



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

January 6, 2011

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Mr. Joseph Zidron, Environmental Specialist
Laguna Facility Center
24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment for the Proposed U.S. Border Patrol Forward Operating Base in the Lower Animas Valley, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Zidron:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has received your correspondence, dated December 21, 2010, regarding scoping for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed U.S. Border Patrol Forward Operating Base in the Lower Animas Valley, Hidalgo County, New Mexico. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, our agency has identified areas of concern that should be addressed in the EA:

- listed, rare, and/or sensitive species within 2,000 meters of each alternative

Please note that the proposed project may be subject to other federal, state, and local regulations. Please see attached documentation. Thank you for your coordination and don't hesitate to contact John MacFarlane, of my staff, at 214-665-7491 or macfarlane.john@epa.gov should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "S" at the end.

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and
Coordination

Enclosure