FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Environmental Assessment for Proposed Construction Of Anti-Smuggling Unit Facility, San Angelo, Texas

Purpose and Need:

This is an action to provide a facility for the Anti-Smuggling Unit (ASU) of the U.S Border Patrol (USBP) in the Del Rio Section of Arizona. The primary purpose of this action is to reduce drug trafficking and provide anti-terrorist support to the borders of the U.S. through the increase in the USBP mission capability to detect, deter, and apprehend illegal entrants and smugglers. The construction of a new office building is to house the ASU of the Del Rio Section of the USBP. This covert unit has doubled in size since 1997 and the new facility is needed to house the increases in staff and related equipment. The ASU assists the USBP in its investigations and also provides support to other Law Enforcement Agencies such as State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Agency over a 27-county area in Texas.

Alternatives:

Two alternatives were considered viable for this action. The first was to construct the facility surrounded by a chain link fence and gate at Mathis Field, San Angelo, Texas. The property is 250 X 350 feet. This will be a metal building on a cement slab measuring 50 X 80 feet. The building will contain a security vestibule, reception area and office, agent offices, a conference room, interview rooms, intelligence room, evidence room, surveillance/telephone monitoring room, break room, restrooms, and several small maintenance/janitorial/supply rooms. This is a pre-fabricated building. The alternative considered for this EA was the No-Action Alternative. Although the No Action Alternative is carried through the document for analysis, there would be a continued socioeconomic concern related to the illegal drug trafficking and criminal activity ongoing in the Del Rio Sector. Additional sites for the proposed action were examined and dismissed for operational reasons.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to address site-specific actual and potential impacts, direct and indirect, cumulative effects, and beneficial and adverse impacts of the construction of the new building. The EA addresses impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable construction and operations actions in the proposed project area.

Impact Analysis:

Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of three levels: significant, insignificant (or negligible), and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects that are most substantial, and therefore should receive the greatest attention in the decision-making process. Insignificant impacts would be those impacts that result in changes to the existing environment that could not be easily detected. No-impact actions would not alter the existing environment.

There would be no significant areas of environmental concern associated with the Proposed Action. Possible insignificant environmental issues would be associated with the construction activities (i.e., air, geological resources, biological resources, air and water resources, and noise); however, these would be only temporary in nature and easily mitigated through best management and sound engineering practices. Under the Proposed Action, there is a possible beneficial socioeconomic impact to the area in the form of a reduction in drug trafficking, and related criminal activities. There would be no short- or long-term impacts to land use, aesthetics, or solid/hazardous waste generation or management as part of the Proposed Action.

The EA was made available to the interested public and Federal and State agencies from February 1, 2002 to March 2, 2002. No comments to the action were received. Based on the Environmental Analysis, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the Proposed Action. As previously stated, increased or enhanced interdiction of illegal drug activities will have positive, indirect socioeconomic benefits.

Of Anti-Smuggling Unit Facility, San Angelo, Texas

Finding:

Base on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, there are no significant environmental impacts anticipated from the implementation of the Proposed Alternative. Consequently, the proposed action does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact statement.

5-1-03

Mr. James Caffrey
Acting Director, Facilities and Engineering
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Date

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SAN ANGELO, TOM GREEN COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for:
U.S. Border Patrol
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Prepared By:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District

February 2002

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment for New Building Construction
San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

The primary purpose of the Proposed Action is to assist in fulfilling the U. S. Border Patrol's (USBP) mission to reduce drug trafficking by increasing their ability to detect, deter and apprehend illegal entrants. The Proposed Action concerns the construction of a new office building to be used to house the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Del Rio Section of the USBP. This unit has doubled in size since 1997 and the new facility is needed to house staff and equipment. The Anti-Smuggling Unit assists not only USBP in investigations, but also provides support to other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) such as Federal Highway Patrol, State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) over a 27-county area.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to address site-specific actual and potential cumulative effects, beneficial and adverse, of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and USBP activity regarding construction of the new office building. The EA document addresses cumulative impacts of past, present, and foreseeable construction and operational actions in the proposed project area.

The only other alternative considered for this EA was the No-Action Alternative. Although the No Action Alternative is carried through the document for analysis, there would be a continued socioeconomic concern related to the illegal drug trafficking and criminal activity ongoing in the Del Rio Sector.

Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of three levels: significant, insignificant (or negligible), and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in CEQ guidelines 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects that are most substantial, and therefore should receive the greatest attention in the decision-making process. Insignificant impacts would be those impacts that result in changes to the existing environment that could not be easily detected. No-impact actions would not alter the existing environment.

There would be no significant areas of environmental concern associated with the Proposed Action. Possible insignificant environmental issues would be associated with the construction activities (i.e., air, geological resources, biological resources, air and water resources, and noise); however, these would be only temporary in nature and easily mitigated through sound engineering practices. Under the Proposed Action, there is a possible beneficial socioeconomic impact to the area in the form of a reduction in drug trafficking, and related criminal activities. There would be no short- or long-term impacts to land use, aesthetics, or solid/hazardous waste generation or management as part of the Proposed Action.

Based on the findings of this analysis and assuming that all mitigation measures recommended herein are implemented, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the Proposed Action. As previously stated, increased or enhanced interdiction of illegal drug activities would have positive, indirect socioeconomic benefits.

_____ _____

Richard J. Diefenbeck Date
Director, Office of Administration
Headquarters Facilities and Engineering Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses site-specific actual and potential cumulative effects, beneficial and adverse, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) activity regarding construction of office space for the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Del Rio Sector. This document also addresses cumulative impacts of past, present, and foreseeable future construction and operational actions in the proposed project area. Other EAs consulted in developing cumulative impacts in the proposed project area included the Final EA for Mathis Field (Barnard Dunkelberg 1994).

Purpose and Need

The proposed facility will be used by the Anti-Smuggling Unit for their investigations staff. This unit has doubled in size since 1997 and the new facility is needed to house staff and equipment. The Anti-Smuggling Unit assists not only USBP in investigations, but also provides support to other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) such as Federal Highway Patrol, State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) over a 27-county area.

Alternatives Addressed

The only other alternative considered for this EA was the No-Action Alternative. Although the No Action Alternative is carried through the document for analysis, there would be a continued socioeconomic concern related to the illegal drug trafficking and criminal activity ongoing in the Del Rio Sector.

Environmental Impacts

Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of three levels: significant, insignificant (or negligible), and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in CEQ guidelines 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects that are most substantial, and therefore should receive the greatest attention in the decision-making process. Insignificant impacts would be those impacts that result in changes to the existing environment that could not be easily detected. No-impact actions would not alter the existing environment.

There would be no significant areas of environmental concern associated with the Proposed Action. Possible insignificant environmental issues would be associated with the construction activities (i.e., air, geological resources, biological resources, air and water resources, and noise); however, these would be only temporary in nature and easily mitigated through sound engineering practices. Under the Proposed Action, there is a possible beneficial socioeconomic impact to the area in the form of a reduction in drug trafficking and related criminal activities. There would be no short- or long-term impacts to land use, aesthetics, or solid/hazardous waste generation or management as part of the Proposed Action.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this analysis and assuming that all mitigation measures recommended herein are implemented, no significant adverse impacts would occur from the Proposed Action. As previously stated, increased or enhanced interdiction of illegal drug activities would have positive, indirect socioeconomic benefits.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses site-specific actual and potential cumulative effects, beneficial and adverse, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and U. S. Border Patrol (USBP) activity regarding construction of office space for the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Del Rio Sector. The proposed location for the new office is in the western portion of Mathis Field in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas (Figure 1.0).

Mathis Field is owned by the City of San Angelo and is maintained and operated by the Airport Manager, who is directly appointed by the City Manager and approved by the City Council and Mayor. The airport is located southwest of the City of San Angelo, Texas, approximately eight (8) miles southwest of the city's Central Business District in Tom Green County which is located in West-Central Texas, approximately 100 miles southeast of Midland, Texas and approximately 180 miles northwest of Austin, Texas.

This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for the Implementation of NEPA, and the INS' Procedures for Implementing NEPA (28 CFR Part 61).

1.1 INS ORGANIZATION

The INS has the responsibility to regulate and control immigration into the United States (U.S.). The INS has four major areas of responsibility: (1) facilitate entry of persons legally admissible to the U.S., (2) grant benefits under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952, including assistance to persons seeking permanent resident status or naturalization, (3) prevent unlawful entry, employment or receipt of benefits, and (4) apprehend or remove aliens who enter or remain illegally in the U.S.

To address the latter responsibility, the U.S. Congress in 1924 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 borders between each POE. With the increase in illegal drug trafficking, the USBP also has become the leader for drug interdiction.

Since 1980, an average of 150,000 immigrants have been naturalized every year. At the same time, however, illegal aliens have become a significant issue. INS apprehensions are currently averaging more than 1.5 million illegal aliens per year throughout the country. The INS estimates that there are currently from three to six million illegal aliens in the U.S. Other studies have indicated higher numbers, closer to 10 million (INS 2000).

The USBP field activities are administered under the Field Operations Division of the INS. As mentioned previously, the USBP's primary function is to detect and prevent the unlawful entry of aliens and smuggling along the nation's borders. With the increase in illegal drug trafficking, the USBP also has assumed a major Federal responsibility for illegal drug interdiction (INS 2000).

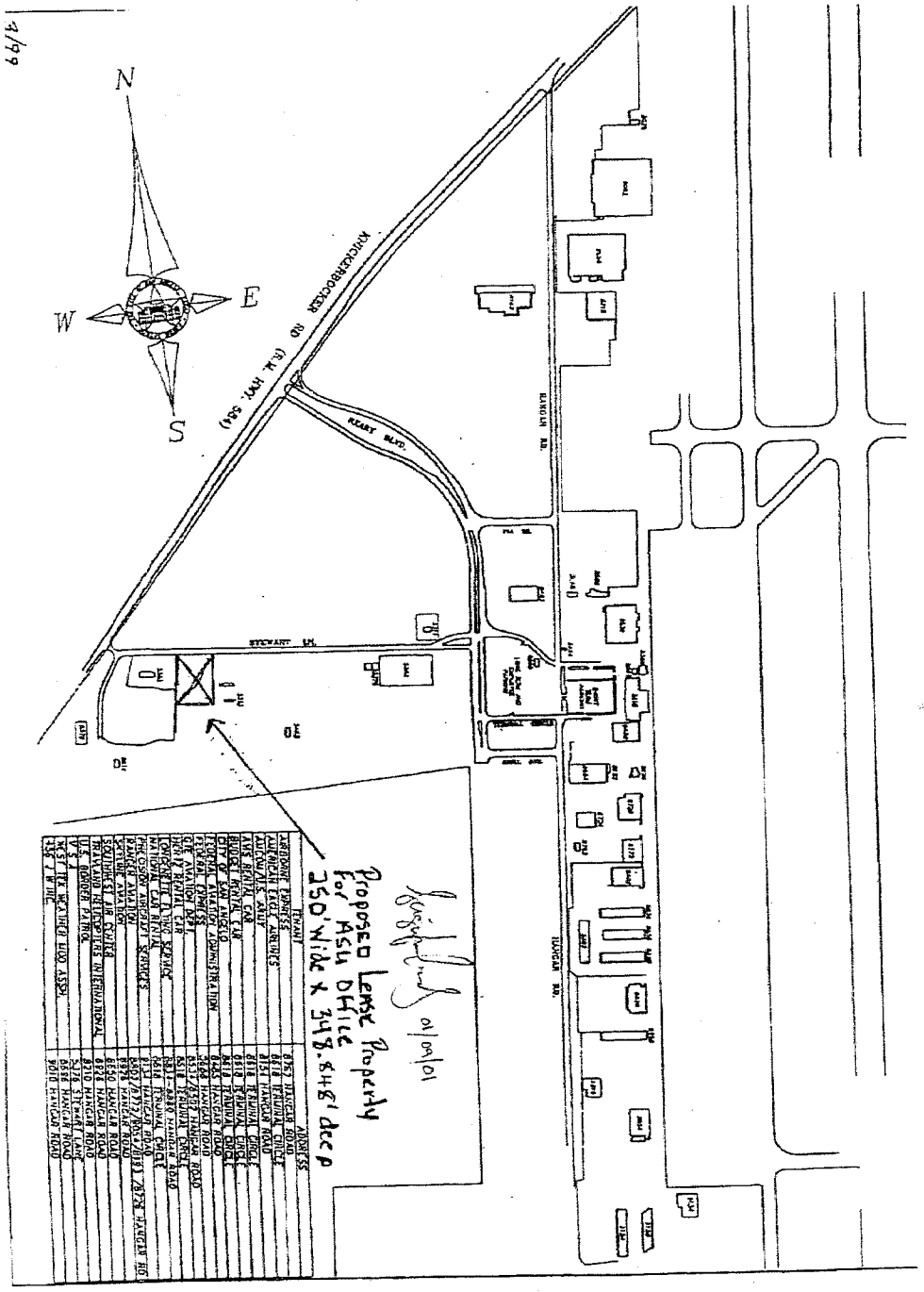

Figure 1.0 Location of Proposed Project Area at Mathis Field, San Angelo, Texas

1.2 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The primary source of authority granted to officers of the INS is the INA, found in Title 8 of the U.S. Code (8 USC), 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 CFR Section 287), judicial decisions, and administrative decisions of the Board of Immigration Appeals. In addition, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) mandates INS to acquire and/or improve equipment and technology along the international border, hire and train new agents for the border region, and develop effective border enforcement strategies.

Subject to constitutional limitations, INS officers may exercise the authority granted to them in the INA. The statutory provisions related to enforcement authority are found in Sections 287(a), 287(b), 287(c), and 287(e) [8 USC § 1357(a, b, c, e)]; Section 235(a) [8 USC §1225]; Sections 274(b) and 274(c) [8USC § 1324(b, c)]; Section 274(a) [8USC §1324(a)]; and Section 274(c) [8USC §1324(c)] of the INA. Other statutory sources of authority are Title 18 of the USC, which has several provisions that specifically relate to enforcement of the immigration and nationality laws; Title 19 [19 USC § 1402(i)], relating to U.S. Customs Service cross-designation of INS officers; and Title 21 [21 USC § 878), relating to Drug Enforcement Agency cross-designation of INS officers (INS 2000).

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The U.S. experiences a substantial influx of illegal immigrants and drugs each year. Both of these illegal activities cost American citizens billions of dollars annually due directly to criminal activities, as well as the cost of apprehension, detention and incarceration of criminals, and indirectly in the loss of property, illegal participation in government programs and increased insurance costs. INS has estimated that there were approximately five million illegal aliens residing in the U.S. in October 1996, and their numbers increased at an average rate of about 275,000 per year between October 1992 and October 1996 (GAO 1997). To combat these rising numbers, the Clinton Administration committed additional resources to law enforcement agencies, including the USBP.

The proposed facility will be used by the Anti-Smuggling Unit for their investigations staff. This unit has doubled in size since 1997 and the new facility is needed to house staff and equipment. The Anti-Smuggling Unit assists not only USBP in investigations, but also provides support to other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) such as Federal Highway Patrol, State Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) over a 27-county area.

This EA addresses site-specific environmental constraints associated with the proposed construction of an office facility for the Investigations Unit of the Del Rio Sector USBP. This document also addresses cumulative impacts of past, present, and foreseeable construction and operational actions in the proposed project area. Other EAs consulted in developing cumulative impacts in the proposed project area included Final EA for Mathis Field (Barnard Dunkelberg 1994).

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT

Chapter 1.0 of this EA contains the background and location of the Proposed Action, along with the purpose and need, and applicable statutes and regulations associated with the Proposed Action. Chapter 2.0 gives a detailed analysis of the Proposed Action and all reasonable alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and those that were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. Chapter 3.0 describes the baseline environmental conditions against which the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives are evaluated. These environmental conditions include information on soils, air quality, land use, hydrology, biological resources, noise, cultural resources, and the current socioeconomic conditions of the area. Chapter 4.0 describes the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Chapter 5.0 presents environmental design measures. Chapter 6.0 describes public involvement for this project. Chapter 7.0 lists the individuals involved in the preparation of this document, Chapter 8.0 presents references cited and Chapter 9.0 includes a list of acronyms and abbreviations. Appendices are: (A) Site Photographs, (B) Federal Air Pollutant Standards, (C) Threatened and Endangered Species, (D) Consultation Letters, and (E) Notice of Availability.

1.5 APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

This EA was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the NEPA, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by CEQ [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508]. This EA should provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (40 CFR 1508.9). Additionally, this EA complies with INS NEPA Regulations specified in 28 CFR 61, Army Regulation (AR) 200-2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions (December 23, 1988), AR 200-4, Cultural Resources Management (October 20, 1997), and the National Guard Bureau NEPA Manual. Brief summaries of the Federal and State laws, regulations, executive orders (EO), and other entitlements that may be applicable to the proposed project are provided in the following sections.

1.5.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

NEPA (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's CEQ (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), establishes national policy, sets goals, and provides the means for carrying out that policy. Section 102(2) of NEPA contains "action-forcing" provisions to make sure that Federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of the Act. The principal objectives of NEPA are to ensure the careful consideration of environmental aspects of proposed actions in Federal decision-making processes and to look at alternatives that may provide a more environmentally acceptable solution. Additionally, NEPA encourages public dialogue and participation in an agency's planning process and ensures that environmental information is made available to decision makers, and the public before decisions are made and actions are taken.

INS routinely complete individual, site-specific NEPA documents such as an Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and Environmental Assessments (EA), Categorical Exclusions (CX), and/or Records of Environmental Consideration (REC). INS complies with NEPA in accordance with INS regulations as specified in 28 CFR 61, Appendix C. These procedures shall apply to new efforts

associated with all INS actions, including (but not limited to) INS operations; acquisition of real property whether by lease, purchase, or construction; the design, alteration, operation, or maintenance of new and existing INS facilities; and new INS mission activities. These procedures apply to all INS Administrative Centers, Regions, Field Offices, INS staff, contractors, and others who operate under INS oversight.

1.5.2 EXECUTIVE ORDER 11514, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EO 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, as amended by EO 11991, sets the policy for directing the Federal government in providing leadership in protecting and enhancing the quality of the nation's environment.

1.5.3 EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988, FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

EO 11988 directs all Federal agencies to avoid, if possible, development and other activities in the 100-year base floodplain. Where the base floodplain cannot be avoided, special considerations and studies for new facilities and structures are needed. Design and siting are to be based on scientific, engineering, and architectural studies; consideration of human life, natural processes, and cultural resources; and the planned lifespan of the project. Federal agencies are required to 1) reduce the risk of flood loss; 2) minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and 3) restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out agency responsibility.

1.5.4 EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The purpose of EO 12898 is to prevent the disproportionate placement of adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from proposed Federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations.

1.5.5 EXECUTIVE ORDER 13007, SACRED SITES

The purpose of EO 13007 is to ensure that each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of Federal lands shall, as appropriate, promptly implement procedures for the purposes of (1) accommodating access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and (2) avoiding adverse effects on the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Where appropriate, agencies shall also maintain the confidentiality of sacred sites.

1.5.6 CLEAN AIR ACT

The Clean Air Act (CAA) amendments of 1990 established Federal air quality standards. According to air quality information received from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, Cochise County is in attainment with established national and state air quality standards for all criteria pollutants.

1.5.7 CLEAN WATER ACT

The Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1251 et seq., as amended) establishes Federal limits, through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), on the amounts of specific pollutants that may be discharged to surface waters in order to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the water. Section 404 of the CWA of 1977 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into water of the U.S., including wetlands. Waters of the U.S. (Section 328.3[2] of the CWA) are those waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to ebb and flow of tide, and all interstate waters including interstate wetlands.

1.5.8 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531-1543) requires Federal agencies to determine the effects of their actions on endangered or threatened species of fish, wildlife, plants, and critical habitats, and to take steps to conserve and protect these species.

1.5.9 CULTURAL RESOURCES LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470 et seq., as amended) and its implementing regulation, 36 CRF Part 800, require Federal agencies to determine the effect of their actions on cultural resources, and to take certain steps to ensure these resources are located, identified, evaluated, and protected. The Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC 470a-11, as amended) protects archeological resources on Federal lands. If archeological resources that may be disturbed during site activities should be discovered, the NHPA would require permits for excavating and removing the resources. Additionally, the ARNG is required under EO 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" to consult with recognized Federal Indian Tribal governments. When a project is requested, the state Environmental Programs Manager must ensure this EO is covered when executing the proper level of NEPA analysis for the project.

1.5.10 OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Additional Federal and State regulations which may apply to the Proposed Action and alternatives are listed below:

- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- Arizona Native Plant Law
- Arizona Air Quality Standards
- Bald Eagle Protection Act (Public Law 90-535)
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Public Law 96-510), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) (Public Law 99-499), 1986
- Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards
- Federal Facilities Compliance Act

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, USC 661, et seq.
- Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HMTA), 1975
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (Public Law 94-580), 1976
- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), 1974
- Solid Waste Disposal Act, 1980
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (Public Law 94-469)
- Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 USC 1101, et seq.
- Wetlands Conservation Act (Public Law 101-23)

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the Proposed Action and alternatives, including the No-Action Alternative. The Proposed Action would involve construction of new office facility to be utilized by the Investigations/Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Del Rio Sector USBP. Under the No-Action Alternative, the area would remain as it currently exists and USBP Anti-Smuggling Unit would continue to utilize existing space. Other than the alternatives identified in this section, no other reasonable alternatives meeting INS or USBP requirements were identified.

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action consists of construction of a new office facility to be utilized by the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Del Rio Sector USBP. The number of personnel in this unit has doubled since its inception in 1997 and new office space is needed to house additional personnel and equipment. The proposed site is approximately 250 feet by 350 feet and will be enclosed with a five-foot chain-link fence and gate. The proposed office facility will be a metal building with metal roof, situated on a slab, measuring approximately 50 feet by 80 feet. The building will contain a security vestible, reception area and office, agent offices, a conference room, interview rooms, intelligence room, evidence room, surveillance/telephone monitor room, break room, restrooms, and several small maintenance/janitorial/supply rooms (Figure 2.0).

If the Proposed Action is implemented on the basis of this EA, the proposed project may begin in spring or summer 2002. The project would take approximately six to eight weeks to complete. Personnel involved in the Proposed Action would be expected to work between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., six days per week during the construction period.

Equipment to be used for the proposed action activities may include integrated tool carriers, flat bed trucks, graders, water trucks, and forklifts. Heavy equipment to be utilized during construction activities will be stored in a secured yard on Airport property. Existing roads would be utilized for primary transport of equipment and personnel to the proposed project area. Existing turnouts or previously disturbed areas would also be used by equipment during construction to minimize unnecessary impacts to resources outside of the Proposed Action area. Through an environmental briefing, all personnel would be informed about the limits of the construction area and actions permitted within and outside of that area. Additionally, construction limits would be flagged to ensure that the proposed activities stay within the construction area boundaries.

2.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, no improvement activities would be conducted and the Anti-Smuggling Unit would continue to utilize existing office space. Although it is unlikely that significant adverse impacts would occur, the No-Action Alternative would not support the USBP's efforts to effectively reduce drug smuggling and trafficking within the Del Rio Sector. The associated violent crime could continue within the Sector. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative may reduce the USBP's ability to fulfill its mission as described in Chapter 1.0.

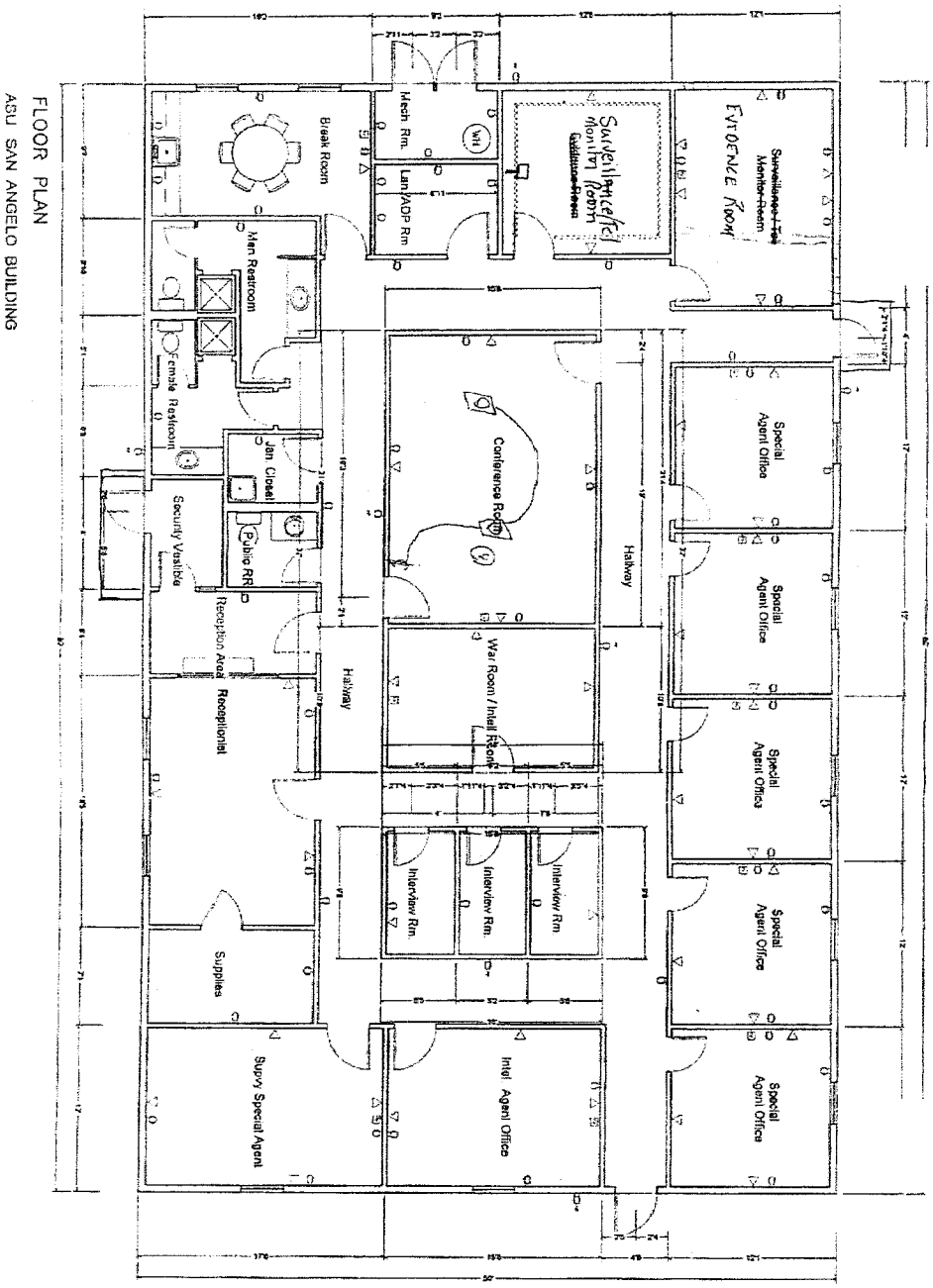

Figure 2.0 Building Layout for Proposed Office Space

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is the baseline against which potential impacts caused by the Proposed Action and alternatives are assessed. This chapter focuses on those resources specific to the proposed project area that have the potential to be affected by activities connected with construction of the Proposed Action.

3.1 AIR RESOURCES

Air resources describe the existing concentrations of various pollutants and the climatic and meteorological conditions that influence the quality of the air. Precipitation, wind direction, wind speed, and atmospheric stability are factors that determine the extent of pollutant dispersion.

3.1.1 AIR QUALITY

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is the state agency responsible for monitoring air quality in Texas. The TNRCC maintains 19 separate air quality monitoring stations across the state, typically in metropolitan areas. The nearest such station to the project area is located in Odessa/Midland, approximately 120 west of San Angelo.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides the scale, called the Air Quality Index (AQI), for which air quality is measured. The AQI scale is based on Federally-established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), CFR 58, Appendix B. Air quality is monitored by measuring the level of major pollutants in the atmosphere, including ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and particulate matter. Any region that exceeds standard levels for any of these pollutants are designated as nonattainment by the EPA and categorized in one of five levels determined by the severity of exceedance.

The region of west central Texas is relatively sparsely populated compared to other metropolitan regions of Texas. Fewer potential pollutants, such as vehicles, industries, and other entities exist in this area. However, arid conditions in this region provide the potential for violation of particulate matter levels, as dust and granular substrate are readily lofted into the atmosphere. The relative close proximity to the sandy terrains of the southwestern U.S. increases the potential for particulate matter to be transported into the area from non-local sources. Therefore, the only critical pollutant that is measured at Odessa/Midland is particulate matter.

According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (1996), the average annual mean for particulate matter from 1990-1994 was well below NAAQS for that pollutant. Data provided by TNRCC from 1999-present suggests that air quality as measured at Odessa/Midland during this time period was good on almost all days (TNRCC, 2001).

3.1.2 CLIMATE AND METEOROLOGY

Climate in San Angelo may be characterized as dry, with hot summers and mild winters. The average yearly high is 78.1°F, the average yearly low is 51.6°F, and the average daily temperature is 64.9°F. Precipitation falls mostly during the warmer half of the year, from April to October,

averaging 20.45 inches per year. The average yearly snowfall is 2.7 inches (NWS, 2001). Winds usually blow from the south year round, and average approximately 8-15 knots (TNRCC, 2001).

3.2 LAND USE

The existing land use within the vicinity of the airport is mostly rural in nature, with much open space/agricultural use immediately south, southeast, west, and northwest of the airport. The City of San Angelo Central Business District is approximately eight miles to the north of the airport. There is a significant amount of residential development, predominantly lakeshore development, to the north and east of the airport. There is one residential subdivision located north-northeast of the airport, just beyond the airport property line. This subdivision is off-base military housing for personnel stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base. There are commercial properties located north of the airport adjacent to Knickerbocker Road on the south shore of Lake Nasworthy, west of Kinckerbocker Road on the north side of the lake and northwest of the airport at the west end of the lake. There is one church located approximately two miles north of the airport on the east side of Knickerbocker Road.

There are no buildings on the proposed project site (Photographs 1 and 2). There are, however, two small (approximately 20 ft x 42 ft) concrete slabs near the southeast portion of the property (Photograph 3). Additionally, a concrete structure measuring approximately 6 ft x 20 ft was located at the northwest corner of the property (Photograph 4). Neither Supervisor Charles Westbrook, who has been with the USBP at this location for 10 years, nor Special Agent John Luck (13 years with the USBP in San Angelo) knew the purpose or past use of any of the above structures. The bulk of the property had no structures and was simply an undeveloped field that is regularly mowed and maintained by the City of San Angelo. The subject property was bisected near the center of the property by two underground pipelines, both running east-west. One of the pipelines was a water line, while the other was a wastewater line.

The property to the north of the subject site, across Stewart Lane, was an undeveloped field that was mowed and maintained by the City of San Angelo. An overhead utility line ran parallel to the Stewart Lane along the northern property line of the proposed project site. To the east was a small building used by the San Angelo Amateur Radio Club and a City-owned baseball field. An unnamed gravel road paralleled the eastern property line of the proposed project site, leading from Stewart Lane to the Amatuer Radio Club building. Property immediately adjacent to the south of the proposed site was also undeveloped. As with the subject site, it was mowed by the City up to the airport property line. Beyond that point, the adjacent property was overgrown with mesquite and juniper. The property to the west was enclosed in a chain link fence. It contained a few brush piles and had a gravel road on it, but was primarily undeveloped (background of Photograph 4).

3.3 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Geological resources include physical surface and subsurface features of the earth such as topography, geology, soils, and the prime farmlands of the area. These features are discussed in the following sections.

3.3.1 GEOLOGY

The topography of the land surrounding Mathis Field is characterized by low relief and gently rolling terrain, with steeper slopes and buttes located to the northwest, southwest and southeast. There are no known unique geological features on the airport nor are there any known mineral reserves.

3.3.2 SOILS

The airport is situated on land composed of two general soil associations, primarily Kimbrough-Mereta-Angelo Association and the Rioconcho-Spur Association. The Kimbrough-Mereta-Angelo Association are very shallow to deep calcareous soils on outwash plains with nearly level to sloping and undulating grades. The Rioconcho-Spur Association are deep, nearly level, calcareous soils on flood plains.

3.3.3 PRIME FARMLAND

According to 16 USC 590a-f (7 CFR 2.62 Pub. L. 95-87; 42 USC 4321 et seq.), prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban built-up land or water). It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmlands have an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. They are permeable to water and air. Prime farmlands are not excessively erodible or saturated with water for a long period of time, and they either do not flood frequently or are protected from flooding.

As part of a previous EA at Mathis Field, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) was contacted concerning the impact of that proposed project on prime and unique farmland. An analysis of that project indicated that airport property including the site reviewed for this EA, is designated "in urban use" and therefore is outside the Farmland Protection Policy Act's definition of "prime farmland."

3.4 WATER RESOURCES

The following sections describe surface water and groundwater sources, water quality and quantity, and surface and subsurface water movement. The hydrological cycle results in the transport of water into various media such as the air, the ground surface, and subsurface. Natural and human-induced factors determine the quality of water resources.

3.4.1 GROUNDWATER

Groundwater in San Angelo is typically associated with the Lipan Aquifer, which is contained almost entirely within Tom Green County, and reaches just within Concho and Runnels Counties.

Waters from this source are generally used for irrigation, as most other water usage in San Angelo is satisfied by surface water. Groundwater in the Lipan Aquifer naturally discharges by seepage into the Concho River and evaporation in areas where the water table nears the surface, and is mostly recharged by direct precipitation (Lee, 1986).

3.4.2 SURFACE WATER

The dominant water features in the vicinity of the airport are Lake Nasworthy and Twin Buttes Reservoir. These reservoirs were formed by impounding the South Concho River and the Middle Concho River, respectively. There are no unique or significant drainage problems associated with the airport.

3.4.3 WATER QUALITY

Untreated water from the Lipan Aquifer is generally not suitable for drinking due to its slightly saline nature in most areas. According to the EPA, water quality in the Concho River Basin is generally good, classified as having "better water quality, with high vulnerability." Dangerous levels of pollutants in surface waters of this region have historically not been an issue. However, because of the region's population growth, water quality in the San Angelo area is vulnerable to the stresses caused by urban activities, and should be closely monitored to avoid any future problems associated with population change (EPA, 2001).

3.4.4 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Section 404 of the CWA of 1977 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into water of the U.S., including wetlands. Waters of the U.S. (Section 328.3[2] of the CWA) are those waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to ebb and flow of tide, and all interstate waters including interstate wetlands. Waters of the U.S. are further defined as all other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, or impoundments of waters, tributaries of waters, and territorial seas. Wetlands are those areas inundated or saturated by surface waters or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (USACE 1987). Jurisdictional boundaries for these water resources are defined in the field as the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), which is that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear, natural lines impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

There are no wetlands on the airport or in the vicinity that would be affected by the preferred alternative.

3.4.5 FLOODPLAINS

Under Federal regulations, all Federal agencies are directed to avoid, if possible, development and other activities in the 100-year base floodplain. Where the base floodplain cannot be avoided, special considerations and studies for new facilities and structures are needed. Federal agencies are required to 1) reduce the risk of flood loss; 2) minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and 3) restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains in carrying out agency responsibility.

According to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Maps available, there are no known 100-year floodplains in the proposed project area.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Biological resources include native plants and animals in the region around the proposed project site. The project area is found within the Balconian biotic province of Texas. This region is characterized as semiarid, dominated by scrub forest of Mexican cedar, Texas oak, and stunted live oak (Blair, 1950). Several species of mostly salamanders that exist in this region are endemic to the Balconian biotic province.

3.5.1 VEGETATION

The predominant vegetation association within the vicinity of the airport is Mesquite-Juniper Shrub or Brush. There is the potential occurrence of a number of subdominant species that may include lotebush, shin oak, sumac, Texas prickly pear, tasajillo, kidneywood, agarito, redbud, yucca, Lindheimer silktassel, sotol, catclaw, and Mexican persimmon. Main crops found in the area consist of grain sorghum, cotton, wheat, and oats.

The proposed project site is located on land impacted by past human activity. Vegetation on the site was limited to 12 mesquite trees, most of which were located along the northwestern side of the property. Other than the mesquite trees, the property consisted primarily of native and introduced grasses, such sideoats grama, three-awn, Texas grama, hairy grama, curly mesquite, buffalograss and hairy tridens. Additional plant species observed included *crocus sp.*

3.5.2 WILDLIFE

Wildlife associated with the general area of the airport consists of those species usually associated with the prevailing plant community. Typical species include deer, raccoon, skunk, cottontail rabbit, jackrabbits, fox squirrels, gray and red foxes, opossums, quail, coyotes, and bobcats.

3.5.3 AQUATIC SPECIES

Because no surface water exists at the proposed project site, no aquatic habitat exists.

3.5.4 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) [16 USC 1531 et. Seq.] of 1973, as amended, was enacted to provide a program for the preservation of endangered and threatened species and to provide protection for the ecosystems upon which these species depend for their survival. All Federal agencies are required to implement protection programs for designated species and to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act. Responsibility for the identification of a threatened or endangered species and development of any potential recovery plan lies with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are the primary agencies responsible for implementing the ESA. The USFWS is responsible for birds and terrestrial and freshwater species, while the NMFS is responsible for non-bird marine species.

An endangered species is a species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is a species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Proposed species are those that have been formally submitted to Congress for official listing as threatened or endangered. In addition, the USFWS has identified species that are candidates for listing as a result of identified threats to their continued existence. The candidate (C) designation includes those species for which the USFWS has sufficient information on hand to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened under the ESA. However, proposed rules for this listing have not yet been issued because such actions are precluded at present by other listing activity.

Many Federally- and State-listed threatened and endangered species of plants, fish, and wildlife could occur in Tom Green County. A list of these species as provided by TPWD and the USFWS can be found in Table 3-1.

There are no known rare or endangered plant species located within the boundaries of the proposed project area of in the general vicinity of the Mathis Field. There are also no areas of unique wildlife habitat, or any known rare or endangered animal species at the airport.

Table 3-1 List of Threatened, Endangered, or Species of Concern In Tom Green County

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	USFWS	TPWD
Black-capped Vireo	*Vireo atricapillus*	LE	
Mountain Plover	*Charadrius montanus*	PT	
Concho Water Snake	*Nerodia paucimaculata*	LT	DL
American Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus anatum*	DL	
Arctic Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus tundrus*	DL	
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	DL	
Interior Least Tern	*Sterna antillarum athalassos*	LE	
Zone-tailed Hawk	*Buteo albonotatus*		
Guadalupe Bass	*Micropterus treculi*		C
Spot-tailed Earless Lizard	*Holbrookia lacerta*		C
Texas Horned Lizard	*Phrynosoma cornutum*		T
Hill Country Wild-Mercury	*Argythamnia aphoroides*		C
Whooping Crane	*Grus Americana*	LE	

TABLE KEY:

C	Species of Concern (TPWD)
DL	Delisted
LE	Listed Federally-Endangered: imminent jeopardy of extinction
LT	Listed Federally-Threatened
PT	Potential Federal Listing
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal agency for threatened and endangered species)
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (State agency for threatened and endangered species)

3.6 NOISE

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound and can be based either on objective effects (hearing loss, damage to structures etc.) or subjective judgments (community annoyance). Measurement and perception of sound involves two basic physical characteristics: amplitude and frequency. Amplitude is a measure of the strength of the sound and is directly measured in terms of the pressure of a sound wave. Because sound pressure varies in time, various types of pressure averages are usually used. Frequency, commonly perceived as pitch, is the number of times per second the sound causes air molecules to oscillate. Frequency is measured in units of cycles per second, or Hertz (Hz). Sound is usually represented on a logarithmic scale with a unit called the decibel (dB). Sound on the decibel scale is referred to as a sound level. The threshold of human hearing is approximately 0 dB, and the threshold of discomfort or pain is around 120 dB (INS 2000).

The proposed project area is located away from noise sensitive sites such as schools, churches, hospitals, etc. The ambient noise environment within the general area is atypical of rural areas with projected noise levels ranging from about 35 to 55 average-weighted decibels (dBA) day/night noise level (Ldn) because of the nature of current use as an airport site.

3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Historic and archaeological resources are nonrenewable resources whose values may be easily diminished by physical disturbances. These resources are those items, places, or events considered important to a culture or community for reasons of history, tradition, religion, or science. According to the 1994 EA performed on Mathis Field provided by the USACE, there are no known historical or archeological sites within the proposed project area. (Barnard Dunkelberg 1994).

3.8 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Aesthetic resources consist of the natural and manmade landscape features that appear indigenous to the area and give a particular environment its visual characteristics. The current visual characteristics of the general project area consist mostly of open space and flatlands covered by native grasses and vegetation.

3.9 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

There is no known or suspected toxic and/or hazardous material contamination within the proposed project area. Additionally, there are no other known historic land uses within the project area (such as industrial uses) that might have resulted in toxic or hazardous material contamination of the underlying soil and/or groundwater resources.

3.10 SOCIOECONOMIC DATA

The City of San Angelo is the County Seat of Tom Green County and a retail center for the entire county. San Angelo has a relatively stable economic base, with seven companies having over 1,000 employees, and an additional five companies having over 500 employees. The San Angelo economy is diversified as well, with services accounting for approximately 27%, retail trade comprising approximately 22%, government accounting for 20%, and manufacturing representing some 10% of the total civilian employment in the Metropolitan Statistical Area. The commerce and industrial activity associated with an airport providing adequate facilities is a necessary and vital contributor to the city and regional economy (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001).

3.10.1 POPULATION

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the proposed action includes Tom Green County in West-Central Texas. According to data compiled in 2000 by the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Tom Green County is 104,010. The racial breakdown for this county is as follows: 79.1% white, 4.1% black, and 16.8% of other race. Approximately 30% of the population is of Hispanic origin.

The only metropolitan area of Tom Green County is San Angelo, TX. According to data compiled in 2000 by the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of San Angelo is 88,439. The racial breakdown for this metropolitan area is as follows: 77.1% white, 4.7% black, 18.2% of other race. Approximately 33% of the population is of Hispanic origin.

3.10.2 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Total employment for the ROI in September 2001 was 44,400, which represents an annual growth rate of 0.9 percent over total employment in September 2000. Employment in the ROI is concentrated in the government, service, manufacturing and retail trade sectors; combined these represented 79% of total employment in September 2001. The largest employment sector is the services, which accounts for about 27% of the total. The ROI unemployment rate in September 2001 was 1.5 percent, significantly lower than the state and national averages. The median household income for Tom Green County based on 1997 estimates is $31,084 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2001).

3.10.3 HOUSING

The total number of housing units in the ROI was 43,916 in 2000. Of these, 39,503 (90%) were occupied, 4,413 (10%) were vacant, and 392 (0.9%) were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Approximately 64% (25,336) of these units were owner-occupied, while about 36% (14,167) were occupied by renters (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001).

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Based on observations made during the site visit, discussions with USBP personnel, Federal and State agencies, and local authorities, and comparisons with similar USBP activities, several environmental factors potentially associated with the Proposed Action have been identified. An environmental consequence or impact is defined as a modification in the existing environment brought about by mission and support activities. Impacts can be beneficial or adverse, a primary result of an action (direct) or a secondary result (indirect), and permanent or long-lasting (long-term) or of short duration (short-term). Impacts can vary in degree from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For this project, short-term impacts are defined as those tied to the first two years following project implementation, whereas long-term impacts are those lasting more than two years.

Significant impact criteria are presented for each affected resource. These criteria are based on existing regulatory standards, scientific and environmental knowledge, and/or best professional judgment. Potential impacts for this project were classified at one of three levels: significant, insignificant (or negligible), and no impact. Significant impacts (as defined in CEQ guidelines 40 CFR 1500-1508) are effects that are most substantial, and therefore should receive the greatest attention in the decision-making process. Insignificant impacts would be those impacts that result in changes to the existing environment that could not be easily detected. No-impact actions would not alter the existing environment. In the following discussions, impacts are considered adverse unless identified as beneficial.

Potential environmental consequences to each resource section include the following subcategories:

- Impacts. The level and duration of impacts that would occur as a result of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative.

- Mitigation. Mitigation measures that could be applied to avoid or further reduce adverse impacts. Mitigation is discussed in Chapter 5.0.

Cumulative impacts and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources are discussed in separate sections following the discussions of each specific resource. 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.

This section of the EA will discuss only those environmental factors that would be impacted by the Proposed Action and Alternatives carried through for analysis, including the No-Action Alternative. Table 4-1 presents a comparison of the potential impacts by each area of concern.

Table 4-1 Comparison of Potential Impacts

Area of Impact		Preferred Alternative – New Bldg Construction (2.01 acres of disturbance)	No Action
Air Resources	ST: LT:	Insignificant No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Land Use	ST: LT:	Insignificant Beneficial	No Impact No Impact
Geological Resources	ST: LT:	No Impact No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Water Resources	ST: LT:	No Impact No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Biological Resources	ST: LT:	Insignificant No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Noise Resources	ST: LT:	Insignificant No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Cultural Resources	ST: LT:	No Impact No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Aesthetic Resources	ST: LT:	Insignificant No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Solid/Hazardous Waste	ST: LT:	Insignificant No Impact	No Impact No Impact
Socioeconomic	ST: LT:	Beneficial Beneficial	Insignificant Insignificant

ST = Short-term Impact.
LT = Long-term Impact.
Beneficial = Impact would be favorable, producing an overall benefit.
Insignificant = Perceptible, but not significant impacts.
Significant = Potential impact which requires concern.

4.1 AIR RESOURCES

4.1.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, there would be a short-term impact to air quality caused from exhaust pollutants created from on-site equipment used for construction activities and vehicles bringing workers and building materials to the site. Equipment which could be used at the project site includes a portable generator for welding activities; a compressor for hand-operated tools; forklifts for moving materials; cement trucks for hauling and pouring concrete; and trucks to deliver construction materials. It is assumed that as many as four pieces of equipment could be used simultaneously during the construction phase. These pieces are typically moved on-site and remain for the duration of construction. Equipment and vehicles to be used for all proposed actions would be configured and maintained to conform with state and local air quality requirements.

Although quantitative analysis of fugitive dust levels was not performed, such increases or impacts on ambient air quality during the construction/installation phase would be expected to be short-term and insignificant, and can be reduced further through the use of standard dust control techniques, including roadway watering and use of chemical dust suppressants. Although some fugitive dust will be associated with road use, it would not be significantly greater than amounts currently produced. There would be no emissions associated with operation of the office facility, and no long-term impacts would be expected to occur.

The Proposed Action would not require any permitting action and would not create any air emissions that would jeopardize the Federal attainment status of the Air Quality Region, or cause an exceedance in the allowable Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment for the region. Additionally, any emissions created by the Proposed Action would conform with the SIP.

4.1.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, baseline conditions would not change.

4.2 LAND USE

4.2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Short-term impacts on land use will be insignificant and last the duration of the construction activities. Once construction has been completed, areas surrounding the new building disturbed by construction activities would return to their original state over time. Therefore, no negative long-term impacts on land use are expected from implementation of the Preferred Alternative. A beneficial long-term impact could be realized from implementation of this project due to the increased efficiency for the Anti-Smuggling Unit in this area. This increase would be recognized as a beneficial effect based on an expected decrease in illegal entry of people, drugs, and associated criminal activities directly in the 27 county area. Under the Proposed Action, the overall land use within the general project area would not change.

4.2.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, baseline conditions would not change.

4.3 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.3.1 PROPOSED ACTION

It is not likely that geologic hazards such as seismic events, landslides, subsidence, or increased flooding would result from implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Conversely, the construction or utilization of the office facility is not likely to be impacted by any geologic hazard in the general project area.

4.3.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No impacts to topography or physiography would be expected from the No-Action Alternative. It is not likely that geologic hazards such as seismic events, landslides, subsidence, or increased flooding over current conditions would be impacted from the No-Action Alternative.

4.4 WATER RESOURCES

4.4.1 PROPOSED ACTION

No short-term or long-term impacts to surface water resources are expected from construction and operation of the Proposed Action.

No water usage would be expected for the operation of the Proposed Action, and only minimal water usage would be expected during the construction phase of the proposed project. Because the total area disturbed for this project is less than 5 acres, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is not required for this project.

The increase in impermeable surface area will slightly increase runoff. However, the final plans and specifications for the project will ensure that this increase in runoff does not adversely affect any floodplain or increase flooding. If necessary, detention facilities could be provided to reduce the runoff.

There are no wetland areas or floodplains located within the general project area that would be directly impacted by the Proposed Action.

4.4.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No change in baseline conditions would be expected from the No-Action Alternative.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A site visit was conducted on October 24, 2001 by an Ecologist from Ecological Communications Corporation and accompanied by two Del Rio Anti-Smuggling Unit USBP Supervisors. A 100-percent survey was conducted for the entire 2.01-acre tract This survey was conducted in an effort to inventory biological resources at the proposed project areas and evaluate the potential effects of the Proposed Action on these resources. Prior to the site reconnaissance, all available project-related literature was reviewed and information from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the USFWS was obtained regarding Federally- and State-listed threatened and endangered species or special species of concern.

4.5.1 PROPOSED ACTION

4.5.1.1 Vegetation

As noted in Section 3.5.1, the airport is located on lands impacted by past human activity. The proposed project site is regularly mowed and maintained by the City of San Angelo. The only vegetation noted at the site during the October 2001 site visit was approximately 12 mesquite trees and native and introduced grasses. Approximately eight to nine of the trees would have to be removed for construction. Mesquite trees are abundant in the region and are not highly valued for either aesthetics or lumber purposes.

Due to the high degree of previous disturbance of the proposed project area and the regional abundance of the native plant species, the impact from the Proposed Action would be insignificant.

4.5.1.2 Fish and Wildlife

The only wildlife species that could be impacted from the Proposed Action would be small mammal, reptile, and bird species. Impacts to habitat for such resources, such as foraging grass and ground nesting habitat, would be insignificant due to the low amount of actual area disturbed by the Proposed Action. If the proposed project is planned during a season where migratory birds may use the project area for flight patterns or nesting, then special coordination and surveys required under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act could be conducted.

No long-term impacts to either small mammal, reptile, and bird populations would be expected. Larger terrestrial wildlife movements in the proposed construction areas should not be affected due to the short duration of time anticipated to complete the proposed project. Additionally, construction activities would be conducted only during daylight hours, and not during the early morning hours or night-time hours when wildlife species are most active. Therefore, short-term impacts on wildlife species are expected to be insignificant.

4.5.1.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

Under the Endangered Species Act, formal consultation with the USFWS is required for any action that may affect Federally-listed species. Additionally, Federal agencies are required to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies would not be likely to jeopardize the

continued existence of any threatened or endangered species. A copy of the consultation letters with the USFWS and TPWD is presented in Appendix E.

No Federally-listed threatened, endangered or proposed species were observed during the October 2001 site visit. Additionally, no protected species were observed during surveys conducted for EAs prepared for previous projects in the area (Barnard Dunkelberg 1994). No designated critical habitat for Federally-listed species occurs within the area of the proposed project site.

Based on the information provided in Section 3.5.4 for both flora and fauna species, their preferred habitats, and lack of evidence that these species occur within the project area, it would be unlikely that any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species would be found within the proposed project area, except on a transient basis. Additionally, impacts to all sensitive vegetation would be avoided or minimized. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have only no direct short- or long-term impacts on Federally-listed threatened and endangered species.

4.5.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No change in baseline conditions would be expected from the No-Action Alternative.

4.6 NOISE

Noise naturally dissipates by atmospheric attenuation as it travels through the air. Some other factors that can affect the amount of attenuation are ground surface, foliage, topography, and humidity. For each doubling of distance from the source, the noise level can be expected to decrease by approximately 6 decibels (dB). This method is a very conservative estimate of noise levels. A significant impact would be an increase in the ambient noise levels to a level of physical discomfort, or 120 A-weighted decibels (dBA).

4.6.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Temporary construction noise impacts vary markedly because the noise intensity of construction equipment ranges widely as a function of the equipment and its level of activity. Short-term construction noise impacts tend to occur in discrete phases dominated initially by large earthmoving equipment and later by hand-operated tools. The noise produced by an assemblage of heavy equipment involved in urban, commercial, and industrial development typically ranges up to about 89 dBA at 50 feet from the source (USACE 1995).

Over most of the proposed project area, receptors are located well beyond these distances. Only insignificant noise impacts are expected from the construction phase of the proposed project and no noise impacts are expected during the operation phase of the project. Additionally, given the heavy ground and air traffic noise resulting from the airport and urban roads and highway systems in and around Mathis Field in San Angelo, the noise expected from the proposed construction activities would be short in duration (less than 60 days), and would be expected to be insignificant compared to existing noise levels.

4.6.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No change in baseline conditions would be expected under the No-Action Alternative. The No-Action alternative would have neither a short- nor long-term impact on the baseline noise condition within the proposed project area.

4.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.7.1 PROPOSED ACTION

According to previous documentation for the Mathis Field, there are no sites listed or eligible for listing with the National Register of Historic Places within the proposed project area. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) Department of Antiquities Protection had been contacted and anticipated no negative affects as a result of the proposed project (Barnard Dunkelberg 1994). Further, in response to a letter from Ms. Patience Patterson, USACE, regarding the proposed project, Ms. Debra Beene of the THC responded on August 10, 2001, that no historic properties would be affected and that the project may proceed. However, should construction activities expose buried archeological material, work will stop and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Office and will be contacted.

4.7.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

No change in baseline conditions would be expected from the No-Action Alternative.

4.8 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

4.8.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action, aesthetic resources would be insignificantly impacted by the construction activities. However, construction activities are short-term and would not have a permanent impact on the subject areas. There would be no long-term impacts to aesthetic resources under this alternative.

4.8.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, baseline conditions would not change.

4.9 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

4.9.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed project will not adversely affect solid waste collection, control or disposal. Construction personnel would be informed about the potential to encounter hazardous wastes that may be present on the site from previous illegal dumping and the appropriate procedures to use if suspected hazardous contamination is encountered. Under the proposed project, it is assumed that worker-safety risks will be reduced through the implementation of standard safe practices, such as

wearing hard hats, steel-toed boots, gloves, ear protection, face masks, safety vests, and other equipment, where appropriate and/or prescribed by State and/or Federal worker health and safety laws and regulations.

During construction activities, fuels, oils, lubricants, and other hazardous materials will be used. An accidental release or spill of any of these substances could occur. A spill could result in potentially adverse impacts to on-site soils and threaten the health of the local population, as well as wildlife and vegetation. However, the amounts of fuel and other lubricants and oils would be limited, and the equipment to quickly limit any contamination would be located on site. As a result, only short-term insignificant impacts would be expected to result from construction activities. No long-term impacts are expected from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

4.9.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, baseline conditions would not change.

4.10 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

4.10.1 SOCIOECONOMICS OF PROPOSED ACTION

This alternative would provide direct and indirect economic benefits to area companies and employees as a result of construction activities, and through economic multiplier effects. The impacts on the socioeconomic resources in the ROI such as population, employment, income, and business sales would be beneficial.

Direct expenditures associated with the proposed project would have a minimal impact on employment, income, and sales within the ROI. Although most labor and some materials would be brought into the local area, some expenditures are expected to occur within the ROI. Short-term increases in local revenues for commercial establishments, trade centers, and retail sales will result from the purchase of supplies and equipment rental. Any potential impacts from the construction activities would easily be absorbed into the broader economy of the ROI.

The socioeconomic impacts of this alternative are expected to be beneficial due to the expected increase in efficiency within the Anti-Smuggling Unit, Additionally, the increased ability to conduct investigations would contribute to the reduction of socioeconomic impacts and burdens that currently exist on local law enforcement communities in the surrounding areas.

4.10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

EO 12898 of 11 February 1994, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," required that each U.S. Federal agency identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its program, policies, and activities on minority and low income populations in the U.S. The proposed construction site is located in an area with similar characteristics of the broader ROI. Therefore, there would be no expected disproportionately high or adverse impacts on minority or

low-income populations. Under the definition of EO 12898, there would be no adverse short or long-term environmental justice impacts.

4.10.3 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the region would continue to experience immeasurable impacts to law enforcement agencies, medical institutions, and other socioeconomic organizations in the community as a result of continued alien entry, drug trafficking, smuggling, and associated crime. This impact on environmental justice or the socioeconomic resources in the ROI would continue under the No-Action Alternative.

4.11 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources would include a minimal amount of soil lost through wind and water erosion, a minor loss of vegetation due to construction activities, and loss of materials, energy and manpower expended during construction of the project.

4.12 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The assessment of cumulative impacts is addressed in NEPA by its reference to interrelations of all components of the natural environment. The CEQ defined cumulative impact as the incremental impact of multiple past, present, and future actions with individually minor but collectively significant effects. Cumulative impacts can be concisely defined as the total effect of multiple land uses and developments, including their interrelationships, on the environment (Bain *et al.* 1986).

4.12.1 PAST PROJECTS

Positive cumulative benefits have resulted from past USBP activities within the 27-county area for the Del Rio Sector. From these projects, an additional knowledge regarding cultural resources, threatened or endangered species' locations, distribution, and life requisites has been obtained through surveys and monitoring efforts associated with INS construction projects. Additionally, the increase in infrastructure has allowed the USBP to enhance their ability to enforce the border areas. Without the past infrastructure improvements, illegal entrants would quickly identify areas that were either limited or void of adequate infrastructure and relocate their operations to these areas. The USBP would either have to increase their enforcement footprint farther to the north, thereby decreasing the chance for apprehension, or increase the risk to the agents' health and safety by requiring that they enter high traffic areas without sufficient roads, barriers, or other infrastructure components.

4.12.2 CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS

According to the USBP personnel in the Del Rio Sector, there are no known projects planned by either the USBP or the Mathis Airport in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area in the reasonably foreseeable future. The USBP has considered adding car-port type covers over the existing asphalt lot behind the current USBP building at Mathis Field. That project, if funded,

would not impact any natural resources, as it would be entirely constructed on and over an exiting asphalt surface.

4.12.3 PROPOSED ACTION

The analysis of the Proposed Action revealed that insignificant cumulative impacts to land use, noise, air quality, and biological resources (vegetation and wildlife habitat) could occur as a result of past actions due to the temporary nature of construction activities. Soils that are denuded during construction activities would be vulnerable to erosion. However, the vast majority of the USBP construction projects are planned to alleviate soil erosion; thus, the cumulative effect to soils would be beneficial.

Direct cumulative impacts on economics from infrastructure improvements would be expected to be beneficial but insignificant, depending upon the amount of local expenditures and economic multipliers in the region (USACE 2000a). However, the cumulative impact to the quality of life in San Angelo and the surrounding 27-county area could be significant and beneficial if the USBP is successful at curbing illegal entry and drug trafficking.

When combined with past, present, and known future projects in the Mathis Field area, it is hard to determine the exact indirect impacts. However, Mathis Field and San Angelo occupy a relatively small area with a low growth rate. The greatest cumulative impacts (both direct and indirect) resulting from the growth of the population in San Angelo would be to soils, water supply, air quality, land use, and socioeconomics. Responsible growth by the city would have insignificant cumulative impacts on biological and cultural resources. The cumulative direct and indirect impacts resulting from past and future development in and around the City of San Angelo would most likely be insignificant in nature.

4.12.4 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative would result in no additional direct effects on the area's resources. The current rate of growth for the area would most likely continue, thereby causing a possible increase in illegal drug activities.

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter describes environmental design measures that would be implemented as part of the proposed project to reduce or eliminate impacts from construction activities. Due to the short-term nature of the proposed construction activities, impacts are expected to be insignificant; therefore, mitigation measures are only described for those resources with potential for impacts.

5.1 AIR QUALITY

Mitigation measures would include dust suppression methods to minimize airborne particulate matter that would be created during construction activities. Additionally, all construction equipment and vehicles will be required to be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions. Standard construction practices would be used to control fugitive dust during the construction phases of the proposed project.

5.2 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Additional mitigation measures will include best management practices during construction to minimize or prevent erosion and soil loss. Vehicular traffic associated with engineering and operational support activities will remain on established roads to the maximum extent practicable. Areas with highly erodible soils will be given special consideration when designing the proposed project activities to ensure incorporation of various compaction techniques, aggregate materials, wetting compounds, and revegetation to ameliorate the subsequent soil erosion. Borrow materials, if required, will be obtained from established borrow pits or from approved on-site sources.

5.3 WATER RESOURCES

Standard construction procedures would be implemented to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation during construction activities. All work would cease during heavy rains and would not resume until conditions are suitable for the movement of equipment and material. Storage or staging sites would be located at least 0.50 miles from wildlife or livestock tanks or other permanent surface water bodies to reduce potential effects of accidental spills. Conservation measures would be implemented to preclude unnecessary waste of water supplies. Discharges of grey water and other wastes to drainages or other water courses/bodies will be prohibited. Portable latrines, provided and maintained by licensed contractors, would be used to the extent practicable during construction and operational support activities.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impacts to existing vegetation during construction activities will be minimized through avoidance. Disturbed sites would be utilized to the maximum extent practicable for construction and operational support activities. Additionally, attempts to minimize loss of vegetation may include: (1) trimming vegetation along roadsides rather than removing the entire plant; (2) requiring equipment to utilize road pullouts or other such disturbed areas; and (3) considering the possibility of revegetative efforts. Native seeds or plants which are compatible with the enhancement of

protected species will be used to the extent feasible, as required under Section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act.

5.5 NOISE

During the construction phase, noise impacts are anticipated at local human receptors. As required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), earplugs will be worn by employees working in environments with continuous noise levels of 8 hours per day above 90 dBA. Because of the increased noise sensitivity during quiet hours, time limits on on-site construction activities are warranted for grading and the use of heavy equipment. On-site activities will be restricted to daylight hours on Monday through Saturday, except in emergency situations, and only maintenance of equipment will be permitted on Sundays. Additionally, all construction equipment will possess properly working mufflers and be kept in a proper state of tune to reduce backfires. Implementation of these measures will reduce noise impacts to an insignificant level.

5.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Should any cultural resources be noted during construction activities, all work will cease immediately in the area and the State Historic Preservation Officer with the Texas Historical Commission will be notified immediately.

5.7 SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

With proper handling, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous and/or regulated materials there would be no significant adverse impacts to onsite workers and neighboring flora and fauna. To minimize potential impacts from hazardous and regulated materials, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein.

The refueling of machinery will be completed following accepted guidelines, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips. Although it would be unlikely for a major spill to occur, any spill of five gallons or more will be contained immediately within an earthen dike, and the application an absorbent (e.g., granular, pillow, sock, etc) will be used to absorb and contain the spill. Any major spill of a hazardous or regulated substance will be reported immediately to on-site environmental personnel who would notify appropriate Federal and State agencies.

Additionally, all personnel will be briefed on the correct procedures for prevention of and response to a spill. Adoption and full implementation of the construction measures described above will reduce adverse hazardous/regulated substances impacts to insignificant levels.

All waste oil and solvents will be recycled if practicable. All non-recyclable hazardous and regulated wastes will be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all Federal, State, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This chapter discusses consultation and coordination that occurred in the preparation of this document. This includes contacts made during development of the Proposed Action, elimination of alternatives, and writing of the EA. Formal and informal coordination has been conducted with the following agencies:

- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS);
- U.S. Border Patrol (USBP);
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Fort Worth District);
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD),
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Draft EA was made available for public review and letters of coordination can be found in Appendix D. Appendix E contains a copy of Public Notice/Notice of Availability.

7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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INS A-E Resource Center Point of Contact	Eric Verwers Program Manager and EA Review and Coordination
USBP Point of Contact	Charles A. Westbrook Supervisory USBP Agent Del Rio Sector
USBP	John G. Luck Special Agent; Anti-Smuggling Unit Del Rio Sector

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9.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AQI	Air Quality Index
AR	Army Regulation
ARNG	Army National Guard
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
C	Candidate
CA	California
CAA	Clean Air Act
CERL	Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Corrugated Metal Pipe
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
Cx	Categorical Exclusion
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DoD	Department of Defense
DOJ	Department of Justice
EA	Environmental Assessment
e.g.	for example
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FIFRA	Federal Insecticides, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	General Accounting Office
GPS	Global Positioning System
HC	Exhaust Hydrocarbons
HCHO	Aldehydes
HMTA	Hazardous Materials Transportation Act
Hz	Hertz
IIRIRA	Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IRT	Innovative Readiness Training
JTF-6	Joint Task Force Six
Ldn	Day/Night Noise Level
LE	Listed Endangered
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
LT	Long-term

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (CONT.)

MET	Meteorological
METL	Mission Essential Training List
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NDCS	National Drug Control Strategy
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	Native Plant Law
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWP	Nationwide Permit
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PL	Public Law
PM_{10}	Particulates
POE	Port of Entry
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REC	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
ROW	Right of Way
S	Sensitive
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SC	Species of Concern
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_x	Sulfur Oxides
ST	Short-term
TNRCC	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TX	Texas
UDA	Undocumented Alien
U.S.	United States of America
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USBP	United States Border Patrol
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Photo 1. View of proposed project area looking southwest from the northeast corner.

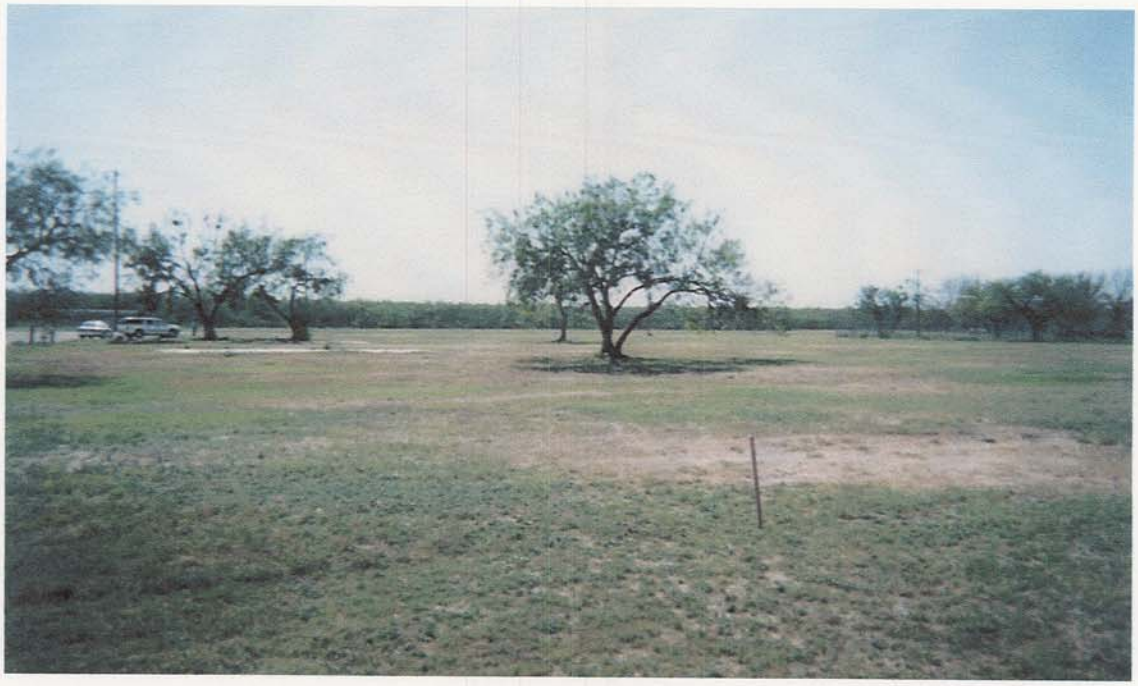

Photo 2. Site photograph taken from northeast corner looking southeast.

Photo 3. View of the concrete slabs found near the back (southeast side) of the property. Also visible are local Ham radio operators building and city baseball field on adjoining property.

Photo 4. Concrete structure located near northwest corner of subject property.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards*

Air Pollutant	Type Average	National Standards* of Primary[1] ($\mu g/m^3$)	Secondary[2] ($\mu g/m^3$)
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1-hr	40,000	---
	8-hr	10,000	---
Inhalable Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24-hr	150	---
	AAM[3]	50	---
Lead (Pb)	Calendar Quarter	1.5	---
	3-months		
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	AAM[3]	100	100
Ozone (O_3)	1-hr	235	235
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	30-min	---	---
	3-hr	---	1,300
	24-hr	365	---
	AAM[3]	80	---
Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSP)	1-hr	---	---
	3-hr	---	---
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	30-min	---	---
Sulfuric Acid (H_2SO_4)	1-hr	---	---
	24-hr	---	---
Inorganic Fluoride Compounds (as HF)	3-hr	---	---
	12-hr	---	---
	24-hr	---	---
	7-day	---	---
	30-day	---	---
Beryllium	24-hr	---	---
Other Hazardous and Odorous Pollutants	30-min	---	---
	AAM[3]	---	---

1 National Primary Standards establish the level of air quality necessary to protect the public health from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant, allowing a margin of safety to protect sensitive members of the population.

2 National Secondary Standards establish the level of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare by preventing injury to agricultural crops and livestock, deterioration of materials and property, and adverse impact on the environment.

3 Annual Arithmetic Mean.

4 If it affects a residential area, business, or commercial property.

5 If it affects only a property used for other than residential, recreational, business, or commercial purpose.

* Adapted from 40 CFR 50.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Endangered Species List

Back to Start

List of species by county for Texas:

Counties Selected: Tom Green

Select one or more counties from the following list to view a county list:

Anderson
Andrews
Angelina
Aransas
Archer

View County List

Tom Green County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Listing Status	More Info
black-capped vireo	*Vireo atricapillus*	E	
Concho water snake	*Nerodia paucimaculata*	T	
mountain plover	*Charadrius montanus*	PT	

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
ENDANGERED RESOURCES BRANCH
SPECIAL SPECIES LIST
TOM GREEN COUNTY

Revised:
98-03-27

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
*** BIRDS			
BUTEO ALBONOTATUS	ZONE-TAILED HAWK		T
FALCO PEREGRINUS	PEREGRINE FALCON	DL EXSA	E T
FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM	AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON	DL ~~EXSA~~	E
FALCO PEREGRINUS TUNDRIUS	ARCTIC PEREGRINE FALCON	DL ~~EXSA~~	T
GRUS AMERICANA	WHOOPING CRANE	LE	E
STERNA ANTILLARUM ATHALASSOS	INTERIOR LEAST TERN	LE	E
VIREO ATRICAPILLUS	BLACK-CAPPED VIREO	LE	E
*** FISHES			
MICROPTERUS TRECULI	GUADALUPE BASS		
*** REPTILES			
HOLBROOKIA LACERATA	SPOT-TAILED EARLESS LIZARD		
NERODIA PAUCIMACULATA	CONCHO WATER SNAKE	LT	DL ~~T~~ T
PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM	TEXAS HORNED LIZARD		
*** VASCULAR PLANTS			
ARGYTHAMNIA APHOROIDES	HILL COUNTRY WILD-MERCURY		

Codes:

- LE,LT - Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened
- PE,PT - Federally Proposed Endangered/Threatened
- E/SA,T/SA - Federally Endangered/Threatened by Similarity of Appearance
- C1 - Federal Candidate, Category 1; information supports proposing to list as endangered/threatened
- DL,PDL - Federally Delisted/Proposed Delisted
- E,T - State Endangered/Threatened

Species appearing on these lists do not all share the same probability of occurrence within a county. Some species are migrants or wintering residents only. Additionally, a few species may be historic or considered extirpated within a county. Species considered extirpated within the state are so flagged on each list. Each county's revised date reflects the last date any changes or revisions were made for that county, to reflect current listing statuses and taxonomy.

FAXED COPY FOR PADDY PATTERSON 817-886-6499

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

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

RECEIVED
JUL 13 2001
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

July 11, 2001

Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division

Subject: Notification of Environmental Assessments for the proposed projects for Immigration and Naturalization Service Proposed "Butler" building erection at sites in Eagle Pass and San Angelo, Texas

Texas Historical Commission
Archaeology Division
ATTN: Ms. Debra Beene
Capitol Station
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED
By _____
for F. Lawerance Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 7-18-01

Dear Ms. Beene:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Ft. Worth District, acting on behalf of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), is preparing environmental assessments for the proposed action of installing and using portable metal buildings within the compound of the U.S. Border Patrol Station at Eagle Pass, Texas and at a site on Mathis Field in San Angelo, Texas (see the enclosed illustrations).

The proposed action would involve minimal construction activities within two separate site areas that have been previously disturbed. Figure 1 shows the location of the Border Patrol Station in Eagle Pass. Figure 2 shows the location of the portable building to be placed at the edge of the "East Parking Lot", where now stands a condemned wooden building previously used for training. The metal building to be erected on already disturbed land is 60' x 67' x 12 feet. Copies of photographs of the existing building and the proposed project area are enclosed.

The proposed location of a 60' x 80' x 12 foot portable metal building to be erected on previously disturbed ground at Mathis Field in San Angelo, Texas is illustrated in Figure 3. That portable building is to be used by INS as an Anti-Smuggling Unit Station. Figure 4 shows the location of Mathis Field in San Angelo, Texas

Public Notice/Notice of Availability

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment for the construction of a new building to be utilized as office space for the United States Border (USBP) Patrol Del Rio Sector in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. This notice is being issued to interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Public Law 91-190, and regulations for implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to construct new office space for the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the USBP of the Del Rio Sector.

The EA is available for public inspection beginning February 1, 2002 and ending March 2, 2002. Comments will be accepted for the same 30-day period. The document is available for public viewing at the San Angelo Public Library located at 113 West Beauregard in San Angelo, Texas.

All questions and comments regarding the Environmental Assessment should be directed, in writing, to the following:

Ms. Patience Patterson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Attn: CESWF-EV-EE
Room 3A14
819 Taylor Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

For further information, contact the Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers, Technical Manager, Ms. Patience Patterson, at (817) 886-1723.