I approve.

Division Director, RE and ENV Services Division
Acting Division Director, TI Division
Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure
Facilities Management and Engineering

Below is a revised draft the reflect [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] feedback. Please let me know if you approve and I will forward to OPA.

Thanks,

CBP took extraordinary measures to protect environmental resources in planning and constructing border fence to meet Congressional requirements. CBP worked hand-in-hand with key stakeholders, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), along the US/Mexico border, including the Rio Grande Valley (RGV), to ensure that the border fence was planned and constructed in the most environmentally responsible manner possible. For example, CBP installed approximately 350 specially designed wildlife openings in the fence at locations chosen by the USFWS. These openings allow movement of protected wildlife in potential corridors. At the same time, the absence of the openings in selected locations inhibit movement of feral animals. CBP also worked closely with USFWS to develop a set of Best Management Practices and used third party environmental monitors during the construction of the fence in RGV to ensure those BMPs were properly implemented. CBP continues to use environmental monitors and BMPs, including field surveys, to protect environmental resources such as migratory birds and other wildlife along the fence for on-going
maintenance activities. CBP remains committed to environmental stewardship. For additional information on CBP’s Environmental Stewardship activities, please visit: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/about/ec/

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 12:02 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CCTV - Interview Request -- Taped On Camera Next Week (week of Feb. 3)
Importance: High

All,

In lieu of conducting an interview, Public Affairs requested that we provide a written statement in response the below question. Please find our proposed response below for your review and approval.

Thanks,
• How does the U.S. government respond to concerns of wildlife conservationists who claim the fence/wall is obstructing and hurting the natural habitats/movements of border wildlife, particularly parts of the fence/wall running through federal wildlife refuge lands such as the Hidalgo Pump Station Birding Center near McAllen, Texas?

All,

OPA informed us that OBP decided not to participate. Having FM&E on camera not being able to speak to the operational components does not lend for a balanced DHS/CBP perspective, especially since most of the questions are operational.

We decided it would be best to not conduct the interview and provide written responses regarding environmental efforts if needed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
All,

Please see below for awareness. We will make sure all materials are reviewed and approved by BPFTI and OCC.

Thanks,

Hi

Thank you for reaching out to us. I’ve copied our PMO Business Operations Division Director, [Redacted] who oversees the PMO’s communications efforts.

We discussed this with [Redacted], the BPFTI PMO Director and agree that there’s no reason why we can’t conduct this interview. [Redacted] can speak to construction, sustainment and environmental issues related to the border fence. As we discussed, OBP will have to address all operational and rescue mission questions. Given that we need two interviews to provide a comprehensive DHS/CBP point of view, would it be possible for [Redacted] and OBP to conduct the interview together? I think it will lend for a more organic/united CBP perspective versus two different segments.

We have approved language to address the following questions. Do you know if the producer has other questions or anticipate others? If there are any other stories from this news outlet on the border fence, that will be helpful too.

- How much of the wall is completed now, and how much more construction is planned for the future?
- How does the U.S. government respond to concerns of wildlife conservationists who claim the fence/wall is obstructing and hurting the natural habitats/movements of border wildlife, particularly parts of the fence/wall running through federal wildlife refuge lands such as the Hidalgo Pump Station Birding Center near McAllen, Texas?

In the next few days we will provide talking points and [Redacted] biography.

[Redacted] is available the following days:

- Thursday, 02/06 - 8:00 – 9:00 AM EST
- Friday, 02/07 – 8:00 – 11:00 AM EST and 2:30 – 5:00 PM
Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Thanks,

---

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:27 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: CCTV - Interview Request -- Taped On Camera Next Week (week of Feb. 3)

Hi [redacted],

I’m sitting in for this week as the acting SW border branch chief for the Office of Public Affairs.

We received a request related to infrastructure projects along the SW border, for a taped television interview to take place in DC next week, and I was advised that you would be a good point of contact.

CCTV America is China Central Television’s English-language channel. The show that contacted us is produced in English and distributed to a global audience (through the Chinese distributor’s English-language channel.) Currently, one of their correspondents is working on a story about the fence along the SW border and its impact – his focus is on wildlife populations, but he’s also looking at the impact on others, particularly on potential illegal immigrants who are then forced to attempt to cross in other (more treacherous) locations.

For the main portion of his story, he’s been working with Krista Schlyer, author of a book “Continental Divide” [http://www.tamupress.com/product/Continental-Divide,7122.aspx](http://www.tamupress.com/product/Continental-Divide,7122.aspx). The reporter has also completed interviews with several NGOs, and a few research groups, as well as at least one government organization in Mexico.

He would like to include the DHS/CBP perspective in his piece as well, and as such, has requested a taped, on camera interview next week, about 30 minutes to an hour. The interview would then be cut down into soundbites (a minute or less each – they would not be airing big sections of the interview). They can conduct the interview either in DC at their offices or at DHS/CBP offices – although the correspondent is based in San Diego, the producer is in DC, and she would be the one conducting the interview.

After speaking with the producer for the show (in DC) and emailing with the correspondent producing this segment (in San Diego) they are looking for a rather far-reaching interview about the fence. (Please find the email from the correspondent, attached and below, with questions, including not just information about the history and reasoning behind building the fence, but also responses to criticism that the fence hurts border wildlife, and increases border deaths by pushing illegal immigrants to more treacherous terrain.)
I know that there are existing talking points that address the many steps CBP/DHS has taken to mitigate environmental impacts when building the fence, and also about the reasons why tactical infrastructure is an important part of our overall border security strategy. However, judging by the types of questions and the short timeframe, I do have concerns that this would potentially be a difficult interview.

But, it would be positive to include the CBP perspective in the piece, rather than not saying anything at all.

Please advise if there is a subject matter expert who may be available next week to take part in this taped, on camera interview. If not, please let me know and perhaps we can work together on another strategy (such as written information or an on background phone interview) to ensure this reporter has accurate information for his story. (Also, although the producer stated a timeframe of next week, if it’s just a matter of timing, we may be able to ask for a different time the week after if there is a scheduling problem.)

Thank you
(emails with details from the correspondent and producer are below)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Public Affairs, San Diego

Follow us on Twitter: @CBPSanDiego

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 11:00 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CCTV - Interview Request

Thank you,

Hello - Thank you for your time on this.

I have, in the not too distant past, had the pleasure of meeting your San Diego colleague, who arranged a sit down on camera interview with ICE Special Agent for another recent story we produced about the cartels using increasing numbers of juveniles to smuggle drugs across the border.

Presently, I’m happy to be scheduled another interview with Special Agent in San Diego concerning the wall, or perhaps there is another DHS person in DC who can address the border fence/wall as a whole, as I recently returned from a cross country border filming tour that began in
San Diego, with stops in the Tucson/Nogales sector, El Paso, Texas, McAllen, Texas, and that ended in Brownsville, Texas.

As my colleague previously mentioned, we’re looking for a DHS spokesperson who can go on camera to explain/respond to:

1. The government's policy/mission of the fence/wall, its evolution, and function, and present practicality.
2. How much of the wall is completed now, and how much more construction is planned for the future?
3. How does the U.S. government respond to concerns of wildlife conservationists who claim the fence/wall is obstructing and hurting the natural habitats/movements of border wildlife, particularly parts of the fence/wall running through federal wildlife refuge lands such as the Hidalgo Pump Station Birding Center near McAllen, Texas?
4. How does the government respond to human rights groups claiming the fence/wall has led to an increase in border deaths by virtue of illegal immigrants (Mostly from Mexico and Central America) having to walk through open desert around the fence/wall?

These are the basic issues we would be covering in the interview.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Look forward to hearing more.

Best regards,

Journalist
San Diego

From: CCTV America
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 11:38 AM
To: Media Inquiry
Subject: CCTV - Interview Request

Dear DHS Media Relations,

My name is and I am a producer with CCTV America, China Central Television’s
English-language channel based in Washington, DC. We are part of the umbrella organization of CCTV, a network family that has a viewership exceeding one billion. Our arm, specifically, broadcasts in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa, and has a sustained viewership of 40 million.

As follow-up to a conversation I just had with your office, I wanted to submit this request for an interview via email.

We are currently producing a report on the US-Mexico border for our weekly news magazine Americas Now, specifically, about the impact the wall is having on wildlife animals. We are, however, missing DHS’s views on the border wall and would like to be able to include them in our story. We would like to speak to someone who could lay out the government’s position on the wall, and perhaps outline current and future plans for securing the U.S.-Mexico border.

Please let me know if you have any questions and whether you can us in touch with the appropriate spokesperson to address this issue. Ideally, we’d come to your office in the next week to film.

Cheers,

(b) (6)