, which are potentially eligible for the NRHP. Site CA-IMP-7130H consists of the All-American Canal and associated features. Initial

construction began on the canal in 1934; it was completed by 1940. Similarly, the New Briar Canal, is recorded as site CA-IMP-7667H and was constructed in 1941.

Although the project area is located near the All American Canal, no cultural resources would be affected due to the highly disturbed nature of the land within the project area. Previous disturbances include vehicle traffic, agricultural practices, grading, and other human related activities (i.e., foot traffic).

3.8 SOCIOECONOMICS

3.8.1 Population

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the infrastructure is Imperial County. The 1997 population of Imperial County was estimated to be 142,265 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1999). This population ranked 31st in the state of California (Regional Economic Information System 2000). This is an increase of 23 percent over the revised 1990 census population of 109,303. The estimated 1999 population of Imperial County is 145,287 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001a). The population of Calexico itself is approximately 27,109 (U.S. Bureau of the Census 2001b).

The racial mix of the Imperial County in 1997 was mainly comprised of Caucasians (93 percent) with the remaining seven percent split among African American, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and other races. The majority of the total population (73 percent) claim to be of Hispanic origin. A smaller majority of the population in 1990 (66 percent) also claimed Hispanic origins (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1999).

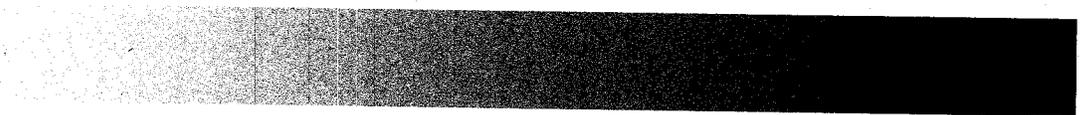
3.8.2 Employment, Poverty Levels, and Income

The total number of jobs in the study area was 61,598 in 1997, which was an increase of 29 percent over the 1987 number of jobs of 43,795 (Regional Economic Information System 2000). The 1997 unemployment rate for Imperial County fluctuated between 21.6 percent in March 1997 and 33.4 percent in September 1997. This is significantly higher than the unemployment rate for the state of California which fluctuated between 6.1 percent in November and December 1997 and 6.7 percent in January 1997 (Economag 2000).

The 1997 annual total personal income (TPI) for the ROI was \$2,110,259 (in thousands of dollars). This TPI ranked 33rd in the state of California and accounted for 0.2 percent of the

state total (Regional Economic Information System 2000). This was an 18 percent increase over the 1990 TPI of \$1,727,867. Over the past 10 years the average annual growth rate of TPI was 5.0 percent. This is lower than the annual growth rate for the state of 5.3 percent and only slightly lower than that for the nation of 5.8 percent. Per capita personal income (PCPI) for Imperial County was \$14,833 in 1997. This PCPI ranked 56th in the state, and was 56 percent of the state average, \$21,998, and 59 percent of the national average, \$25,288. This represents a four percent decrease over the 1990 PCPI of \$15,576. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 1.4 percent, which was significantly lower than both the state's growth rate of 3.8 percent and the national growth rate of 4.7 percent. The estimated number of people of all ages in poverty for Imperial County was 41,732. This represented 31.0 percent of the county, which is significantly higher than the estimated 16.5 percent of the state population that lives in poverty.

SECTION 4.0
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The installation process of the proposed action involves mounting lighting system equipment approximately 30 to 40 feet above ground level on wooden and steel poles that are approximately 1.5 to 2 feet in diameter. The poles would be encased in concrete for added strength and stability. Power to the poles would be supplied via aerial lines from adjacent grids for Calexico East and via under ground for Calexico West.

Installation of these lighting structures would not result in any significant environmental disturbances because the areas have been previously highly disturbed by road/canal construction, vehicle traffic, grading, and other human activities (i.e., foot traffic).

4.1 LAND USE

4.1.1 Proposed Action Alternative

No land use changes would occur upon implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. Operation and maintenance activities would not alter land use in the region.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

Land use would continue as it currently exists under the no action alternative.

4.1.3 Portable Lights Alternative

Under the implementation of this alternative, no land use changes would be expected to occur. Maintenance and operation activities would not alter land use in the region.

4.2 SOILS

4.2.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Implementation of the proposed action would disturb a minimal amount of soils (i.e., maximum of 119 holes at three feet in diameter each) along the project corridor; however, these soils have been heavily previously disturbed due to vehicle traffic, grading, and agricultural practices. Thus the impacts to soils under the execution of the Proposed Action Alternative would be minimal and insignificant. Indirect impacts to soils within the corridor would result from UDA/ smuggler traffic being diverted away from the proposed lit areas.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

No impacts to the soils within the project area would result from the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

4.2.3 Portable Lights Alternative

No direct impacts to soils are expected to occur, if this alternative was implemented. Some potential indirect effects to soils could occur from accidental spills of petroleum, oils or lubricants (POL). However, spill containment measures would be installed should this alternative be selected.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Imperial County is located within EPA's Region 9 and is currently in non-attainment for particulates (PM₁₀) and ozone (EPA 2001a). Construction activities for the proposed lighting structures would be limited to augering 119 holes, pouring concrete in the holes to stabilize the poles, and installation of the poles and lights. The short duration of these activities, the type of construction being completed, the type of equipment used, and the good dispersion patterns of the region, indicate that air emissions would not be created that would adversely affect air quality in Imperial County. These emissions would be below *de minimus* threshold, and, thus, Federal air conformity analysis would not be required.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

The region's air quality would not be significantly affected by the implementation of the No Action Alternative.

4.3.3 Portable Lights Alternative

Low amounts of air emissions are caused by the generators necessary to operate the portable lighting systems. These generators would be expected to be in operation approximately 12 hours per day. Table 4-1 illustrates the maximum air emissions expected from the portable light generators.

Table 4-1
Emission Factors for Diesel Powered Generators

Pollutant	Emission Rate (lbs/hr)	Emission Totals (tons/year)
Exhaust hydrocarbons	.000034	0.011
Carbon monoxide (CO)	.000091	0.032
Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	.000042	0.149
Aldehydes	.0000006	0.002
Sulfur oxides (SO _x)	.000028	0.009
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	.01589	5.602
Particulate matter PM ₁₀)	.00003	0.01

Source: (Immigration and Naturalization Services 2001).

These amounts are also below the *de minimus* thresholds and thus would not violate National or state standards.

4.4 WATER QUALITY

4.4.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Surface waters in the area include the New River, which runs near the western edge of Calexico, and the Alamo River, located approximately six miles east of Calexico. The proposed lighting system sites are located approximately 50 to 75 feet north of the All American Canal; however, the short duration of project activities and the limited area of construction are not expected to affect water quality in the area. No sites were located within areas that may be considered as jurisdictional wetlands or Waters of the U.S. Proper maintenance of construction equipment and best management practices during construction activities would minimize the possibility of accidental spills of fuels or lubricants that, if they occurred, could affect surface and groundwater quality. Operation and maintenance of the lighting structures would have no effect on the region's surface or groundwater supplies and quality.

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

No impacts to the water quality of the region's surface or groundwater supplies would occur under the No Action Alternative.

4.4.3 Portable Lights Alternative

The potential for water contamination in the project area does exist under the Portable Lights Alternative. The self-contained portable lights are powered with diesel engines and would require refueling every day prior to the next night's operation. This would create the risk of POL spills and therefore, the potential for surface and groundwater contamination. While there is a risk, mitigation measures (e.g., catch pans, routine maintenance) would be used to prevent accidental releases to soil and surface water from occurring.

4.5 NOISE

4.5.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Construction of permanent lights along the 12.25-mile corridor would result in temporary increases in noise levels due to construction equipment and vehicles. Once the installation of the light standards and fixtures were complete, the noise levels would be expected to immediately return to ambient conditions. Electrical lights may produce an electrical hum or buzz; however, noise levels are expected to be minor. These levels would not result in a significant increase to ambient noise levels.

4.5.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would not result in any perceptible increase in ambient noise levels. Increased patrols and apprehension efforts would be required to provide a similar level of deterrence, but these actions would produce minimal noise levels.

4.5.3 Portable Lights Alternative

Portable generators for lights would create more of a long-term exposure to increased noise. These increases would occur at night, thereby affecting the ambient day-night average sound level (DNL) of the area. The self-contained generators would produce additional noise and raise the ambient noise levels slightly. These increases in noise would have no significant impacts to the area's wildlife or human population.

4.6 NATURAL RESOURCES

4.6.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Installation of the lighting structures would have no significant impact on the vegetation or wildlife within the proposed project area. Very little vegetation exists at the proposed locations; in fact, most are completely devoid of vegetation due to past and on-going human disturbances. Studies have been completed regarding wildlife and the effects of light and their circadian rhythms. It was shown that within several weeks under constant lighting, mammals and birds would quickly stabilize and reset their circadian rhythms back to their original schedules (Carpenter and Grossberg 1984). Wildlife that currently inhabits the surrounding area could be affected by the addition of lighting within the project corridor but due to the area being almost void of wildlife and habitat no significant impacts are expected.

No threatened or endangered species were recorded during surveys conducted by Joint Task Force Six (JTF-6) for the entire Calexico corridor (U.S. Army 1997). Gulf South Research Corporation conducted a site-specific field reconnaissance of the project area on November 1, 2001. This field reconnaissance also found no Federal or state listed species. Furthermore, figures 2-2 and 2-3 display the obvious lack of vegetation within the project corridor. No significant impacts to vegetation or wildlife would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

Indirect effects, such as disturbances to vegetation and wildlife from the creation of UDA trails, could occur to the areas surrounding the project corridor. The Yuha Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (west of the project corridor) or the Lake Cahuilla-D ACEC (east of the project corridor) could be indirectly affected by UDAs attempting to avoid the lighted areas. The magnitude of these effects cannot be determined at the present, since the routes selected by UDAs and smugglers are at their discretion and out of the control of the USBP. These areas and the areas immediately preceding the project corridor would be monitored by USBP to alleviate any indirect effects from UDAs trying to avoid the illuminated areas.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

Continuation (and possibly increased) of illegal foot and vehicle traffic would impact vegetation within the region. Synergistic impacts to wildlife would occur as a result of

disturbances to vegetation communities. Adverse impacts to protected species could occur as a result of illegal traffic.

4.6.3 Portable Lights Alternative

Under the implementation of this alternative the impacts would be similar to those discussed in the Proposed Action Alternative.

4.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.7.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Implementation of this alternative would not affect any historic or prehistoric cultural resources. Cultural resource surveys performed by JTF-6 (U.S. Army 1997) reported only those seven sites described in section 3.7.1, none of which would be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative. However, if any cultural resources or human remains are encountered during the construction, all work should cease in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and a qualified archaeologist and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) should be contacted to assess significance and determine appropriate mitigation measures. General operation and maintenance of the lighting structures would have no effect on cultural resources as well.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no direct effect on cultural resources. Reductions in the USBP's ability to gain and maintain control of the border, however, would allow illegal entrants to continue to drive or walk through the areas surrounding Calexico. This illegal traffic could have adverse impacts upon the region's cultural resources, many of which have not been discovered as yet. The potential magnitude of such effects, therefore, is unknown.

4.7.3 Portable Lights Alternative

The impacts to cultural resources would be the same as those discussed in Section 4.6.1.

4.8 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

4.8.1 Proposed Action Alternative

There are no known occurrences of hazardous materials within the proposed project locations. Therefore, construction and maintenance activities should not be hindered by the presence of hazardous material contamination. Construction activities would require various types of heavy equipment, and would involve the importation of various temporary building and finish-out materials. The potential exists that motor oil, gasoline, diesel, and other hazardous materials could be accidentally released during the construction process. The use of proper work habits, frequent vehicle inspections, and careful handling of hazardous materials would minimize the possibility of either leaks or spills. Similar management practices would eliminate the chance of leaks or spills of hazardous materials (fuels and lubricants) during the operation and maintenance of the lighting structures.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not increase or decrease hazardous wastes in the region.

4.8.3 Portable Lights Alternative

No direct impacts are expected to occur, if this alternative was implemented. Some potential indirect effects from the implementation of this alternative could occur from accidental spills of petroleum, oils or lubricants (POL). However, spill containment measures would be installed should this alternative be selected.

4.9 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES

4.9.1 Proposed Action Alternative

Private contractors or military units from outside the region, resulting in only temporary increases in the population of the project area, could provide the labor for this alternative. Materials and other project expenditures should predominantly be obtained through merchants in the local or regional community, providing a temporary direct economic benefit. No displacement would result from this action and, therefore, there would be no direct impacts to housing in the area. No negative impacts to local transportation or utilities are expected with the implementation of this alternative. However, some indirect, beneficial impacts would occur as a result of the operation of the system. A reduction in illegal drug

and alien traffic would have synergistic socioeconomic benefits associated with insurance costs, property losses, law enforcement expenses, and other social costs (i.e., drug rehabilitation, medical expenses, and labor opportunities). Also, the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in any violations of the intent of Executive Order 12898 that addresses Environmental Justice or Executive Order 13045 which requires each Federal Agency “to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and “ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.” In contrast, the reduction in crime resulting from the increased lighting would create a safer environment for the children throughout the project corridor.

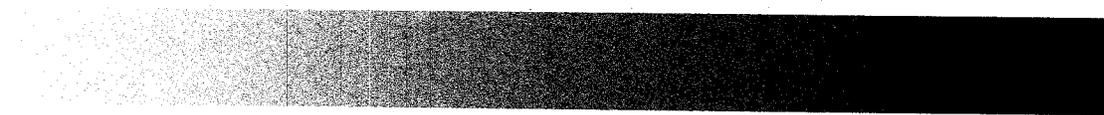
4.9.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place. As a result, there would be no temporary direct benefits from construction through purchasing of construction materials and other project expenditures. In addition, the current illegal foot traffic, and other illegal activity would continue, which would result in a probable increase in insurance costs, property losses, law enforcement expenses, and other social costs (i.e., drug rehabilitation, medical expenses, and labor opportunities). Also as a result of the No Action Alternative no issues regarding protection of children would occur thus creating a more unsafe environment for children than under the Proposed Action Alternative

4.9.3 Portable Lights Alternative

No effects to population, employment or housing would occur under the Portable Lights alternative. Some beneficial, but slight, impacts to local income and sales would result from the purchase of fuel to operate and maintain the generators. The diesel portable lighting units are scheduled for operation for 12 hours per day. These units would probably not be purchased locally; however, local distributors would supply the fuel for their operation. Portable lighting generators would use an average of six gallons of diesel per generator during each 12-hour shift. This would require a total of about 966 gallons of diesel fuel daily for the operation of portable lighting units. Fuel would be purchased locally and would provide ongoing economic benefits during operation. Issues regarding EO's 12898 and 13045 would be the same as those discussed in Section 4.9.1.

SECTION 5.0
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS



5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This section of the EA addresses the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed portable lights project and other projects/programs that are planned for the region. Following a general discussion regarding cumulative effects that would be expected irrespective of the alternative selected, the various resources that would be impacted are addressed within each alternative discussion.

The USBP and other entities are currently planning or conducting several projects in the region. The USBP is planning to install 24 RVS towers throughout the Calexico area; the locations for these RVS sites are along the U.S.-Mexico border and would impact an area of 25 feet by 25 feet each. In addition the USBP is in the process of planning the installation of vehicle barriers within the region as well. These actions are in the very early stages of planning and will have to be closely coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Native American Nations, and other appropriate Federal and state agencies to ensure that sensitive resources are avoided to the extent practicable.

Also, according to the Planning Division of the City of Calexico several new commercial, housing, and industrial developments are in the planning process and are expected to be completed in the future. Specifically, an International Center is in the process of being planned for development near the intersection of Jasper Street and Highway 111 in the city of Calexico. In addition, an annex is being proposed near the All American Canal. This annex is to be located along the eastern edge of the city of Calexico and will be developed as a housing area, commercial area, and an industrial area. This development is expected to permanently impact 640 acres of land (Ayala 2001). A shopping center is also being planned for construction near the junction of Highway 98 and Highway 111 in Calexico. This new center is estimated to impact about 25 acres. Implementation of these developments will result in additional impacts to noise, wildlife, vegetation, air quality, water resources, and land use are expected.

5.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would increase the amount of soil disturbance and construction activity required to complete this project. Installation of

permanent lighting was considered regarding the potential increase for raptors to be electrocuted or to become entangled in overhead powerlines. Although injuries and deaths to raptors due to collision with powerlines and support (guide) wires do occur, studies have indicated these structures do not present a major problem. The relative infrequency of collisions is due to the high visual acuity of raptors and the large size of transmission line conductors (Raptor Research Foundation 1996).

The effects to wildlife and vegetation from this alternative would not differ from the Portable Lights Alternative. As seen in Figures 2-2 and 2-3 the project area is nearly void of native vegetation; thus either alternative would not have significant impacts to either vegetation or wildlife.

5.2 No ACTION

The No Action alternative would result in no additional direct effects to the area's resources. No threatened or endangered species or critical habitat has been affected, nor have there been any adverse effects on cultural resources sites or historic structures that are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP due to INS/USBP activities, based upon past NEPA documents. Air quality within the region would not incur any direct additional impacts, as no construction activities would take place under this alternative.

Long-term indirect cumulative effects have occurred and would continue to occur due to public and private activities and developments. However, these effects, both beneficial and adverse, are difficult, if not impossible, to quantify. Reductions in habitat have undoubtedly created inter- and intra-species competition for available food and shelter and, eventually, slight reductions in some wildlife populations. Increased USBP enforcement activities would increase the potential for some wildlife specimens to be accidentally hit and killed. Such losses would not be expected to result in significant reductions to the populations.

Positive cumulative benefits have resulted from INS activities as well. Additional knowledge regarding threatened or endangered species' locations, distribution, and life requisites has been obtained through surveys and monitoring efforts associated with INS construction projects.

It is highly likely that UDAs and smugglers will attempt to avoid the lighted areas by choosing to enter areas that are remote and foreboding. USBP would patrol areas of darkness in the project corridor for UDAs trying to avoid lit areas. This would reduce indirect effects to sensitive areas, while safeguarding aliens from the environment. Lives have been lost because persons were not adequately prepared for the harsh desert environment; the possibility of other deaths to occur would increase as people take greater chances. However, the detection and apprehension mission of INS has evolved to include the cooperation and coordination with other emergency services to rescue illegal entrants before they get into life-threatening situations. In fact, such rescues have become a daily occurrence along the border.

5.3 PORTABLE LIGHTS

Implementation of this alternative would have similar cumulative effects as the Proposed Action Alternative regarding past INS actions and future proposed actions by other agencies and companies. Disturbances to soils and habitats by INS activities would be increased relative to the No Action alternative. Again, given the rural nature of the project corridor and the vast acres of wildlife habitat in the region, the total cumulative impact would still be considered minimal. Furthermore, this amount is considered worst-case scenario and most of the disturbance would occur within areas that are already heavily disturbed by on-going or past activities.

The increase in lights along the border could produce some long-term cumulative effects, although the magnitude of these effects in some areas is not presently known and would depend upon the location and duration of the lights.

SECTION 6.0
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 AGENCY COORDINATION

This chapter discusses consultation and coordination that has occurred during preparation of the draft version of this document. This includes contacts that were made during the development of the proposed action and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination was conducted with the following agencies:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
- California Department of Environmental Quality (CDEQ)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

6.2 PUBLIC REVIEW

The draft EA was made available for public review, and the Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in local newspapers. Exhibit 1 is a copy of the NOA that will be published for the final EA. All correspondence sent or received during the preparation of this EA is included as Appendix B. Comments received concerning the draft will be addressed, and where appropriate, changes will be incorporated into the final EA.

Exhibit 1

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Permanent Lighting Structures Near
Calexico, CA**

The public is invited to comment on the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's proposed Permanent Lighting Structures Near Calexico, CA. The Draft EA was available for public comment from January 15, 2002 through February 14, 2002 and no comments were received. The Final EA will be available at the Calexico Border Patrol Station – 1150 E. Birch Calexico, CA. 92231, (760) 357-2441 and the Calexico Library –850 Encinas Calexico, CA. 92231, (760) 768-2170. Send written comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Charles McGregor, Environmental Resources Branch, P.O. Box 17300, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A14, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Imperial

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk* of the printer of the

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS
MID-VALLEY EDITION

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of El Centro, County of Imperial and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Imperial, State of California, under the date of October 9, 1951, Case Number 26775; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

January 16

all in the year 2002.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Vicki Cheaf

SIGNATURE

* Printer, Foreman of the Printer, or Principal Clerk of the Printer

Date 1/16 2002
at El Centro, California.

This space is for the County Clerk's Filing Stamp:

Proof of Publication of:

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

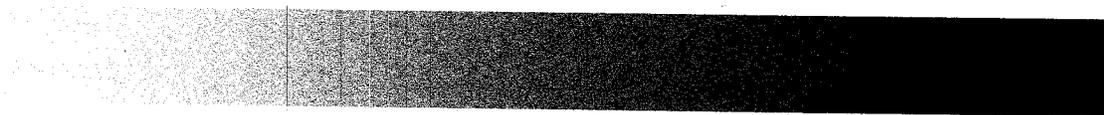
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
Permanent Lighting Structures Near
Calxico, CA

The public is invited to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's proposed Permanent Lighting Structures Near Calxico, CA. The Draft EA will be available at the Calxico Border Patrol Station - 1150 E. Birch Calxico, Ca. 92231, (760) 357-2447 and the Calxico Library - 850 E. 1st St. Calxico, Ca. 92231, (760) 357-2170. Send written comments to: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Attention: Mr. Gregory, Environmental Resources Branch, P.O. Box 17300, 2215 W. Greer, Room 517, Fort Worth, Texas 76101. Written comments will be received until February 14, 2002.

S490

J16

SECTION 7.0
LIST OF PREPARERS



7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people were primarily responsible for preparing this Environmental Assessment.

NAME	AGENCY/ORGANIZATION	DISCIPLINE/EXPERTISE	EXPERIENCE	ROLE IN PREPARING EA
Eric Verwers	INS A-E Resource Center	Biology	14 years in NEPA and related studies	Program manager and EA review and coordination
Charles McGregor	USACE, Ft. Worth District	Chemistry	5 year technical review of NEPA documents	Technical manager, EA review and coordination
Chris Ingram	Gulf South Research Corporation	Biology/Ecology	22 years NEPA and related studies	Co-Managed project; EA review
Suna Knaus	Gulf South Research Corporation	Forestry and Wildlife	14 years NEPA and related studies	EA review
Josh McEnany	Gulf South Research Corporation	Forestry and Wildlife	1 year NEPA and related studies	Co-Managed project; EA preparation
John Lindemuth	Gulf South Research Corporation	Anthropology/Project Archaeologist	8 years archaeological studies	Cultural resources and socioeconomics
Sharon Newman	Gulf South Research Corporation	GIS/Graphics	7 years GIS analysis	Graphics and GIS

SECTION 8.0
REFERENCES



8.0 REFERENCES

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SECTION 9.0
LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

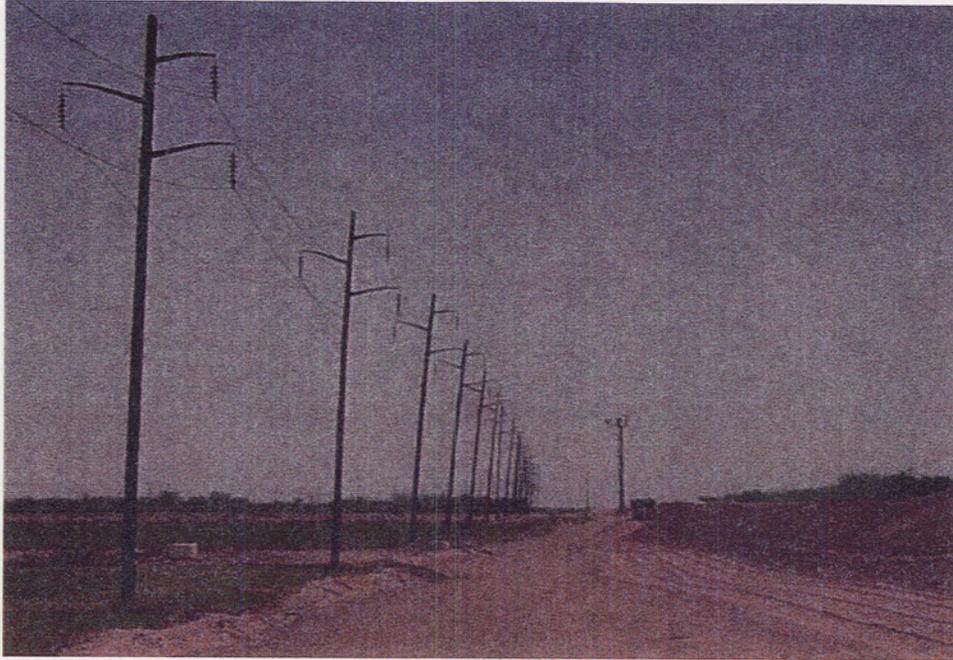


9.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AO	Area of operation
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CSHPO	California State Historic Preservation Office
CO	Carbon monoxide
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
dBA	decibel
DNL	Day Night Level
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Ft ²	Feet square
FY	Fiscal Year
INA	Immigration Nationality Act
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
JTF-6	Joint Task Force Six
LPS	Low Pressure Sodium
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic meter
mg/m ³	Milligrams per cubic meter
mph	Miles per hour
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NO	Nitrogen Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Services
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O ₃	Ozone
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter 2.5
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter 10
PCPI	Per Capita Personal Income
Pb	Lead
POE	Port of Entry
POL	Petroleum, oils or lubricants
ppm	Parts per million
ROI	Region of Influence
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
TPI	Total Personal Income
UDA	Undocumented Aliens
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USBP	U.S. Border Patrol
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGLO	U.S. Government Land Office
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

APPENDIX A
PHOTOGRAPHS

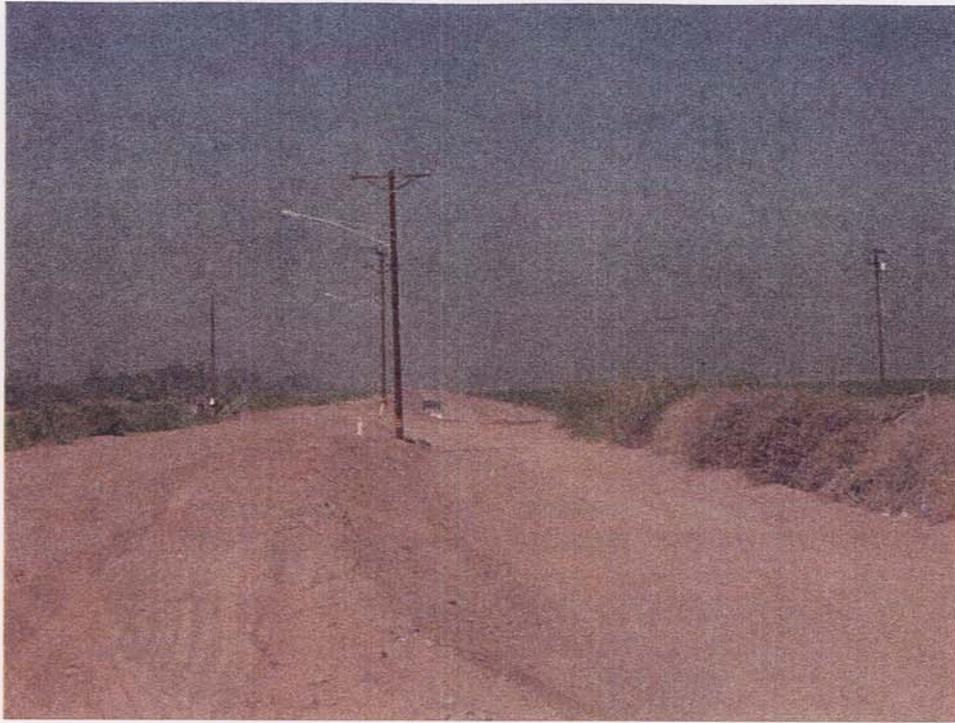




Photograph 1. Overview of Calexico East.



Photograph 2. Overview of the All American Canal and adjacent roadway.



Photograph 3. Overview of Calexico West and adjoining lights.

APPENDIX B
CORRESPONDENCE





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

October 12, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment for the Installation of Permanent Lights near Calexico, California

Mr. Jeff Drongesen
Environmental Specialist Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Game
4775 Bird Farm Road
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Dear Mr. Drongesen:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border near Calexico, Imperial County, California. This EA will address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of the proposed installation of approximately 106 permanent lighting structures along the All American Canal near Calexico, California.

The sites of the proposed lighting structures are located approximately 2.3 miles west and 3.5 miles east of the Calexico POE (Port of Entry) along the roadway, which is adjacent to the All American Canal. Please refer to the enclosed map (Attachment A) for location of the project. We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding Federally and state listed species potentially occurring within the project area.

We would like to formally request a current list of all state protected species that have been reported from or near the project area. A current list of Federally threatened or endangered species that potentially occur in Imperial County is included as Attachment B. Please review this list for accuracy and completeness. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of the protected species would also be very helpful. We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles H. McGregor at (817) 978-6382.

Sincerely,



William Fickel, Jr
Planning, Environmental and
Regulatory



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300
October 12, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF.

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Environmental Assessment for the Installation of Permanent Lights near Calexico, California

Mr. Jim Bartel
Field Supervisor
United States Fish and Wildlife Services
2730 Loker Avenue West
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Dear Mr. Bartel:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is acting for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border near Calexico, Imperial County, California. This EA will address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, of the proposed installation of approximately 106 permanent lighting structures along the All American Canal near Calexico, California.

The sites of the proposed lighting structures are located approximately 2.3 miles west and 3.5 miles east of the Calexico POE (Port of Entry) along the roadway, which is adjacent to the All American Canal. Please refer to the enclosed map (Attachment A) for location of the project. We are currently in the process of gathering the most current information available regarding Federally and state listed species potentially occurring within the project area.

We would like to formally request a current list of all Federally protected species that have been reported from or near the project area. A current list of Federally threatened or endangered species that potentially occur in Imperial County is included as Attachment B. Please review this list for accuracy and completeness. To better assess potential impacts to these species, we would like to present as much data in a GIS format as possible. Any GIS information, or information sources, you could provide regarding current distribution of the protected species would also be very helpful. We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once it is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed and/or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles H. McGregor at (817) 978-6382.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Planning, Environmental and
Regulatory



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California

Honorable Clifford M. LaChappa, Chairman
Barona Band of Mission Indians
1095 Barona Road
Lakeside, CA 92040

Dear Chairman LaChappa:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

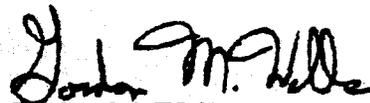
The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,



Gordon M. Wells
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Ralph Goff, Chairman
Campo Band of Mission Indians
36190 Church Road, Suite 1
Campo, CA 91906

Dear Chairman Goff:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Tony Pinto, Chairman
Cuyapaipe Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 2250
Alpine, CA 91903

Dear Chairman Pinto:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

**Honorable Rebecca Maxcy, Chairwoman
Inaja-Cosmit Reservation
1040 East Valley Parkway, Unit A
Escondido, CA 92025**

Dear Chairwoman Maxcy:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Kenneth Meza, Sr., Chairman
Jamul Indian Village
P.O. Box 612
Jamul, CA 91935

Dear Chairman Meza:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

**Honorable Gwendolyn Parada, Chairwoman
La Posta Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 1048
Boulevard, CA 91905**

Dear Chairwoman Parada:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Leroy Elliott, Chairman
Manzanita Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 1302
Boulevard, CA 91905

Dear Chairman Elliott:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Georgia Tucker-Kimble, Spokesperson
Sycuan Band of Mission Indians
5459 Dehesa Road
El Cajon, CA 92019

Dear Spokesperson Tucker-Kimble:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF.

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Honorable Steve TeSam, Chairman
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
P.O. Box 908
Alpine, CA 91903

Dear Chairman TeSam:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

**Honorable Mike Jackson, Sr., President
Quechan Tribe
350 Picacho Rd.
Winterhaven, CA 92283**

Dear President Jackson:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above. We wish to consult with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes who historically used this region or continue to use the area. We welcome your comments on this undertaking and look forward to hearing from you regarding known sacred sites or other traditional cultural properties within the proposed project area.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document is provided to you for comment.

The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. Figure 2.1 and others in the document show the proposed location of the lighting systems. Section 2.1 in the document describes what the project entails. Photographs in Appendix A illustrate the context and condition of the proposed project area.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We have asked the California State Historic Preservation Office for their concurrence with our determination of no effect.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 78102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

January 15, 2002

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

**SUBJECT: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP)
proposed placement of permanent lights east and west of Calexico, California**

Dr. Knox Mellon
California State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
ATTN: Mr. Mike McGuirt
1416 9TH Street, Room 1442-7
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Mellon,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.3, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the INS and the USBP, is notifying you of the proposed project mentioned above and requesting your comments and concurrence.

The Fort Worth District is also preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed construction activities of the INS/USBP near the City of Calexico, California (east and west of the city). This document will be provided to you for comment upon its completion in the near future.

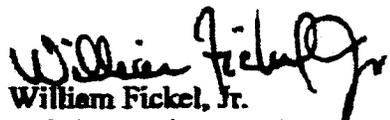
The proposed project is the installation, operation and maintenance of approximately 106 permanent lighting systems near Calexico along the All American Canal. The enclosed Figure 2.1 is a regional map showing the proposed location of the lighting systems. These lights consist of a Cobra style drop lens light with one 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) vapor bulb per pole. These types of lights are specifically designed for the purpose of illuminating roadways. The lighting structures would be wooden poles encased in concrete and steel culverts (to prevent them from being cut down) and about 30 feet in height. They would be placed at intervals of approximately 240 feet or roughly 11 per half mile. Power to the poles would be supplied via aerial lines from adjacent grids. The project area encompasses approximately 4.9 miles of roadway adjacent to the All American Canal. Calexico West is located 2.3 miles west of the Calexico Port of Entry (POE) and extends approximately 1.3 miles west. This area of the project would require an estimated 27 poles and Cobra lights to be installed along the canal. Calexico East is located 3.5 miles east of the POE and extends east 3.6 miles

along the roadway adjacent to the All American Canal. This section would require only the addition of the Cobra street lights to pre-existing poles (see attached photographs).

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we have determined that the proposed installation and operation of these permanent lights will have no effect upon any historic properties. We ask for your concurrence with our determination of no effect. If, as stated in Part 800.4(d)(1), we have not heard from your office in thirty (30) days of receipt of this request, we will assume your concurrence and our Section 106 responsibilities regarding this proposed project will be fulfilled. Also, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), we are contacting the appropriate Native American tribes to afford them an opportunity to comment on this undertaking as well. A list of those tribes is enclosed for your information.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning this proposed project. Should you require further information, please contact Patience Patterson of the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers at (817) 886-1723.

Sincerely,


William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental
and Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Copy Furnished w/o attachments:

INS Architect/Engineer Resource Center
ATTN: Mr. Eric Verwers, Director
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A28
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

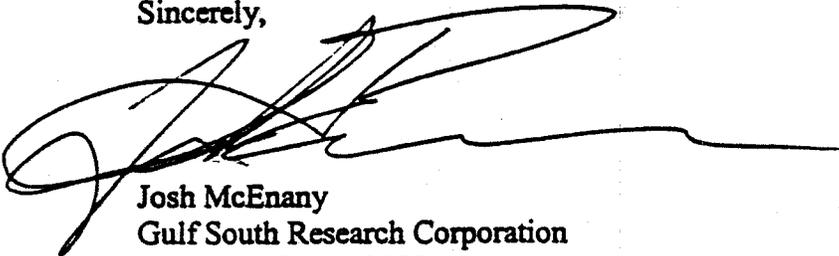
January 10, 2002

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Services
ATTN: Mr. Steve Cameron
177 N. Imperial Ave.
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Cameron,

Enclosed is a Form AD-1006 for the proposed lighting structures along the All American Canal near Calexico, California. These lighting structures would be placed between the farm road which parallels the canal and the northern toe of the All American Canal levee road providing illumination along the levee road and within the canal. The project corridor is approximately seven miles in length. The lighting structures will consist of two high-pressure stadium style lights per pole. The lights will be mounted upon 40-foot steel poles and will be supplied power through underground sources. Each of the lighting structures will be spaced at intervals of approximately 200 to 300 feet. A project vicinity map is enclosed. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for time and help.

Sincerely,



Josh McEnany
Gulf South Research Corporation
Phone (225) 757-8088
Fax (225) 761-8077
Email: joshm@gsrccorp.com

U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)

Name Of Project Calverico Light EA	Date Of Land Evaluation Request 1-10-02
Proposed Land Use Lighting	Federal Agency Involved USBP
	County And State Imperial County, Ca.

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)

Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres	%	Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres	%
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Requested By NRCS 1-14-02 S.C.R.	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)

	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	0.0			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				
C. Total Acres In Site	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information

A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Units To Be Converted	
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion

Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)	0	0	0	0
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)

Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 608.5(a))	Maximum Points				
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	100	0	0	0	0

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)

Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	100	0	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	200	0	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used?
Reason For Selection:		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>