FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CLASSROOM AND PRACTICAL EXERCISE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) is proposing to expand and improve a classroom training and practical exercise facility within the FLETC compound near Artesia, New Mexico. The purpose of the construction is to consolidate certain classroom training and practical exercise programs into a larger, more appropriate facility.

Besides the proposed action, the no-action alternative was considered. Although the no-action alternative would not have an environmental impact, not constructing the facility could have detrimental impacts to the mission of the proponent and to national security.

Construction activities would involve the erection of a 28,000 square foot facility, associated lighting, and curb and sidewalk modification. The facility would dedicate approximately 4,000 square feet of space to practical exercises and 24,000 square feet to classroom training. Construction would occur in the FLETC compound located at Artesia, New Mexico. The construction would require a work force of 20-30 people at any given time and would require approximately 12 months to accomplish.

The campus of FLETC has undergone moderate construction and landscaping activities. No additional access road construction is anticipated. The proposed site has been heavily disturbed and is presently landscaped with non-native Kentucky bluegrass and three young Austrian pine trees. Two mature Rio Grande Cottonwood trees would also be removed; however, the cottonwoods, while common in New Mexico, are found in wetter areas than the proposed site. The following elements have been analyzed and would not be significantly affected by the planned action: aesthetics, soils, noise levels, air quality, biological resources, socioeconomic environment, special status species and their critical habitats, and cultural resources. Based on these factors and others discussed in detail in the Environmental Assessment (EA), the planned action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for the conduct of the proposed action.

19 February 99
Date

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for James Jones
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DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
CONSTRUCTION of a CLASSROOM and EXERCISE FACILITY,
FLETC CAMPUS,
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

Prepared for

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (FLETC)

Prepared by

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT

6 October 1998

DRAFT

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EXERCISE FACILITY
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
TRAINING CENTER
(FLETC)
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Location.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) operates two main facilities: the main campus at Glynco, Georgia, and a smaller facility at Artesia, New Mexico. The campus at Artesia is located in Eddy County in southeastern New Mexico (Figure 1.1). The Proposed Action site would be located within the Artesia main campus boundaries (Figure 1.2).

1.2 Background.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, is the nation's leading organization in the interagency training of federal law enforcement students. The Artesia facility was established in 1990. Approximately 80 Federal agencies participate in the FLETC training program. FLETC provides a training curriculum designed to prepare individuals in all aspects of law enforcement. Since the 1989 opening of the Artesia facility, student enrollment has increased 400 per cent, from approximately 1,250 to 5,000 students. FLETC administrators estimate the increased enrollment trend to continue. Estimated enrollment in the year 2003 is approximately 12,000 students (Figure 1.3).

1.3 Purpose and Need for Proposed Action.

The purpose of the planned action is to provide additional student training space and consolidate into one facility certain classroom and practical exercise training.

Practical exercises in Document Forgery, Courtroom Methodology, and Fingerprinting Procedures are conducted in Building 116. This is a portable modular building, not designed to support the training program's specific activities. Moreover, the modular building is not constructed to accurately represent conditions encountered in day-to-day law enforcement activities. The modular practical exercise facility is also limited in usable floor space. Class size varies between 24 and 48 people, depending on the particular training class; however, Building 116 has 1,502 total square feet of floor space. It is estimated footage available for students is considerably less than the 1,502 total square footage. The modular facility is of indeterminant age, having been acquired used by FLETC in 1990. Finally, the facility does not have fire walls, creating safety concerns in a case of fire. As outlined above, a need exists to provide a safe training facility with additional floor space.

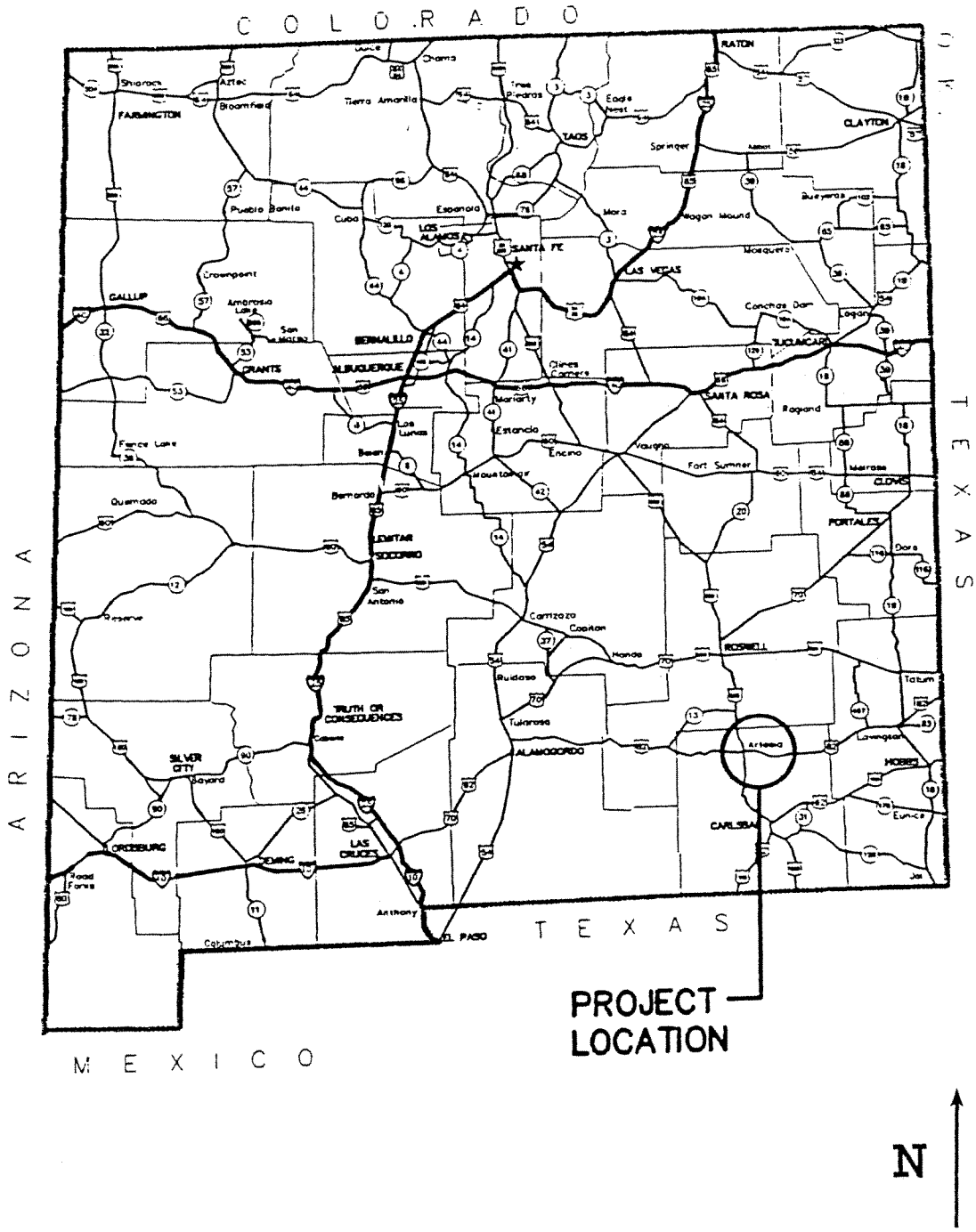

FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION MAP

(Not to Scale)

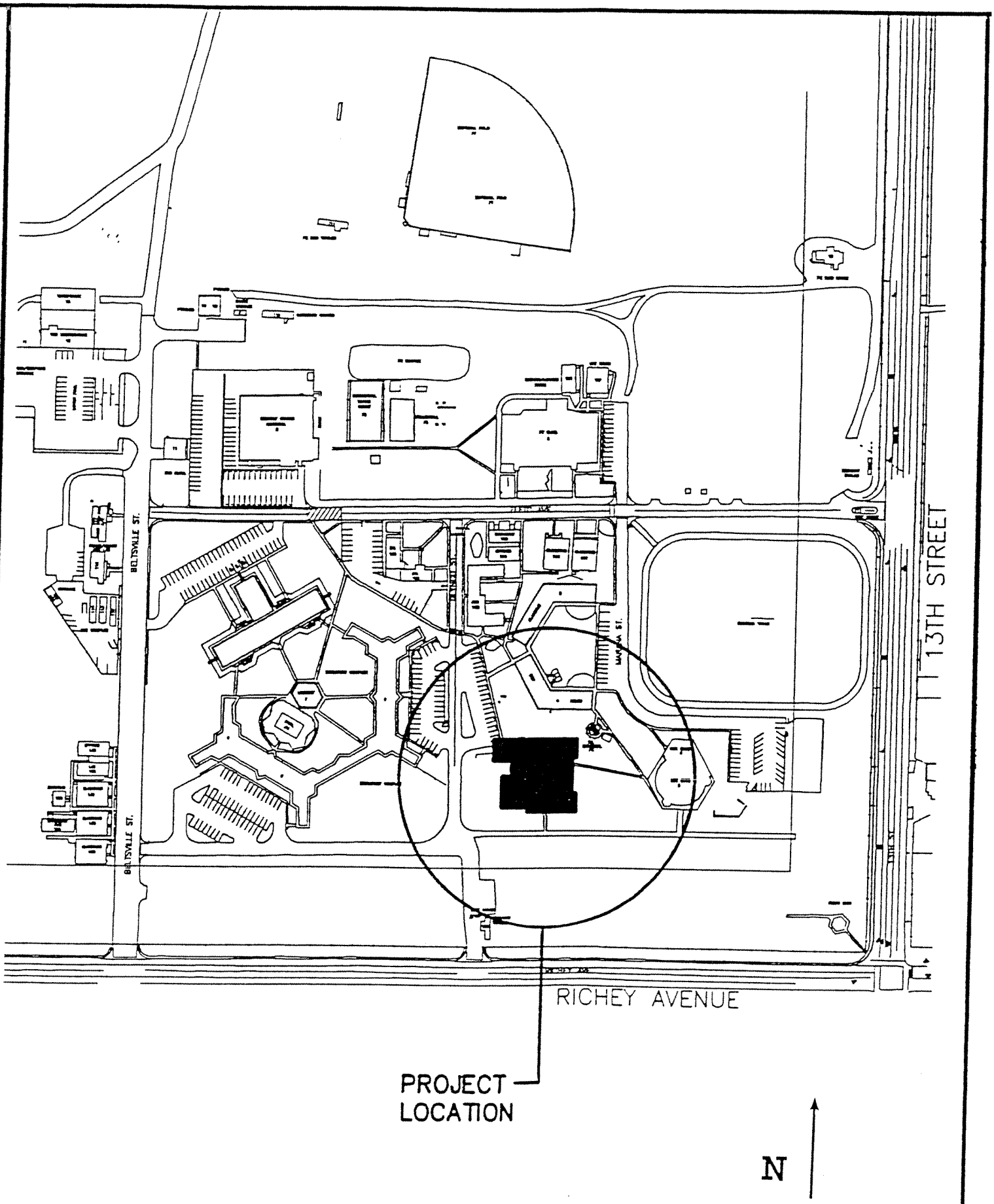

FIGURE 1.2 VICINITY MAP
(Not to Scale)

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Office of Artesia Operations

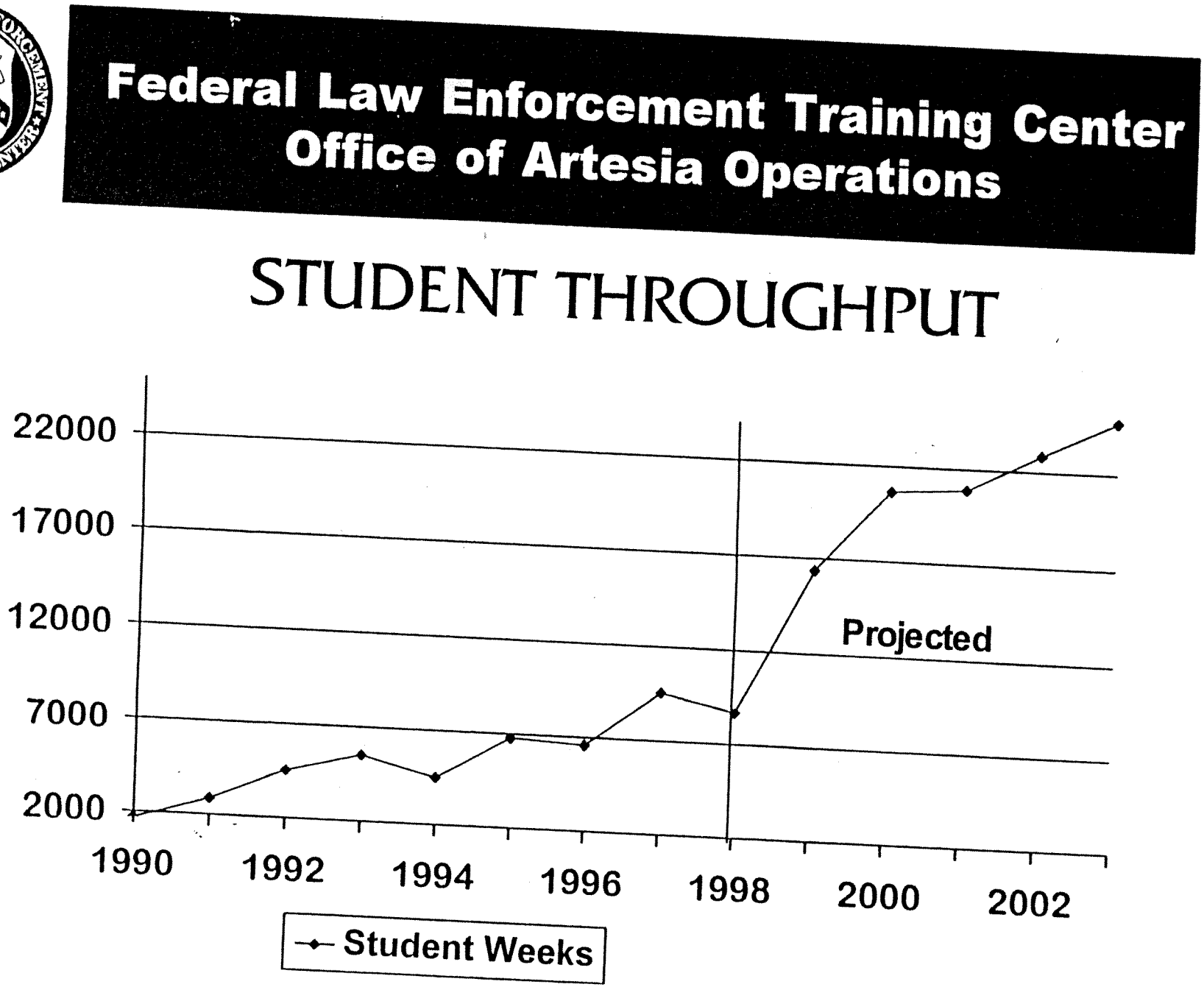

FIGURE 1.3 HISTORIC AND ESTIMATED STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The proposed facility would be constructed according to specifications designed to fully support FLETC's training mission . A more conducive training environment also would be generated with the facility's additional floor space. Finally, the new construction would alleviate safety concerns regarding student safety in case of fire.

Federal law enforcement personnel actively maintain internal National security and superior training is required to prepare those individuals. the effectiveness and safety of law enforcement personnel graduating from the FLETC program is largely determined by the quality of training which FLETC offers. Existing facilities have insufficient square footage for estimated future student enrollment. Moreover, concerns exist regarding student safety versus limited floor space. Therefore, as a matter of National security, and a matter of personnel safety, a need exists to provide additional training space for FLETC's Federal law enforcement training program.

1.4 Scoping and Issues.

Scoping for this EA is largely based on potential issues at the proposed construction site including cultural resources, special status species, wetlands and floodplains, noise levels, and air quality. Other issues examined include socioeconomics and human health and safety. Public scoping for this document included the City Planner for Artesia and the County Manager for Eddy County.

1.5 Permits, Licenses, and Regulatory Compliance.

There are no permitting or licensing requirements other than those required in ordinary vertical construction. The relatively small size of the land proposed for development (~ 0.6 acre) would not require FLETC's general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting procedures. No hazardous or toxic waste would be generated by the Proposed Action. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the proposed project is required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and would be coordinated by Albuquerque District archeologists. As a Federal agency, FLETC must comply with a number of Federal Laws. Among these are the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Enviromnental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and the Department of Treasury Directive Number 75-02, "Department of the Treasury Environmental Quality Program", 25 September 1990. Executive Orders 11990, 11988, and 12898 require Federal agencies to take special consideration of wetlands, floodplains, and low-income and/or minority populations, respectively.

1.6 Decisions to be Made.

The decision to be made is whether to construct a new classroom and pratical exercise (classroom and PE) facility. Inherent in the decision is whether any adverse environmental impacts would occur as a result of the construction and what measures to take to avoid, minimize, or compensate for those impacts.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section describes in detail the proposed action and the no-action alternative. The beneficial and adverse

environmental effects of alternatives are presented in comparative form, providing a clear basis for choice among the options for the decision maker and the public.

2.1 Proposed Action.

The project consists of the construction of a training classroom and practical exercise (Classroom/PE) facility. The facility would be approximately 24,000 square feet in size and would be constructed on land already heavily disturbed. Approximately 4,000 square feet would be dedicated to the practical exercise program and 20,000 square feet dedicated to the training classroom. The Proposed Action would include vertical construction of the facility as well as developing lighting and modifications to the existing roadway, curbs, and sidewalks. Electrical, telephone, natural gas, and water and sewer utilities would be provided to the facility by extending existing underground utilities. Existing electrical and natural gas lines are routed within the proposed facility's footprint and would be re-routed prior to construction. Extensions from these lines would provide electrical and natural gas utilities for the facility. City of Artesia potable water and sanitary sewer utilities are located within 250 feet of the proposed facility. Underground extensions of these utilities have been approved by the city of Artesia and would be installed by contractors. The utility extensions would require trenching in land already heavily disturbed. Project construction would require a work crew of 20-30 workers for approximately 5 months to completion. All construction activities are anticipated to occur during normal business hours. Normal construction equipment would be required. All permits and licensing would be obtained by the contractor. The existing practical exercise facilities would be relocated to a location yet to be determined within the FLETC grounds.

The planned action would supplement the aesthetics of the surrounding campus area. The facility would be constructed of tan-colored brick with maroon-red roofing tiles, similar to nearby structures. Landscaping would be developed to compliment neighboring landscape designs currently in place. Xeriscaping is a recommended option which is visually pleasing while helping to conserve crucial water reserves.

Construction of the proposed facility would require the use of typical vertical construction equipment, including backhoes, front-end loaders, hoist cranes, and other standard types of construction equipment. Machinery and equipment would be inspected and be required to meet or exceed State and Federal Emissions regulations.

The proposed construction site is vegetated with Kentucky bluegrass, an imported lawn grass not native to southern New Mexico. The grass is watered using an underground line system and potable water. The planned action would require removal of the lawn grass and watering line system but post-construction landscaping would revegetate or otherwise landscape the constructed facility's remaining disturbed areas.

Soils at the planned action site would be protected during the proposed construction. Soil stabilizing (dust control) measures, as mandated by State and Federal regulations, would be adhered to during construction. Post-construction revegetation, either native or imported plant species, would provide continued soil stabilization.

The training compound is located within City of Artesia city limits. There is substantial interaction between FLETC personnel and activities and the Artesia economy.

No special status species occur at the planned action site. There are no surface water bodies within campus

boundaries to support listed aquatic species. The entire campus perimeter is fenced, inhibiting the presence of larger listed fauna species. The proposed site does not support breeding or foraging environment for listed bird species, although certain species may seasonally occur during migration. No large perching or nesting trees exist on the site. The planned action site has been completely landscaped.

There are no wetlands or floodplains within FLETC campus perimeter. No permanent or ephemeral bodies of water exist on or near the proposed construction location. The proposed site has slight surface drainage to the east with less than a one degree slope.

Fire and emergency medical response services would continue to be provided by the city of Artesia. Security services would be provided by campus security, although city police respond upon request..

2.2 The No-Action Alternative.

Under the no-action alternative, the existing training facilities would continue to be utilized. No construction would increase existing training space under this alternative. There would be no change in exisiting training conditions.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Affected Environment Section describes only those environmental resources that are relevant to the decision to be made. It does not describe the entire existing environment, but only those environmental resources that would affect or that would be affected by the alternatives if they were implemented. This section, in conjunction with the description of the "no-action" alternative forms the base line conditions for determining the environmental impacts of the proposed action.

3.1 Physical Environment.

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Artesia, New Mexico is located within the Lower Pecos Valley Subsection of the Pecos Valley Section in the Great Plains Physiographic Province (Hawley 1986). The facility is situated on the Orchard Park Terrace of the Pecos River at an elevation of between 3,400 and 3,430 ft. This portion of the Middle Pecos Valley consists of relatively flat to slightly rolling terrain. The 220-acre FLETC campus lay on relatively flat land, some of which apparently has been subjected to grazing and other agricultural modification (USACE 1998).

3.1.1 Aesthetics.

Aesthetics for the Proposed Action areas are described in terms of visual appearance, sound, and sensitivity level. Visual appearance is made up of four elements: form, line, color, and texture. The Proposed Action areas' principal form elements consist of even terrain; human-made features contribute line elements to the areas' overall visual characteristics. These include landscaping, brick and tile or shingle structures, electric lines, fences, telephone cables, transmission and distribution lines, and roads. The areas' color varies throughout: landscaped areas tend to green; paved roads are dark brown to black; unpaved roads are light brown to brownish-yellow; and vegetation has a green overstory with a pale green to slightly yellow or buff understory.

Sound in the area is produced by natural sources such as wind and birds and human-made sounds associated with vehicular traffic.The construction under the Proposed Action would occur on the main campus which consists of lands subjected to generally heavy disturbance. The land slopes from west to east with a slope of less than one percent. The entire area was agricultural land prior to construction of the former college campus (USACE 1998). The planned action site has been landscaped with moderately high water usage Kentucky bluegrass. An underground watering system has been installed with 30 watering heads capable of delivering a total of 1,800 gallons of water per hour. A concrete sidewalk also transects the site.

3.1.2 Climate.

The climate in the vicinity of the proposed project is classified as semiarid to arid with an average growing season of 195 days (April 10th to October 30th). The average last spring frost is about March 30th, with the first frost arriving approximately November 10th. Average daily temperatures in January are 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and July temperatures average 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The mean annual temperature is 60 - 64 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation falls mainly during the spring and summer with an average 10 - 14 inches per year. Winds in the region are from the southeast in summer, becoming southwesterly in late winter and early spring. Winds average 10 mph in the fall and 16 mph in spring. Peak wind velocities are in the 50 mph range (USACE 1998).

3.1.3 Soils.

The area is dominated by the Reagan-Upton association which are primarily loamy, deep soils, and soils that are shallow to caliche (SCS 1971). Previous geotechnical soil investigations for nearby structures indicate the soils are capable of supporting a burden. The soils are generally derived from old alluvium. Specifically, there are three soil types located in the main campus proper area: Reagan loams, Upton gravely loam, and Upton soils.

Reagan Loams.

The Reagan soil series consists of deep, well-drained, moderately dark colored, calcareous loams that form in old alluvium derived from calcareous, sedimentary rocks of the uplands. The soil forms on plains and in valleys west of the Pecos River and in irrigated areas near Artesia and Carlsbad. The soils are uneroded to slightly eroded but are highly susceptible to wind erosion. For Reagan loams, good management is needed to maintain an adequate plant cover and to control erosion. Water runoff is slow to moderate and permeability is moderate. Slopes range from 0 - 3 per cent. Water holding capability is high (SCS 1971).

Upton Soil Series.

The Upton soil series, including the Upton Gravelly Loam and the Upton Soils, consists of moderately dark colored, calcareous, gravelly soils that form in old alluvium derived from calcareous sedimentary rocks. These soils are shallow to very shallow over caliche and cemented gravel. They occur on upland plains between the Pecos River and the mountains and hills on the west. Generally, these soils are subject to slight erosion, with water runoff being slow tomoderate. Their permeability is moderate with water holding capability varying from very low to low. The soils are droughty. The Upton gravelly loam has slopes from 0 - 9 per cent and soil fertility is low. Upton soils have slopes of 1 - 3 per cent and are moderately fertile (SCS 1971).

3.1.4 Air Quality.

Based on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act as amended (104 Statute 2399 [1990]), Eddy County, New Mexico, is in attainment status for air quality with regards to ozone and particulate matter (Pers. communication with Andy Nowak, New Mexico Air Quality Bureau 1998).

3.1.5 Hydrology, Wetlands, and Floodplains.

Drainage is largely overland with no major or minor arroyos present. The major drainages present in the vicinity are Eagle Creek to the south and Cottonwood Creek to the north. Both eventually drain into the Pecos River which is located approximately 3.5 miles to the east. Surface flows would generally be confined to brief periods associated with summer thunderstorm activity (USACE 1998). The main campus is approximately .75 miles north of the delineated theoretical northern boundary of the 100-year flood potential (National Flood Insurance Map 1981). The site is not within a floodplain.

3.1.6 Noise.

Noise levels associated with daily activities on the main campus are minimal. Vehicular traffic represent the major sources of site noise. Natural noises, such as wind and birds, are minimal.

3.2 Biological Environment.

Artesia, New Mexico is located in the Southwest Semidesert Grasslands biotic community (Brown, D.E. 1994).

3.2.1 Vegetation.

The vegetation found on the planned action site is dominated by imported Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), planted as part of a landscaping design. Also part of the design are three Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) trees and two mature Rio Grande Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* var. *wislizenii*) trees. Native vegetation was not observed during a 25 August 1998 site visit.

3.2.2 Common Wildlife.

The proposed construction site does not support continuous habitation by wildlife. Mammals which may occur in the proposed site include: The desert cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus muttali*) and the black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*). Birds which may periodically occur at the site include: The Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Ferruginus hawk (*Buteo regalis*), American robin (*Tardus migratorius*), mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) (Findley *et al.* 1975, Findley 1987).

3.2.3 Special Status Species.

Three agencies have primary responsibility for the conservation of animal and plant species in New Mexico: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended); the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, under the authority of the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1974; and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, under authority of the New

Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act and attendant regulation 19 NMAC 21.2. Each Agency maintains a list of animal or plant species which have been classified or are candidates for classification as endangered or threatened based on present status and potential threat to future survival or recruitment. Taxa with the potential to occur near the proposed project site are listed in Table 1. Coordination correspondence is located in Appendix B.

Plant Species.

Various listed plant species occur within Eddy County (Sivinski and Lightfoot 1995). The species which could occur in an undisturbed environment similar to the planned action location are listed in Table 1. However, the heavily disturbed condition at and around the site, evidenced by landscaping, leaves no possibility of listeed plant species occurring in or near the planned action location.

Animal Species.

The American Peregrine Falcon and the Bald Eagle have a slight potential to occur at the proposed site. The value of the surrounding area as potential breeding habitat for either of these species is limited by the lack of water resources. The Peregrine Falcon potentially may use the general locality for resting or foraging during the spring or fall migration. Its preferred breeding habitat is open country and steep rocky cliffs in close proximity to water, containing dense bird populations in conjunction with steady strong air currents (NMDGF 1988). The aridity and flat topography of the proposed location eliminates the area as Peregrine breeding habitat.

The Bald Eagle winters in riparian and lacustrine habitats of the Rio Grande and other major rivers in New Mexico between mid-November and mid-March. During migration, it also can be found along mountain ridges. In New Mexico, breeding birds are known only from San Juan County (NMDGF 1988). This species hasa low probability of occurring at the project site.

The Aplomado Falcon occurs in open grassland terrain with scattered yucca and mesquite and an abundance of small to medium-sized birds. Suitable nests are stick nests constructed by other bird species and are typically located in large branched yuccas and mesquites. Woody vegetation, fence posts, and telephone poles serve as perches (USFWS 1998). The lack of suitable nesting sites and the heavily disturbed condition of the site indicate a low probability of the Aplomado occurring at the proposed site.

Table 1. Federal and State of New Mexico Special Status Species with Potential to Occur Near the FLETC Proposed Action Site.

Taxa	Federal (USFWS) status[a]	State of New Mexico status[b]
American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)	E	E2
Aplomado Falcon (Falco femoralis septentrionalis)	E	E2
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	T	E2

Table 1. Federal and State of New Mexico Special Status Species with Potential to Occur Near the FLETC Proposed Action Site.		
Baird's Sparrow (Ammodramus bairdii)	—	T
Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii)	—	T
Varied Bunting (Passerina versicolor)	—	T
Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*)	—	E2
Tharp's blue-star (Amsonia tharpii)	SC	L1B
Scheer's pincushion cactus (Coryphantha scheeri)	—	L1B
Kuenzler's hedgehog cactus (Echinocereus fendleri)	LE	L1A
Lloyd's hedgehog cactuc (Echinocereus lloydii)	LE	L1A
Gypsum wild buckwheat (Eriogonum gypsophilium)	LT	L1A
Waterfall milkvetch (Astragalus waterfallii)	—	L2
Wright's justicia (Justicia wright)	C2	L2
Dune unicorn *plant (Proboscidea* sabulosa)	C3	L2
Desert parsley *(Pseudocymopterus l*ongiradiatus)	—	L2

[a] E = endangered. T = threatened. SC = Species of Concern (formerly Category 2 species). The latter entail taxa for which information in the possession of the USFWS indicates that proposing to list as endangered or threatened is possibly appropriate, but for which sufficient data on biological vulnerability and threat are not currently available to support proposed rules. LE= listed as endangered by the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). LT= listed as threatened by the USFWS under the ESA.

[b] E1 = Endangered animal taxa whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state are in jeopardy. E2 = Endangered animal taxa whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state are likely to become jeopardized in the foreseeable future. SC = any informal designation of species of concern or interest relative to potential future listing. L1A= plant species listed as threatened or endangered under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531 et seq), or is considered proposed under the tenets of the Act. L1B= plant species is so rare across its range within the state and of such limited distribution and population size that unregulated collection could jeopardize its survival in New Mexico. L2 = plant species considered rare or sensitive because of restricted distribution or low numerical density (not protected by State statute or policy).

Consultation was conducted with the Ecological Services Field Office of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (NMEMNRD) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the proposed action areas in Doña Ana County (Appendix B).

The Gray Vireo ranges from the southwestern United States to central Mexico. It prefers habitats of brushy mountain slopes, mesas, open chaparral, scrub oak and junipers (NMDGF 1988). If the Gray Vireo were to be in the area, it would be during the summer breeding season.

The Bell's Vireo ranges throughout the southwest. The species characteristically occurs in the dense shrubland or woodland along lowland stream courses, with willows, mesquites, and seepwillows being characteristic plant

species. Nesting sites are generally amid small sticks and twigs not far above the ground and along streamsides. The lack of a riparian environment would inhibit the species from occurring at or near the proposed location (Bull and Farrand, Jr.).

The Baird's Sparrow is a migrant in New Mexico, occurring primarily in the eastern plains and southern lowlands during autumn. The sparrow may be found in a variety of habitats, ranging from desert grasslands to mountain meadows. The lack of preferred vegetation would indicate the species would not occur at or near the proposed site (Bull and Farrand, Jr.).

The Varied Bunting ranges from southwestern U.S. to Guatamala. The species regularly breeds in southern New Mexico. It prefers dense stands of mesquite and associated growth in canyon bottoms. The relatively flat topography and lack of dense stands of mesquite at the proposed location would make the occurance of the species unlikely (Bull and Farrand, Jr.).

3.3 Socioeconomic Environment.

The planned action site is located in Eddy County, New Mexico. The total population of Eddy county in 1995 is listed as being 52,758 individuals. The ethnic breakdown for Eddy county is: hispanic (any race), 35.3%; white (non-hispanic), 46.2%; black (non-hispanic), 1.7%; and other (non-hispanic), 16.8%. In 1994, the civilian workforce numbered 23,102 with an unemployment 8.3%. The 1993 per capita income in Eddy county was $15,955 (U.S. Census Bureau 1995). Industries making major econmonic contributions to the county's economy include agricultureand mining natural resources. Federal, state, and local governments are the largest employers in the county. Carlsbad is the county seat for Eddy county. Artesia has a population of 10,600. The largest employer in Artesia is the Navajo Refining Company, employing 430 individuals. FLETC and the City of Artesia have significant economic interaction. Compound groundskeeping and general maintenence tasks are contracted out to individuals in the Atresia area. Additionally, daily purchases by compound personnel beneficially impact the local economy.

3.4 Human Health and Safety.

The FLETC campus is located within Artesia city limits. Artesia has a 38-bed General Hospital. The city also has the 65-bed Good Samaritan Nursing Home. Artesia is home to 10 physicians and surgeons, 10 osteopathic physicians, five chiropractors, and five dentists. A patient would be required to go to one of the larger cities in New Mexico or Texas for highly specialized treatments. The fire department has 19 full-time employees and 15 volunteers with four trucks, one rescue truck, and four fully equipped ambulances. The ambulances are staffed with at least one Emergency Medical Basic Technician per vehicle. The Artesia Police Department employs 30 full-time people with nine motorized patrols. Six county officers and four state police units are also assigned to the area. In addition, the FLETC has its own security and, in general, students and instructors are trained in law enforcement and emergency response (USACE 1998).

3.5 Cultural Resources.

A cultural resources survey of the proposed classroom and practical exercise location was conducted on 25 August 1998 by a qualified USACE archeologist. The proposed construction location is heavily disturbed and landscaped with Kentucky bluegrass. No cultural resources were located during the field investigation.

According to the cultural resources report, most of the FLETC campus shows evidence of extensive development (Appendix A). There are no cultural properties that have been listed, or are eligible for listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places within or near the proposed project location.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

An environmental consequence or impact is defined as a modification in the existing environment brought about by development activities. Impacts can be beneficial or adverse, can be a primary result of an action (direct) or a secondary result (indirect), and can be permanent or long-lasting (long-term) or temporary and of short duration (short-term). Impacts can vary in degree from a slightly discernable change to a total change in the environment. Short-term impacts occur during and immediately after the construction of the project. Although short in duration, such impacts may be obvious and disruptive. For this project, short-term impacts are defined as those lasting 2 years or less, whereas long-term impacts are those lasting more than 2 years.

Significance criteria are presented for each affected resource. These criteria are based on existing regulatory standards, scientific and environmental documentation, and/or professional judgment. Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of four levels: significant, moderate, negligible, and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] guidelines 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects thatare most substantial and therefore should receive the greatest attention in decision making. Moderate impacts do not meet the criteria to be classified as significant but nevertheless result in change that is easy to detect. Negligible impacts result in little or no effect to the existing environment and cannot be easily detected. In the following discussions, impacts are considered to be adverse unless identified as beneficial. Cumulative impacts, irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources, and short-term use of the environment versus long-term productivity are discussed in separate sections following the discussion of resources. Cumulative impacts are those which result from the incremental impacts of an action added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who is responsible for such actions. Irreversible and irretrievable impacts are permanent reductions or losses of resources that, once lost, cannot be regained. In comparing short-term use of the environment with long-term productivity for this project, short-term use of the environment is that use during the short construction phase, and long-term productivity refers to the period after the project is complete.

4.1 Physical Environment.

4.1.1 Aesthetics.

Visual aesthetics found in the proposed project area are generally not outstanding. The existing vegetation is dominated by Kentucky bluegrass, an imported, moderately high water usage landscaping grass. No structures are present on the proposed site. The facility would be constructed of tan construction bricks and maroon-red roofing tiles. The facility would conform to existing aesthetic schemes for surrounding facilities. The aesthetic environmental impact of the planned action is considered negligible in the short-term and negligibly beneficial in the long-term.

The no-action alternative would have no impact on existing aesthetics.

4.1.2 Air Quality.

There would be a negligible short-term effect on air quality under the proposed construction. The effect would exist during construction and consist of emissions from construction equipment. The emissions are not considered significant and would not affect Eddy County's attainment status with the State of New Mexico. Dust generated from construction activities would be addressed by implementing State-required dust control measures. Dust is not anticipated to be generated in quantities to create an environmental impact.

The no-action alternative would not impact air quality.

4.1.3 Climate.

There would be no impact on existing climate resulting from the planned action or the no-action alternative.

4.1.4 Soils.

Impacts to soils would be considered significant if a reduction in soil productivity and/or increased erosion would prevent successful reclamation and revegetation.

There would be negligible short-term environmental impacts on soil at the proposed site. Construction activities would require existing landscaping be removed, exposing soils to slight erosional potential. Standard soil erosion control procedures would be implemented to minimize soil erosion. Existing paved roads would be utilized for site ingress and egress. After construction, remaining areas in the planned action location would be revegetated or landscaped. A xeriscape landscaping design is recommended. There would be no long-term environmental impacts on soil anticipated in relation to the planned action.

There would be no environmental impacts on soil under the no-action alternative.

4.1.5 Hydrology, Wetlands, and Floodplains.

Some localized disturbance of soils during construction would be likely at the proposed location. However, the affect would be slight and no bodies of surface water exist at or near the proposed location. Runoff generated from rainwater draining from the roof would not affect hydrolgy. The proposed facility would not affect surface flow collection. Therefore, surface hydrology would be unaffected under the planned action. No wetlands or floodplains would be impacted by the proposed project or the no-action alternative.

The no-action alternative would have no impact to site hydrology.

4.1.6 Noise

The proposed project would generate a moderate short-term noise impact during construction. Night time construction is not expected. Long-term noise impact resulting from operation of the facility is not anticipated. The short-term effects would be identical to noise generated from standard construction operations. A site health and safety plan would be generated and implemented to protect construction personnel. There are no

residential areas located within approximately .65 miles of the proposed location. No civilian residential development area would be affected by the short-term noise impact. The total environmental impact of noise resulting from the planned action is considered negligible.

The no-action alternative would have no impact on existing noise levels.

4.2 Biological Factors.

Impacts to vegetation resulting from the proposed project are considered significant if they result in a long-term reduction in vegetation productivity or a permanent change in species composition. Impacts to wildlife resources are considered significant if they prevent realization of specified population objectives. Any action that results in the disruption of raptor breeding activities and subsequent reproductive failure may be considered an adverse impact. Any action that would adversely affect state and federally listed or candidate threatened endangered species, their critical habitat, or any recovery program for such species is considered an adverse and/or significant impact.

4.2.1 Vegetation.

Impacts associated with the construction of the proposed Classroom and PE facility would entail removal of landscaped Kentucky bluegrass, two mature Rio Grande Cottonwood trees, and three young Austrian pine trees. The grass is an imported variety, not native to southeastern New Mexico. The pine trees also are an imported species. The Cottonwoods, while native to New Mexico, are found in wetter areas than the proposed site. After construction activities, areas around the new facility would be revegetated or landscaped. Removal of the non-native plant species is considered an insignificant environmental effect.

No vegetation would be removed in the no-action alternative.

4.2.2 Common Wildlife

The planned action would have a negligible short-term impact on common wildlife. Construction activities would temporarily displace nearby wildlife. Removal of most of the landscaped grass would reduce foraging at the site. However, the small size of the site and the lack of diverse grasses and forbs limit any impact. Moreover, wildlife utilizing the area near the site may easily access other campus areas providing similar foraging. There are no long-term environmental impacts anticipated under the planned action.

There would be no impact to common wildlife under the no-action alternative.

4.2.3 Special Status Species

Due to the disturbed nature of the Proposed Action site, it is unlikely that the habitat is suitable for use by any of the listed, threatened, or endangered species, and no sensitive species were noted during field reconnaissance. Because adequate habitat for the sensitive species noted as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Proposed Action is generally lacking, it is unlikely that there would be any impact to these species. Should it be noted during the construction phase that any sensitive species are in or near the project site, appropriate action would be taken to protect the resource. No mitigation measures would be required.

Special status species would be unaffected under the no-action alternative.

4.3 Socioeconomic Affects

The proposed construction activity would moderately benefit local economies in the short-term by creating a demand for goods and services. The quartering of work force personnel would provide additional income to local motels in Artesia. Local purchases of food, gasoline, hardware, building materials, and services would provide a temporary increase in income for local businesses. Negligible long-term economic benefits would develop locally from increased student enrollment. No temporary or permanent negative socioeconomic effect would result from the proposed activities. No disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority and low income populations is expected. Under the definition of Executive Order (EO) 12898, there would be no adverse environmental justice impacts under the Proposed Action.

The no-action alternative would have no impact on socioeconomics.

4.4 Human Health and Safety

The planned action would have negligible short-term health and safety impacts based on inherent hazards in vertical construction. Prior to construction, an approved Site Specific Health and Safety Plan (SSHASP) would be developed and implemented. There are no major health and safety critical issues anticipated. The planned action would have a negligible beneficial long-term health and safety impact. By consolidating training sessions into one building, less student movement across campus would be required. Moreover, the facility would be specifically designed to account for safety issues relating to FLETC training and the ingress and egress of students.

The no-action alternative would have no impact on current human health and safety conditions.

4.5 Cultural Resources

Significant impacts to cultural and/or historic resources could occur if project activities result in destruction or alteration of all or a contributing part of any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible cultural or historic site; the isolation of an eligible cultural resource from its surrounding environment; the introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with a NRHP eligible site or would alter its setting; or disturbance of important sites of religious or cultural significance to Native Americans.

No impact would occur to cultural resources as a result of the Proposed Action. A file search resulted in finding of no sites having been reported in the areas of the Proposed Action, and further examination of the planned action location by qualified archaeologists revealed no cultural resources. The State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) for New Mexico has concurred with the recommendation of "No Effect" to cultural resources for the proposed undertaking. A copy of this correspondence is available in Appendix A. Should any cultural resources be identified during construction then the work would cease, the appropriate SHPO contacted, and appropriate measures taken. No mitigation measures would be required as a result of the Proposed Action.

The no-action alternative would not have an impact on cultural resources.

4.6 Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity.

During the life of the project, it would provide a consolidated Classroom and PE facility. No desert grassland would be paved over. If the project is ever abandoned, the facility could be re-used in another capacity.

4.7 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources.

4.7.1 Irreversible Commitment.

An irreversible commitment of resources is one in which the ability to use and/or enjoy the resource is lost forever. One example of an irreversible commitment might be the mining of a mineral resource. The proposed action, verticle construction of a classroom/practical exercise facility, would not create irreversible commitments of resources. The facility's footprint would occupy area currently maintained for landscaped grass. The facility, combined with recommended xeriscaping, would lessen the landscaping water burden and assist in conserving a critical resource.

The no-action alternative would not create irreversible commitments.

4.7.2 Irretrievable Commitment.

An irretrievable commitment of resources is one in which, due to decisions to manage the resource for another purpose, opportunities to use or enjoy the resource as they presently exist are lost for a period of time. An example of an irretrievable loss might be where a type of vegetation is lost due to road construction. The proposed project would include utilizing at a maximum approximately .6 acres of land already heavily disturbed land. This area would be affected for the life of the project where the structure is constructed.

The no-action alternative would not generate an irretrievable commitment

4.8 Cumulative Impacts.

Cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (40 CFR 1508.7). The relatively minor amount of vegetation clearing, noise impacts, and other effects of the proposed action would not result in incrementally noticeable adverse environmental impacts on the Artesia area.

The no-action alternative would have no incrementally noticeable adverse environmental impacts on the Artesia area.

4.9 Mitigation.

No mitigation is warranted for the proposed action.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The no-action alternative would have no effect on the human environment; however, under the no-action alternative FLETC would be unable to accommodate the estimated increase in student enrollment. Since training federal law enforcement personnel equates to supporting internal National security, the Prosed Action is deemed necessary. Construction of the Classroom and Practical Exercise facility would not result in significant direct, indirect, short-term, long-term, or cumulative effects, and, therefore, is recommended. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be generated for the proposed construction.

6.0 PREPARATION AND COORDINATION

6.1 Preparation

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (USACE). Personnel primarily responsible for preparation include:

Edward L. Paulsgrove	Geologist	USACE
Mark C. Harberg	Biologist	USACE
John H. Schelberg	Archeologist	USACE
Gloria Vaught	Safety/Environmental Specialist	FLETC

6.2 Coordination

Agencies and Persons Formally or Informally Consulted Include:

Agency	Individuals	Title
State of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	Andrew Sandoval	Chief, Conservation Services Division
New Mexico Forestry and Resources Conservation Division	Robert Sivinski	Chief, Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Habitat Assessment Division	Shannon Breslin	Environmental Review Coordinator
USFWS Austin Ecologic Services Field Office	David Frederick	Field Supervisor
USFWS New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office	Brian Hanson	Acting State Supervisor
City of Artesia	James Schuetz	City Planner
Eddy County	Steve Massey	County Manager

7.0 REFERENCES CITED

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DRAFT

APPENDIX A

Consultation Letters, Cultural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA, NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109-3435
FAX (505) 342-3199

Reply to Attention of:

September 30, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Section

Lynne Sebastian, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation
Officer
State Historic Preservation
Bureau
228 East Palace Avenue, Room 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Dr. Sebastian:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.5 and the Substitution Agreement between your office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation under 36 CFR 800.7, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (AD) is providing information concerning the survey of seven acres in three areas to be impacted by construction and is seeking your concurrence in our determination of "No Effect" on cultural resources. The survey was requested by personnel from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Artesia, New Mexico, on their campus and was undertaken by an AD archaeologist. An Environmental Assessment is being prepared for classroom construction scheduled for Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 1999. Two additional areas were surveyed in anticipation of facilities construction later in FY 2000. All three locations were previously disturbed by landscaping, sidewalks, a running track, imported fill used to level a location, and parking lots. No cultural resources were found; therefore, none of the three construction projects will have an effect on cultural resources.

The FLETC campus was constructed in the late 1960s as the Artesia Christian College; following its closure, it was reoccupied by another Christian college, which also closed. It is located on a 220-acre tract in the northwest portion of Artesia and includes over 100,000 square feet in seven building clusters. The training facility is utilized by over 70 Federal agencies, and the number of students is expected to quadruple in the next four years as a result of the increasing emphasis on security.

Portions of the 220-acre campus were previously surveyed by Chambers Consultants and Planners (CCP) in 1989; CCP also surveyed several detached areas in 1989, prior to the construction of a driving track and a gun range. Changes in proposed building locations and an emphasis on compliance led to the current survey.

The area proposed for the classroom and practical exercise building is currently a grass lawn with an in-ground sprinkler system, sidewalks, and a portion of a parking lot. Patches of bare ground were inspected, and no cultural resources were seen. The area proposed for the gymnasium addition (Building 2 expansion) is currently occupied by two temporary metal buildings. This area was elevated and leveled with fill prior to Building 2 construction. The adjacent dirt parking lot was surveyed, and no cultural resources were found. Portions of this parking lot will be used as a staging area and for the proposed main entrance. The third area surveyed is currently completely covered with grass and surrounded by a running track; it will be the location of an office building. Bare patches were inspected, and no cultural resources were observed. Site-specific details and references are included in the enclosed report. All extant buildings were constructed after the late 1960s and are neither old enough nor of exceptional architectural merit to warrant historic status.

As discussed, the construction will have "no effect" as no cultural resources were discovered. All proposed construction locations are developed or severely impacted, and the existing buildings are no more than 30 years old. Given the extent of grass and imported fill, ground visibility was poor; however, it is unlikely that subsurface cultural resources exist. If previously unrecorded cultural material is exposed during construction, all work will cease in the vicinity of the discovery and archaeologists will investigate. No work will proceed until further consultation has been completed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Dr. John D. Schelberg at (505) 342-3359. If we do not receive comments within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, we will assume your concurrence.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Harberg

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure

Copy Furnished (w/o enclosure):

Don Klima, Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Planning and Review
12136 West Bayaud Avenue, #330
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-2115

I Concur _____
Lynne Sebastian, Ph.D.
New Mexico State
Historic Preservation
Officer

Due to the disturbed nature of the three proposed construction areas and complete absence of cultural resources, an abbreviated report touching on germane topics and detailing the survey locations and conditions is presented.

Approximately seven acres were surveyed on the campus of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Artesia, New Mexico (Figures 1 and 2), on 26 August 1998 by an archaeologist from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District. The survey was requested by FLETC personnel in conjunction with the preparation of an environmental assessment prior to the construction of a building for classrooms and practical exercise laboratory. The surveyed area includes two additional construction locations (Table 1) which will be impacted following completion of the classroom building and which will be the subject of individual environmental assessments.

The FLETC campus was constructed in the late 1960s as the Artesia Christian College; following its closure, it was reoccupied by another Christian College which also closed. It is located on a 220-acre tract in the northwest portion of Artesia and includes over 100,000 square feet in seven building clusters. The training facility is utilized by over 70 Federal agencies, and the number of students is expected to quadruple over the next four years as a result of the increasing emphasis on security. Portions of the campus and several detached locations were surveyed by Chambers Consultants and Planners in two separate surveys in 1989. The detached areas were surveyed prior to the construction of a driving track and a weapons range.

There are no mesas, canyons, or permanent water sources within 3.5 miles of the current project area. The FLETC campus is situated on the Orchard Park Terrace of the Pecos River between elevations 1036 m and 1040 m (3,400 and 3,420 feet) above sea level. The semiarid climate is characterized by 35.6 cm (14 inches) of annual precipitation and an average growing season of 195 days. The soils of the 220-acre campus are dominated by Reagan-Upton association whose soils range from shallow and caliche to deep and loamy (Chugg et al. in Chambers Consultants and Planners 1990:B1-4).

Prior to the modern urban planting of grass, trees, and ornamentals, the vegetation of the project area was desert grassland and included varieties of brush, grasses, succulents, and cacti. Corresponding animals would have included lagomorphs, rodents, and herbivores.

The details of the cultural history of the southeastern portion of New Mexico are among the least well known of any areas of the state. The site density is relatively low at six per square mile, and this area lacked the spectacularly large Pueblo ruins which attracted early archaeologists to other southwestern locals. Settled village remains are not unknown; however, lithic scatters are the most common site type. Over one half of the sites recorded in this area are aceramic. Unfortunately, many of the lithic scatters do not have diagnostic artifacts, or obvious potential for dating; therefore, the chronology is poorly developed.

Archaeological sites from all of the major temporal periods have been found in this region and could be found in the less disturbed land surrounding Artesia. Several hundred Paleoindian sites occur throughout southern New Mexico with most along the eastern escarpment of the Guadalupe Mountains, the Mescalero pediment, and the adjacent Llano Estacado. The Archaic (ca 5,000 BC to AD 1000) is not well known due to the above mentioned difficulties, but many undiagnostic lithic scatters are probably from this period. Two interesting observation concerning the Archaic in this area is an apparent absence of an early agricultural subsistence development, unlike the Archaic in other southwestern locations, and the general absence of a focal strategy on large mammal procurement. Rather the populations were more mobile and less technologically complex until at least A.D. 900 - 1000 and in some cases through early European contact (Stuart and Gauthier 1984; Simmons et al. 1989).

The Ceramic Period occupation occurred from approximately A.D. 400 to 1500. While ceramics occur on about two-thirds of the artifact scatter sites, structural sites are not common and many of them represents the remains of pit houses. Above ground structures greater than several rooms are infrequent - especially by comparison to other areas of New Mexico and the Southwest. Tantalizing glimpses of the Jornada Mogollon occur but additional research clarify time and adaptation is clearly required. More substantial sites occurred during the late Ceramic Period and the early Protohistoric. Relationships to the eastern Plains cultures also requires careful investigation. The subtilites of the archaeological record in Southeastern New Mexico does not mean that it is simple and easy to understand; rather it is complex and deserving of a great deal more attention than given to date. A concern is that the numerous lithic scatters will be ignored either because they are "typical" or "disturbed". They represent the largest single portion of the archaeological record and are deserving of study.

REFERENCES CITED

Chambers Consultants and Planners

1990 *Environmental Assessment Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Proposed Facilities, Artesia, New Mexico*. On file in Artesia and at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque.

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1989 Human Adaptations and Cultural Change in the Greater Southwest. *Arkansas Archaeological Survey Research Series* No. 32. Fayetteville.

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1984 *Prehistoric New Mexico: Background for Survey*. Historic Preservation Bureau. Santa Fe.

TABLE 1: Locations of Proposed Construction

Location 1: Classroom and Practical Exercise Laboratory

Location: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Artesia, New Mexico. Township 17S, R26E, SE 1/4 Section 6. UTM: 554815E, 3635480N
Construction area: Approximately 0.6 acres
Staging area: Adjacent paved access roads and parking lots
Area Surveyed: 2 acres
Ground Visibility: Poor. Currently planted with grass and occasional juniper and ornamental trees; ground visible in small bare patches. Portions of the surveyed area are covered by sidewalks and asphalt parking lot. Additional disturbance includes inground sprinkler system and underground utilities.

Location 2: Building 2 Expansion

Location: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Artesia, New Mexico. Township 17S, R26E, SE 1/4 Section 6. UTM: 554860E, 3635615N
Construction area: Approximately 0.34 acres
Staging Area: adjacent dirt parking lot
Area Surveyed: 3 acres
Ground Visibility: Impossible in area of direct impact due to approximately 0.7 m thick layer of imported fill used to level the area prior to original construction, sidewalks, and two portable metal buildings.
Ground Visibility in survey area: Excellent. Area adjacent to the construction location included approximately 1.5 acres of relatively undisturbed land and 1.5 acres of informal dirt parking lot. Ground cover of undisturbed area included occasional bunches of weeds, and native grasses; dirt parking lot was bare.

Location 3: Security Building, Office Building, Main Gate

Location: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Artesia, New Mexico. Township 17S, R26E, SE 1/4 Section 6. UTM: 554860E, 3635700N (office building)
Construction area: Approximately 0.5 acres
Staging area: Adjacent paved access roads and parking lots
Area Surveyed: 2 acres
Ground Visibility: Poor. Currently planted with grass; ground visible in small bare patches. Entire grassed area surrounded by 4-lane asphalt running track which is in turn surrounded by a xerophytic/gravel landscaping zone. Additional disturbance includes inground sprinkler system.

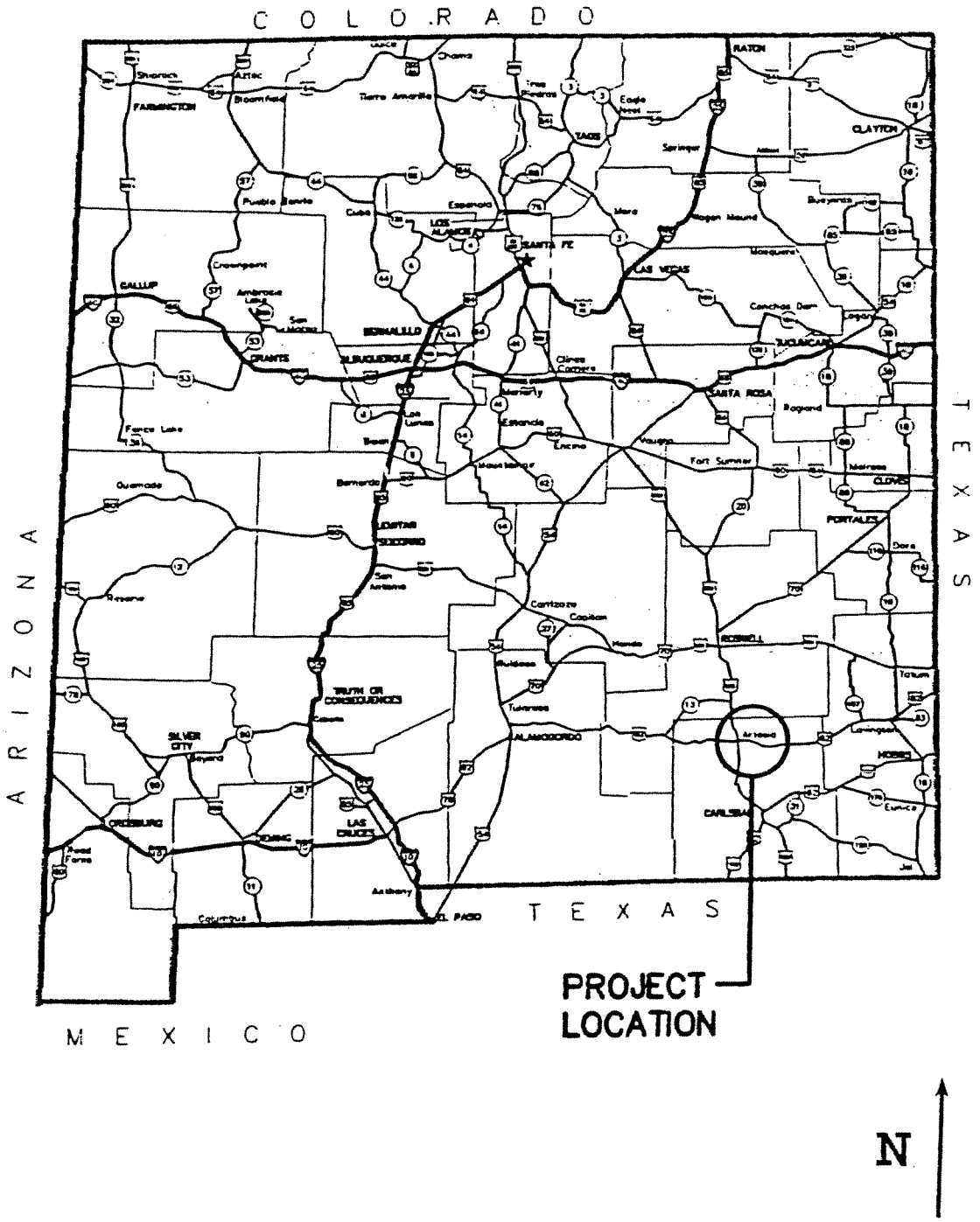

FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP

(Not to Scale)

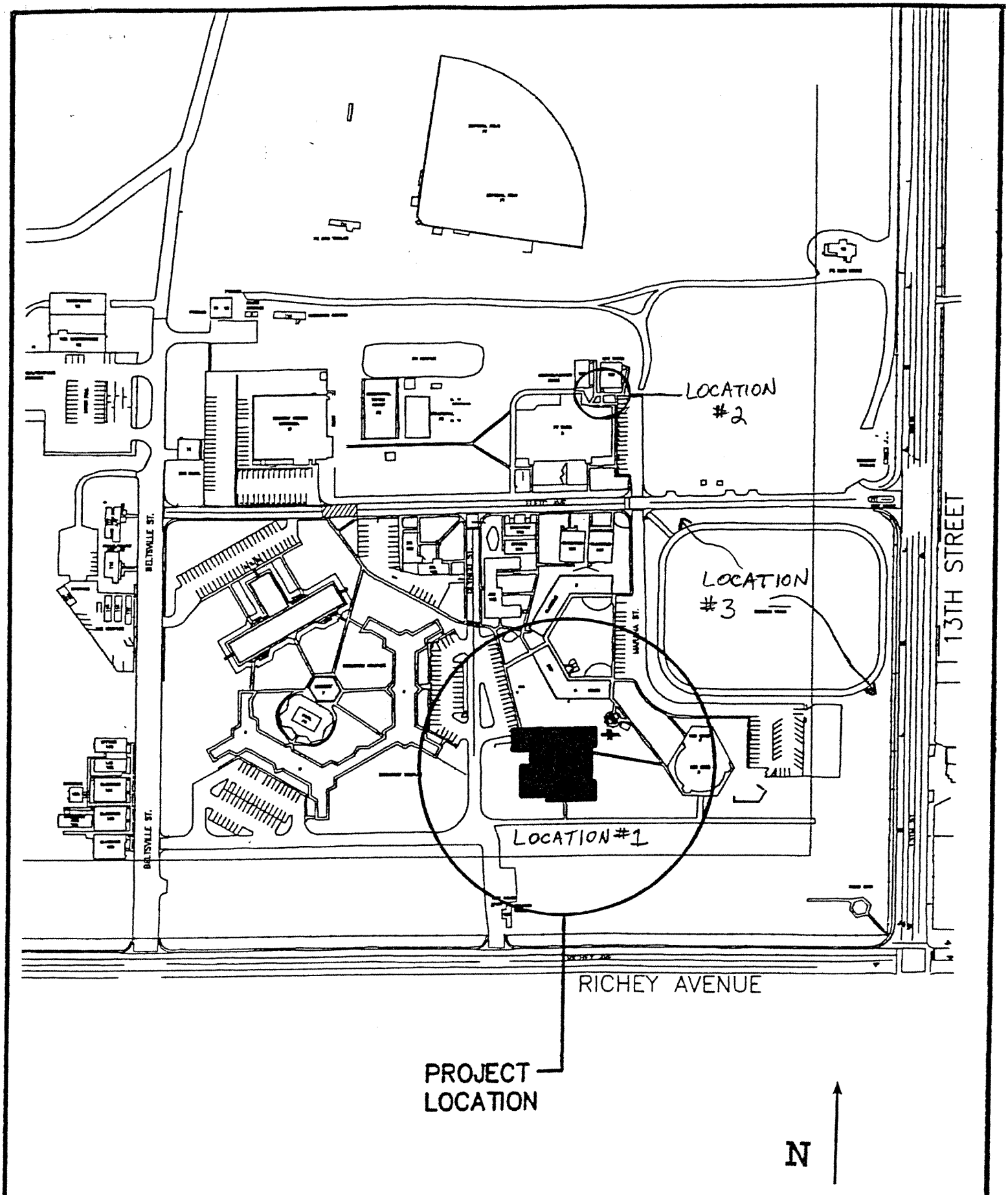

FIGURE 2 VICINITY MAP
(Not to Scale)

DRAFT

APPENDIX B

Consultation Letters, Other Agencies

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION FILES

Paulsgrove/bjc/3476
b:/usf&wl.wpd
ETPE (M. Harberg)

August 4, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Branch

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
Attn: Ms. Jennifer Fowler-Propst
State Supervisor
2105 Osuna, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113

Dear Ms. Fowler-Propst:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is working with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in completing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the construction of one new classroom/physical education (classroom/PE) facility and the expansion of one existing physical training facility (Building 2). The Proposed Actions would occur at the FLETC field training center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Proposed Action sites are indicated on the enclosed site maps (Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).

The Federal Action for the proposed classroom/PE facility involves vertical construction of approximately 24,000 square feet. Construction activities would include all associated parking, lighting, electrical and plumbing utilities, and curb/roadway/ sidewalk modifications.

The action on Building 2 would expand the facility by approximately 15,000 square feet. Current square footage of Building 2 is unknown. Existing utilities would be evaluated for adequate capacity to handle the proposed expansion. Any additional electrical and plumbing work would be performed during facility expansion. Additional roadway/curb/sidewalk modifications may be required.

The construction activities described above may vary; however, all construction activities would take place within existing FLETC property boundaries on land estimated to be generally heavily disturbed.

Please send us an updated list of plant and wildlife species designated as endangered or threatened, proposed endangered or

threatened, or candidates for such designation, that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed construction sites. Likewise, please address your specific concerns for any of these species with respect to the proposed project and submit the information within 30 days from the time you receive this request.

Please address written comments to:

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Paulsgrove at (505) 342-3476.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542

August 27, 1998

Cons. #2-22-98-I-395

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Dear Mr. Paulsgrove:

This responds to a August 4, 1998, letter, requesting a list of species federally listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. The proposed project is located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. It is our understanding the proposed project involves construction of a new building and expansion of another building on the grounds of the training center.

Although a site-specific list is unavailable, we have enclosed our list of endangered, threatened, candidate species, and species of species of special concern that may be found in Eddy County, New Mexico. If appropriate, authorization from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the "take" of endangered or threatened species should be obtained prior to initiating the proposed project in order to avoid potential violations of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). It is the responsibility of the Federal action agency and/or project proponent to determine whether the proposed action "may affect" or result in take of any listed or proposed species. We recommend that an adequate species-specific survey be conducted during the appropriate flowering/breeding season and within suitable habitat to address project-related impacts on these species. Although candidates are not protected under the Act, the Service is required to monitor their status. If any candidates or species of special concern decline precipitously, they could be listed as endangered or threatened species. Therefore, actions which may contribute to the decline of these species should be avoided. We recommend that candidates and species of special concern be included in the site surveys.

Regarding fish and wildlife resources, the final environmental document should assess fully the impacts of the proposal and its alternatives on species populations and their habitats, with an emphasis on wetlands, waters of the United States, and native wildlife and plants. The final environmental document should state clearly the purposes of, and document the needs for the proposed project so that the capabilities and needs

can be determined readily. The environmental document should include a thorough description of the development areas that are part of the proposal. Figures accurately depicting proposed project features in relation to natural features in the project area also should be included. The Service should be contacted for further assistance if adverse impacts to these resources cannot be avoided.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information concerning fish, wildlife and plants of State concern.

Thank you for your concern for endangered species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. Please contact Charlie McDonald at the letterhead address or at 505/346-2525 extension 112.

Sincerely,

Brian Hanson

for Jennifer Fowler-Propst
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: (w/o enc)
Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division, Santa Fe, New Mexico

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION FILES

Paulsgrove/bjc/3476
b:/g&f-2bjc.wpd
ETPE (M. Harberg)

August 4, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Branch

New Mexico Department
of Game and Fish
Attention: Mr. Andrew Sandoval
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5112

Dear Mr. Sandoval:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is working with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in completing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the construction of one new classroom/physical education (classroom/PE) facility and the expansion of one existing physical training facility (Building 2). The Proposed Actions would occur at the FLETC field training center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Proposed Action sites are indicated on the enclosed site maps (Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).

The Federal Action for the proposed classroom/PE facility involves vertical construction of approximately 24,000 square feet. Construction activities would include all associated parking, lighting, electrical and plumbing utilities, and curb/roadway/sidewalk modifications.

The action on Building 2 would expand the facility by approximately 15,000 square feet. Current square footage of Building 2 is unknown. Existing utilities would be evaluated for adequate capacity to handle the proposed expansion. Any additional electrical and plumbing work would be performed during facility expansion. Additional roadway/curb/sidewalk modifications may be required.

The construction activities described above may vary; however, all construction activities would take place within existing FLETC property boundaries on land estimated to be generally heavily disturbed.

Please send us an updated list of wildlife species designated as endangered or threatened, proposed endangered or threatened, or candidates for such designation, that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed construction sites. Likewise, please address your specific concerns for any of these species with respect to the proposed project. Please submit the above information within 30 days from the time you receive this request.

Please address written comments to:

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Paulsgrove at (505) 342-3476.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures

GOVERNOR
Gary E. Johnson

DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION
Gerald A. Maracchini

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

Villagra Building
P.O. Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504

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STATE GAME COMMISSION
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Stephen E. Doerr
Portales, NM

Gail J. Cramer
Farmington, NM

George A. Ortega
Santa Fe, NM

September 1, 1998

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Re: Construction Facility, Eddie County
NMGF No. 6411

Dear Mr. Paulsgrove:

This is in response to your letter dated 4 August 1998 regarding the above referenced project. Based on the information you provided, we do not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats. For your information we have enclosed a list of sensitive, threatened and endangered species which occur in Eddie County.

For more information on listed and other species of concern, log onto the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program web site at http://nmnhp.unm.edu Click on *Database Search and Forms* to access comprehensive databases including BISON-M. We suggest you contact New Mexico State Forestry Division (505-827-5830) for state-listed plants and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (505-346-2525) for federal listed species.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your project. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Fisher at 505-827-7882.

Sincerely,

Andrew V. Sandoval, Chief
Conservation Services Division

AVS/AF/jl

xc: Field Supervisor, New Mexico Ecological Services, USFWS
Mike Bell (Area Operations Chief, NMGF)
Amy Fisher (Assistant Chief Conservation Services Division, NMGF

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION FILES

Paulsgrove/bjc/3476
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ETPE (M. Harberg) SDS

August 4, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Branch

New Mexico Forestry and Resources
Conservation Division
Energy, Minerals, and Natural
Resources Department
Attention: Mr. Robert Sivinski
408 Galisteo, Villagra Building
P.O. Box 1948
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87113-1948

Dear Mr. Sivinski:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is working with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in completing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the construction of one new classroom/physical education (classroom/PE) facility and the expansion of one existing physical training facility (Building 2). The Proposed Actions would occur at the FLETC field training center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Proposed Action sites are indicated on the enclosed site maps (Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).

The Federal Action for the proposed classroom/PE facility involves vertical construction of approximately 24,000 square feet. Construction activities would include all associated parking, lighting, electrical and plumbing utilities, and curb/roadway/sidewalk modifications.

The action on Building 2 would expand the facility by approximately 15,000 square feet. Current square footage of Building 2 is unknown. Existing utilities would be evaluated for adequate capacity to handle the proposed expansion. Any additional electrical and plumbing work would be performed during facility expansion. Additional roadway/curb/sidewalk modifications may be required.

The construction activities described above may vary; however, all construction activities would take place within existing FLETC property boundaries on land estimated to be generally heavily disturbed.

Please send us an updated list of plant species designated as endangered or threatened, proposed endangered or threatened, or candidates for such designation, that may occur in the vicinity of the proposed construction sites. Likewise, please address your specific concerns for any of these species with respect to the proposed project. Please submit the above information within 30 days from the time you receive this request.

Please address written comments to:

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Paulsgrove at (505) 342-3476.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures

August 4, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Branch

Steve Massey, County Manager
Eddy County Commissioner's
Office
P.O. Box 1139
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Dear Mr. Massey:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is working with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in completing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the construction of one new classroom/physical education (classroom/PE) facility and the expansion of one existing physical training facility (Building 2). The Proposed Actions would occur at the FLETC field training center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Proposed Action sites are indicated on the enclosed site maps (Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).

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The construction activities described above may vary; however, all construction activities would take place within existing FLETC property boundaries on land estimated to be generally heavily disturbed.

Please address your specific concerns with respect to the proposed project and submit the information within 30 days from the time you receive this request.

Please address written comments to:

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Paulsgrove at (505) 342-3476.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures

Paulsgrove/bjc/3476
b:/ctyplnr1.wpd

ETPE (M. Harberg) JDS
for

August 4, 1998

Engineering and Technical
Services Division
Planning and Environment
Branch

City of Artesia
Attention: Mr. James Schuetz
City Planner
P.O. Box 1310
Artesia, New Mexico 88211-1310

Dear Mr. Schuetz:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, is working with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in completing Environmental Assessments (EAs) for the construction of one new classroom/physical education (classroom/PE) facility and the expansion of one existing physical training facility (Building 2). The Proposed Actions would occur at the FLETC field training center in Artesia, Eddy County, New Mexico. The Proposed Action sites are indicated on the enclosed site maps (Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3).

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Please address your specific concerns with respect to the proposed project and submit the information within 30 days from the time you receive this request.

Please address written comments to:

Mr. Edward L. Paulsgrove
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District, Environmental Section
4101 Jefferson Plaza, Northeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Paulsgrove at (505) 342-3476.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Mark C. Harberg
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures