

The Honorable Juan Vargas
51th District of California
1605 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Vargas:

Thank you for sending your inquiry to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding our plans to construct border wall prototypes in the U.S. Border Patrol San Diego Sector. The primary purpose of this effort is to develop design standards for a border wall that may be constructed along the southwest border with Mexico in support of USBP operational requirements. Any and all prototypes will be designed to deter illegal entry into the United States.

The border wall prototype construction area is located east of the Otay Mesa Port of Entry (POE) on CBP owned property. The construction area is located a mile and a half to the west of the Otay Mountain Wilderness. ~~CBP assessed and will continue to consider options with respect to~~ currently conducting environmental compliance for the prototype construction based on our understanding of the project area being previously disturbed as ~~the a~~ result of construction, maintenance, and operation of the existing secondary and primary border fences and border roads. Mock-ups of wWall prototypes would also be installed and tested on an asphalt concrete parking lot at the fully developed San Diego Sector maintenance support facility.

As a precautionary measure and out of an abundance of caution, CBP will conduct resource surveys and consult with federal, state, and local resource agencies and other stakeholders to ~~and~~ develop environmental disturbance avoidance measures as necessary. Additionally, standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) and storm water controls will be implemented to ensure construction activities do not impact adjacent undisturbed areas or nearby sensitive resources. CBP recently informed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of these plans and will continue to work closely with them and other important stakeholders as this project moves forward.

CBP is committed to addressing all stakeholder questions and concerns. We are committed to working with you on this and other homeland security matters. Should you need additional assistance, please contact my office at **(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)**

Sincerely,

Michael J. Yeager

Assistant Commissioner
Office of Congressional Affairs