

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA FIRE STATION**

Prepared for:

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FEMA Grant Number: EMW-FC-03351

On behalf of:

PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA
02 Dove Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

Prepared by:

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 254-1115

SWCA Project No. 16497

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
dB	decibel
DNL	Day-Night Average Sound Level
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMS	emergency medical services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAD	North American Datum
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Agency
NMCRIS	New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Pueblo	Pueblo of Santa Ana
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SWCA	SWCA Environmental Consultants
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USDA-NRCS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator

1.0 INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Sandoval County Fire Department submitted a grant application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grants and was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Grant Program Directorate for construction of a new fire station on Pueblo lands that would be managed, maintained, and operated by the Sandoval County Fire Department.

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA (44 CFR, Subpart B, Part 10.9); Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; and regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500–1508) provide guidance on the types of projects that must adhere to the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement or an EA. In general, the code states in part that NEPA analysis is required for the “modification or replacement of any facility that does not substantially conform to the preexisting design, function, and location.” The proposed project includes construction of a new facility on Pueblo lands, using federal funds. Therefore, FEMA has determined that the proposed project requires the completion of an EA.

To meet the provisions of NEPA and related regulations, SWCA Natural Resource Planner Coleman Burnett and SWCA Biologist Christopher London visited the two project areas on 21 April 2010.

1.1 PROJECT AUTHORITY

Funding for this project is authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through the Fire Station Construction Grant Program under application number EMW-2009-FC-03351.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area is on Pueblo land 0.56 kilometer (0.35 mile) north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 550 and Tamaya Boulevard in Sandoval County, New Mexico. The Alternative 2 project area is 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of desert scrubland and occurs within a previously disturbed yet undeveloped lot. The legal property description is the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 13 North, Range 3 East (Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2). Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates for the preferred project area are E 357293.703 and N 3911358.699 (North American Datum [NAD] 83) or 35°20'7.079"N latitude and 106°34'12.875"W longitude.

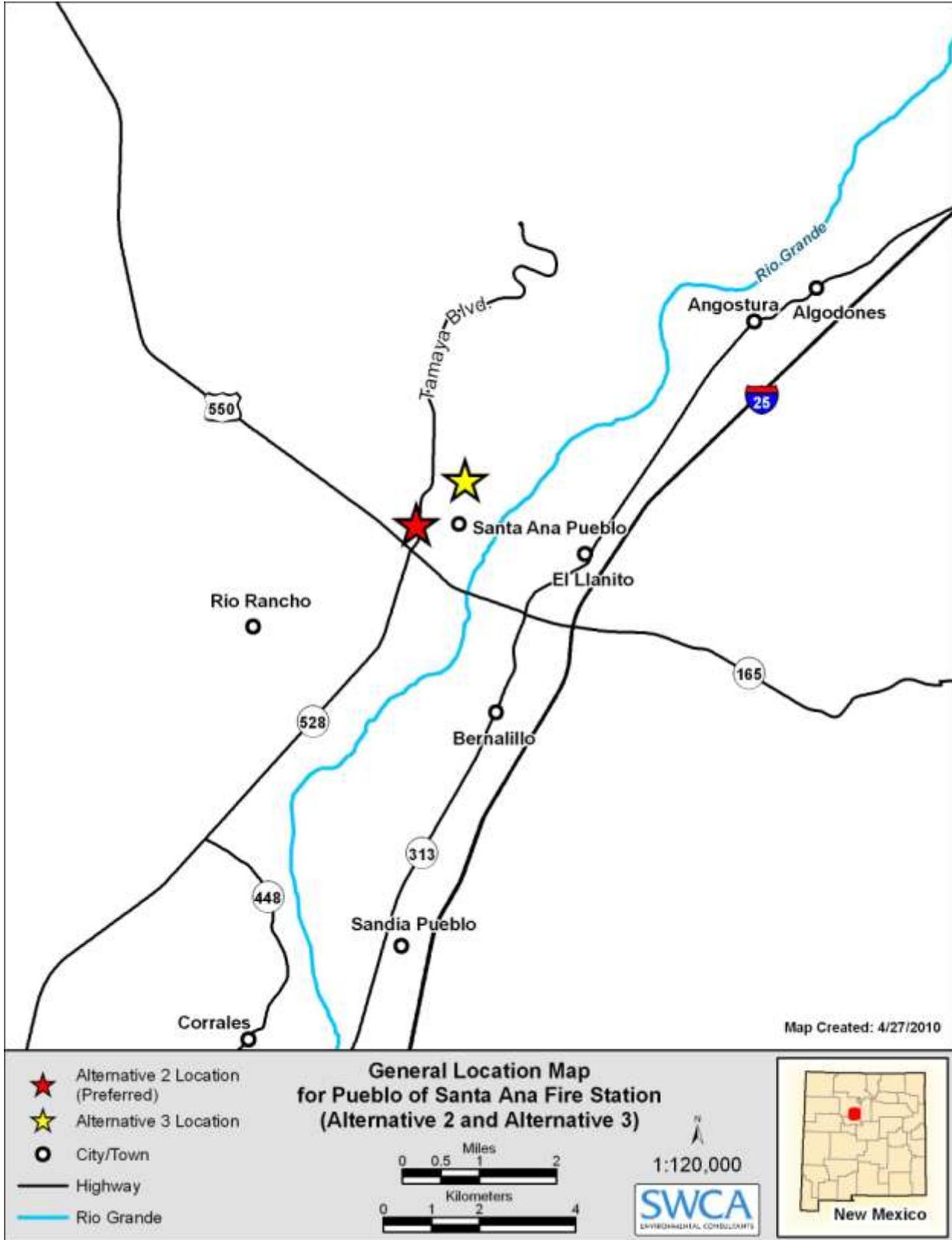


Figure 1.1. Project location.

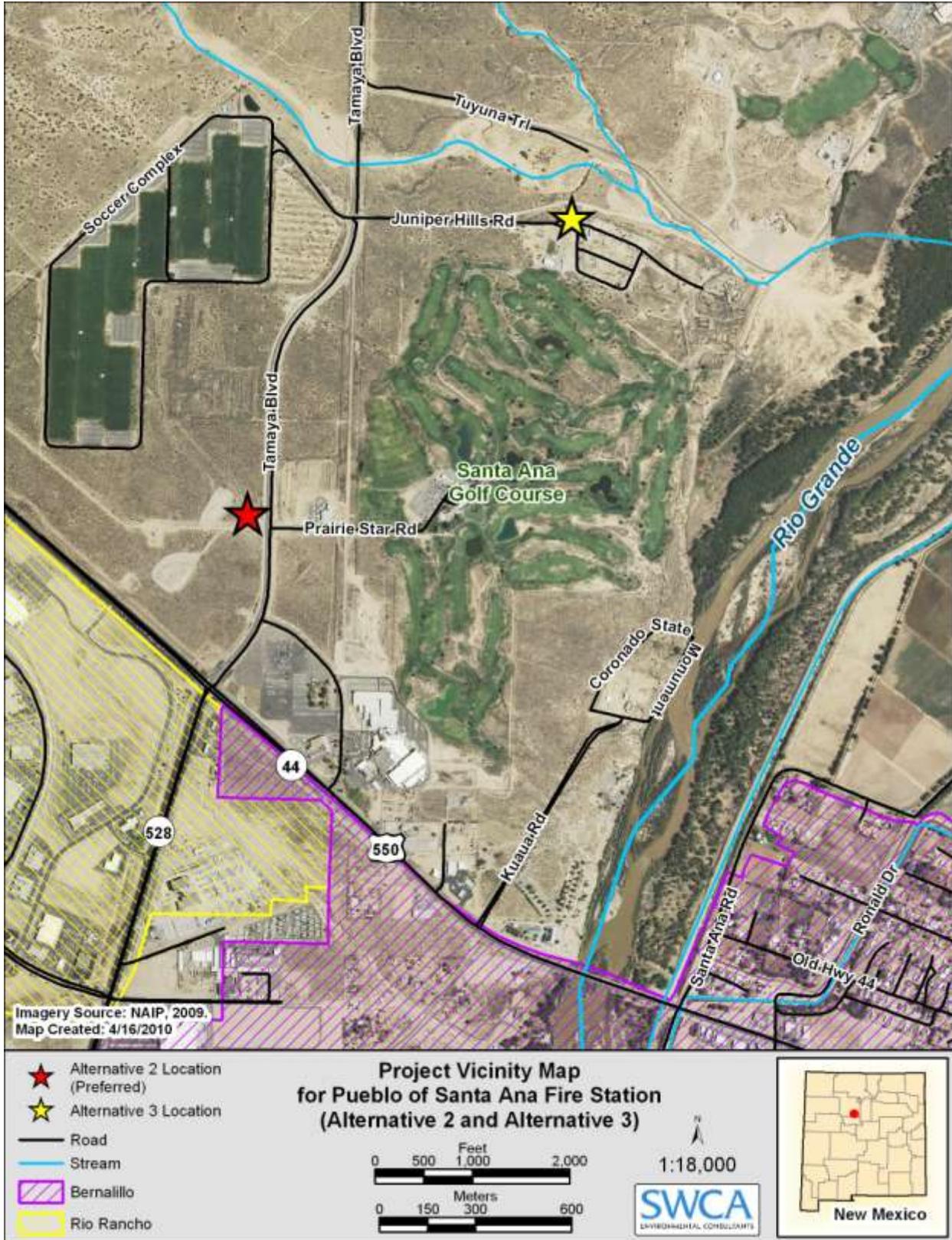


Figure 1.2. Project vicinity map.

The Alternative 3 project area is on Pueblo land 2.29 kilometers (1.42 miles) northeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 550 and Tamaya Boulevard. The Alternative 3 project area is 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of desert scrubland. This site is currently the location of the temporary Pueblo fire substation, and exhibits a large two bay steel building, a mobile home, multiple abandoned utility lines and outlets, paved parking areas, and disturbed habitat. The legal property description is the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 13 North, Range 4 East (see Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2). UTM coordinates for the alternative project area are E 358404.519 and N 3912194.353 (NAD 83) or 35°20'34.76"N latitude and 106°33'29.406"W longitude.

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the new fire station is to provide a permanent response location for Sandoval County Fire District 1, which includes the Pueblo, the town of Bernalillo, the community of Placitas, Interstate 25, and the rural portion of southern Sandoval County north of U.S. Highway 550. The project is needed because the current fire station on the Pueblo is in a small, temporary building 2.29 kilometers (1.42 miles) from the main access highway, U.S. Highway 550. In the current situation, the temporary fire station lacks enough space for housing emergency response personnel, does not meet the current building codes, and does not have access to proper utilities necessary for emergency operations.

1.4 IMPACT TOPICS INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Seventeen issues are considered for evaluation and determined to be either potentially significant or not significant (Table 1.1). Potentially significant impacts are defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the Proposed Action alternatives, and evaluations of environmental consequences are carried out through this analysis.

Table 1.1. Summary of the Affected Environments and Mitigation Measures

Affected Environment	Findings	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Geology, Seismicity, and Soils (See Section 3.1.1)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Construction of the fire station would result in the disturbance of 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of soil. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Construction of the fire station would result in the disturbance of 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of soil.	The Pueblo will develop a Stormwater Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) prior to construction at either project area (see Section 5.1).
Water Resources and Water Quality (See Section 3.1.2)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Short-term water quality impacts could occur from erosion on 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of disturbed soil. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Short-term water quality impacts could occur from erosion on 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of disturbed soil.	The Pueblo will develop a SWPPP prior to construction at either project area (see Section 5.1).
Floodplain Management (See Section 3.1.3)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : The project area does not occur in a floodplain. <u>Alternative 3</u> : The project area does not occur in a floodplain.	N/A

Table 1.1. Summary of the Affected Environments and Mitigation Measures, continued

Affected Environment	Findings	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Air Resources and Air Quality (See Section 3.1.4)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Small temporary increase in particulate matter and a minimal decline in local air quality. Minor long-term impacts from exhaust emissions. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Small temporary increase in particulate matter and a minimal decline in local air quality. Minor long-term impacts from exhaust emissions.	Revegetation of the disturbed soils and regular watering of disturbed areas and roadways will be conducted during construction (see Section 5.2).
Terrestrial Environment (See Section 3.2.1)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Local removal of native upland plant species from 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres). <u>Alternative 3</u> : Local removal of native upland plant species from 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres).	Revegetation of remaining disturbed area will be conducted using native grasses (see Section 5.1)
Wetlands (See Section 3.2.2)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Wetlands do not occur within or adjacent to the project area. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Wetlands do not occur within or adjacent to the project area.	N/A
Threatened and Endangered Species (See Section 3.2.3)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : No impacts to federal listed species. <u>Alternative 3</u> : No impacts to federal listed species.	N/A
Hazardous Materials (See Section 3.3)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : No evidence of storage of hazardous waste or spills. <u>Alternative 3</u> : No evidence of storage of hazardous waste or spills.	N/A
Socioeconomics (See Section 3.4)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Minimal positive impacts resulting from housing of emergency response students. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Minimal positive impacts resulting from housing of emergency response students.	N/A
Zoning and Land Use (See Section 3.5)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : No conflict with zoning or land use. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Long-term conflict with zoning or land use due to lack of permanent agreement with the Pueblo.	N/A
Visual Resources (See Section 3.6)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Minimal impacts from the presence of the fire station. <u>Alternative 3</u> : No change to viewshed due to current location of the temporary substation.	The new fire station will be designed to blend in with the surrounding environment (see Section 5.3).
Noise (See Section 3.7)	<u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u> : Short-term impacts from construction activities. Long-term impacts from fire station operations and equipment sirens. <u>Alternative 3</u> : Short term impacts from construction activities. Long-term impacts from fire station operations and equipment sirens.	Construction will take place between 6am and 7pm to minimize impacts of noise to local residents and commercial businesses (see Section 5.4)

Table 1.1. Summary of the Affected Environments and Mitigation Measures, continued

Affected Environment	Findings	Recommended Mitigation Measures
Public Services and Utilities (See Section 3.8)	<p><u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u>: Improvement to emergency response time by two minutes. Minor impacts to utilities due to expansion of services for new fire station. Emergency response services would improve.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3</u>: No change to emergency response times compared to the No Action Alternative. Minor impacts to utilities due to expansion of services for new fire station. Emergency response services would improve.</p>	No mitigation measures are necessary for impacts to public services and utilities.
Traffic and Circulation (See Section 3.9)	<p><u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u>: Short-term impacts to traffic due to construction activities. Long-term periodic disruptions to traffic flow due to emergency response activities.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3</u>: Short-term impacts to traffic due to construction activities. Long-term periodic disruptions to traffic flow due to emergency response activities.</p>	The installation of a flashing signals and warning signs are planned for Tamaya Boulevard and at the access points from either Prairie Star Drive (for Alternative 2) or Juniper Hills Loop (Alternative 3) (see Section 5.5).
Environmental Justice (See Section 3.10)	<p><u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u>: No disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3</u>: No disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations.</p>	N/A
Safety and Security (See Section 3.11)	<p><u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u>: Emergency response time would be improved by two minutes to the intersection of US 550 and NM 528. Short-term safety risks would occur during construction phase.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3</u>: No change in the emergency response time when compared with the No Action Alternative. Short-term safety risks would occur during construction phase.</p>	All construction activities will be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. The project area will be thoroughly secured with fencing to prevent access during and after construction (see Section 5.6).
Cultural Resources (See Section 3.12)	<p><u>Alternative 2 (Preferred)</u>: No expected impacts to cultural resources.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3</u>: No expected impacts to cultural resources.</p>	Construction will be halted if any archeological deposits are found during the project and the contractor will consult with the Pueblo and FEMA (see Section 5.7).

2.0 ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

This section describes the alternatives that have been considered in the development of this EA. The No Action Alternative must always be considered in the EA process. An EA often addresses two or more “action” alternatives; in this case two action alternatives would result in the construction of a new fire station. Only one reasonable action alternative would facilitate the improvements and minimize the environmental impacts to the surrounding area. This action is designated Alternative 2 or the Preferred Alternative.

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative would maintain the temporary fire substation on Juniper Hills Road. This facility consists of a mobile home that serves as the substation office within an old mobile home park. The current substation consists of a temporary two-bay garage that houses the emergency response vehicles. The facility does not allow for proper housing of emergency response personnel nor does it meet current building codes. The roads and utilities have not been improved to provide the optimum electricity and water pressure necessary for a permanent fire station. The current location is covered by a short-term lease with the Pueblo’s corporate entity, Southern Sandoval Investments. Currently, there are no plans to renew the short-term lease.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – FIRE STATION LOCATED ON TAMAYA BOULEVARD (PREFERRED)

The Pueblo proposes to construct a new fire station on Tamaya Boulevard, approximately 0.56 kilometer (0.35 mile) north of the intersection with U.S. Highway 550. The area of disturbance for the proposed fire station is approximately 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) and would include direct access to Tamaya Boulevard along approximately 95 meters (312 feet) of an improved section of Prairie Star Road (Figure 2.1). Two access driveways would be constructed on the south side of the fire station from the improved section of Prairie Star Road. Approximately 3,500 square meters (37,673 square feet) of pavement would be placed for driveways and parking areas, including 25 parking spaces. Each parking space would be constructed with 9 × 20-foot dimensions, and two spaces would be reserved for handicap accessibility. A total of 418 square meters (4,500 square feet) would be reserved for parking.

The footprint of the fire station would be 1,215 square meters (13,074 square feet). The building would house two medic units, one 23-meter (75-foot) ladder truck, one 2,000-gallon water tender, one 500-gallon squad engine, one brush truck, one multiple casualty incident trailer, and one training trailer. The fire station would also be large enough to house six emergency response personnel, including emergency response trainees.

Construction activities would include removing the top 15 to 20 centimeters (6–8 inches) of vegetative surface within the project area. Heavy construction activities include installing the station’s foundation; connecting new water, sewer, and gas line; and grading the project area. Maximum trench depths for utility lines would be 3.4 meters (11 feet), and maximum grading cuts would be 2.1 meters (7 feet). Erosion control fences or wattles would be placed along the edges of the construction site to minimize sediment movement off site. Finally, straw blankets

and native landscaping would be installed following completion of construction for soil stabilization. Construction equipment used on site would include an excavator, backhoe, and tracked bulldozer. Construction is estimated to take place over a period of 10 to 12 months.

The Preferred Alternative would require minimal disturbance to access the Pueblo's utilities, including the sewer line along Tamaya Boulevard, access to three-phase electricity along Prairie Star Road, and 60 to 80 pounds of water pressure from the nearby water pump station also located on Prairie Star Road.

Southern Sandoval Investments, a corporate entity of the Pueblo, has entered into a long-term lease agreement with Sandoval County for the Preferred Alternative location. The lease agreement was signed in June 2009 and includes a 25-year term.

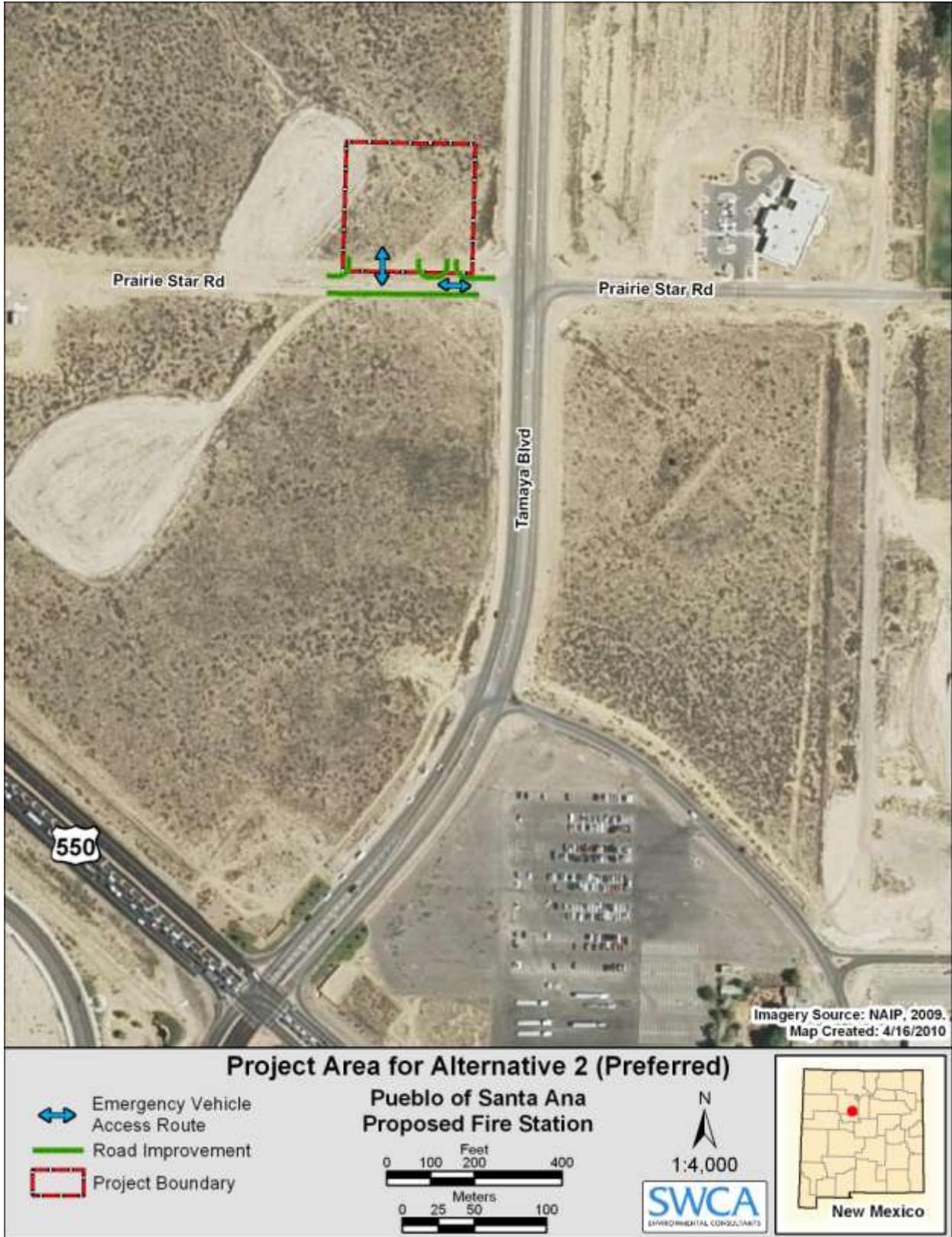


Figure 2.1. Alternative 2 (Preferred) location.

2.3 ALTERNATIVE 3 – FIRE STATION LOCATED ON JUNIPER HILLS ROAD

Alternative 3 would locate the fire station approximately 0.69 kilometer (0.43 mile) east of the intersection of Tamaya Boulevard and Juniper Hills Road. This project location would be 2.29 kilometers (1.42 miles) from the intersection of Tamaya Boulevard and U.S. Highway 550, which is the main access point for the Sandoval County Fire District 1 service area. Under this alternative, the fire station would be located at the site of the current, temporary fire substation. The Alternative 3 project area would be within the boundaries of a previously occupied mobile home park, which contains the old utility lines that served the individual dwellings.

Similar to the Preferred Alternative, the proposed fire station would be approximately 1.5 hectare (3.7 acres); however, Alternative 3 would also require an additional 0.8 hectare (1.9 acres) of project area in order to improve Juniper Hills Road for ingress and egress of the emergency response vehicles. The total project area for Alternative 3 is 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) (Figure 2.2).

The station's specifications would be the same as the Preferred Alternative. The footprint of the fire station would be 1,215 square meters (13,074 square feet). The building would house two medic units, one 23-meter (75-foot) ladder truck, one 2,000-gallon water tender, one 500-gallon squad engine, one brush truck, one multiple casualty incident trailer, and one training trailer. The fire station would also be large enough to house six emergency response personnel, including emergency response trainees.

Access to utilities would require additional construction activities in order to bring new sewer service, improved water pressure, and three-phase electricity to the project area. The temporary substation is connected to an old septic leach field, which was originally constructed for the mobile home park. The new fire station would need access to sewer and improved water services through two separate 0.6-kilometer (0.4-mile) connections to the main water and sewer lines on Tamaya Boulevard. Three-phase electricity would be extended approximately 78 meters (255 feet) from the nearest power pole. In addition to utility connections, Juniper Hills Road would need to be improved to allow for efficient ingress and egress of the emergency response vehicles.

Construction activities would include removing the top 15 to 20 centimeters (6 to 8 inches) of vegetative surface within the project area. Heavy construction activities include removing and capping existing domestic utility lines associated with the previous mobile home park; installing the station's foundation; upgrading water, sewer, and gas lines; and grading the project area. Maximum trench depths for utilities lines would be 3.9 meters (13 feet), and maximum grading cuts would be 2.7 meters (9 feet). Approximately 0.6 kilometer (0.4 mile) of Juniper Hills Road would need to be improved for adequate ingress and egress by emergency response vehicles. Erosion control fences or wattles would be placed along the edges of the construction site to minimize sediment movement off site. Finally, straw blankets and native landscaping would be installed following completion of construction for soil stabilization. Construction equipment used on site would include an excavator, backhoe, and tracked bulldozer.

Construction is estimated to take place over a period of 13 to 15 months. There is no lease agreement established with Southern Sandoval Investments for the Alternative 3 location.



Figure 2.2. Alternative 3 location.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The physically impacted area includes the immediate area where construction of the fire station would occur, as well as the access roads for each alternative. This would include 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) for Alternative 2 and 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) for Alternative 3.

The following subsections describe the affected environment on the physical project site, including social and economic groups as appropriate.

3.1 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Both the Alternative 2 (Preferred) and the Alternative 3 project areas are located on the southern boundary of the Pueblo at an elevation of approximately 1,580 meters (5,184 feet). The project areas occur within Pueblo lands in the Middle Rio Grande valley of central New Mexico. East of the project areas are the Sandia Mountains and the Rio Grande, which bisects the state from north to south. The project area falls within Sandoval County, adjacent to the communities of Bernalillo and Rio Rancho.

The Preferred Alternative project area is relatively flat, sloping slightly from northwest to southeast and is made up of short grass steppe that has undergone some past disturbance. The site is bound to the north and west by undeveloped land, to the east by Tamaya Boulevard, and to the south by Prairie Star Road.

The Alternative 3 project area is the site of the temporary fire substation and is near the intersection of Juniper Hills Road and Juniper Hills Loop. The site contains a large two-bay steel building, a mobile home, multiple abandoned utility lines and outlets, paved parking areas, and disturbed habitat. The Alternative 3 site also has some stockpiled steel pieces and refuse scattered about the area.

Both alternatives are located on previously disturbed land surrounded by other vacant lots and/or recreational land uses.

3.1.1 GEOLOGY, SEISMICITY, AND SOILS

Both Alternative 2 (Preferred) and Alternative 3 are in the Rio Grande subsection of the Basin and Range Physiographic Province (Williams 1986). The land flanking the Rio Grande Basin on the east is predominantly mountainous, with colluvial-alluvial fans and stream terraces sloping westward toward the Rio Grande. West of the river, the ancestral Rio Grande has deposited deep alluvium among uplifted isolated mountains and volcanoes. The river channel flows in a wide valley with a fertile but narrow floodplain (3.2–4.8 kilometers [2–3 miles] wide) that has been cultivated for centuries (Williams 1986).

Historically, the Rio Grande has continuously changed its course, redistributing sediments in the floodplain. However, since the mid twentieth century, constriction and channel stabilization projects have altered the course of the river.

Both the Alternative 2 (Preferred) and Alternative 3 project areas fall within the Sheppard loamy fine sand soil unit, which has a deep profile and is somewhat excessively drained. The soil has a high capacity to transmit water with no potential for flooding or ponding (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service [USDA-NRCS] 2010a). Site subsurface tests have revealed the soils to be fine to medium grained with some coarse grains (Vineyard and Associates, Inc. 2009).

In general, soil hydrology and infiltration rates are satisfactory at both sites, and the potential for soil consolidation (collapse) is limited. Sub-grade soils are only slightly collapsible if allowed to increase in moisture content, which can be overcome by grading the site to drain water away from structures (Vineyard and Associates, Inc. 2009).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) coverage under a general construction permit for construction projects that would result in the disturbance of one or more acres of total land area. A notice of intent must be filed 60 days prior to the initiation of construction activities, and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be completed and kept at the project site.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to geological features or local soils since the fire station would not be constructed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would have no impacts to geological features and a minimal local effect on topography since the construction of the fire station would only slightly change the elevation of an area approximately 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) in size. Construction activities would be relatively shallow and restricted to those activities associated with grading and installation of the underground utilities. Construction would result in surface soil disturbance of approximately 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres). Excavated soil and waste materials would be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Based on calculations, an SWPPP would need to be prepared for this alternative.

Alternative 3 would have no impacts to the geological features of the area and a minimal local effect on topography since construction would be carried out on an existing structure in an already disturbed area. The expansion of the existing property would result in the initial soil disturbance of approximately 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres). Excavated soil and waste materials would be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Based on calculations, an SWPPP would need to be prepared for this alternative.

3.1.2 WATER RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY

The project area is within the Middle Rio Grande watershed. The Rio Grande, whose headwaters originate in Colorado, is approximately 1.5 kilometers (0.9 mile) southeast of the project site. This portion of the Rio Grande basin is rural with a mixture of point source and non-point source discharges from municipal, industrial, commercial, and agricultural sources. Water quality assessments conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED 2004) document impairments of the New Mexico water quality standards for dissolved aluminum and E. coli. The

Middle Rio Grande watershed is also listed on the 2008–2010 State of New Mexico Clean Water Act list of impaired water bodies with fecal coliform identified as a pollutant of concern. A summary of the 2006–2008 impairments lists the Alameda Bridge to Angostura Diversion as impaired for fecal coliform and Ambient Bioassays - Acute and Chronic Aquatic Toxicity (NMED 2009). This is attributed to impervious surface/parking lot runoff, municipal areas, municipal point source discharges, and on-site treatment systems. The state’s total maximum daily loads do not apply to Pueblo waters, but the tests at the nearby Angostura Diversion may be considered indicative of tribal water quality concerns for the reach.

The Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area slopes slightly from northwest to southeast, with slopes of 3% to 8% and surface elevation varying from approximately 1,583 to 1,578 meters (5,195–5,180 feet). Surface water during storm events appears to flow to the southeast. There is no standing surface water on the property.

The Alternative 3 project area has slopes of 3% to 8% trending downwards to the east-northeast, with elevations ranging from 1,575 to 1,570 meters (5,168–5,154 feet). The north-northeast side of the project area is near an arroyo that terminates in a ponded area 1.05 kilometers (0.65 mile) off of the project site. The arroyo does experience intermittent high flows but does not drain directly to the Rio Grande.

Both Alternative 2 (Preferred) and Alternative 3 overlie the Rio Grande aquifer system, which consists of a network of hydraulically interconnected aquifers in basin-fill deposits located along the Rio Grande valley (New Mexico Office of Natural Resource Trustees 2009). Most recharge to the aquifer primarily originates as precipitation in the mountainous areas surrounding the basin, occurring predominantly as “mountain-front recharge” (Robson and Banta 1995). Much of the precipitation that falls in the Rio Grande valley is lost to evaporation and transpiration, and little percolates to a depth sufficient to recharge the basin-fill aquifers (Robson and Banta 1995). During testing of the project area, groundwater levels and bedrock have been found to exceed 6.4 meters (21 feet), the maximum depth of exploration (Vineyard and Associates, Inc. 2009); groundwater may change with time in response to precipitation, and regional variations in groundwater usage. Groundwater withdrawal from wells and drains remote from the Rio Grande has caused long-term water level decline in some parts of the aquifer system; however, groundwater withdrawal from wells close to the Rio Grande, like that of the proposed project, generally do not cause long-term water level decline in the aquifer.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would have minimal long-term impacts to water quality if the current septic system for the temporary substation is not upgraded. The septic system and leach field would continue to age, thereby contributing to a decline in local groundwater quality.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in minimal and temporary impacts to surface water resources immediately adjacent to the project area. Short-term water quality impacts may result if high-intensity rainstorms occur during construction when soil is exposed and erosion occurs. A total of 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of soil would be exposed and contribute to increased suspended sediments in water runoff from the project area. The project area is more than 1.5 kilometers (0.9 mile) from the river; therefore, impacts to water quality of the Rio

Grande are expected to be negligible. Best Management Practices would be required at the construction location to mitigate erosion, which would include the use of silt fences and revegetation of bare soils; native grass seed and landscaping would be used to rehabilitate the area. No long-term impacts to surface water resources are expected.

Compared to the No Action Alternative, 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of exposed soil would impact the Rio Grande during the construction phase of the Preferred Alternative. The applicant would be required to prepare an SWPPP.

Construction activities to implement the Preferred Alternative would not reach a sufficient depth to impact groundwater.

Alternative 3 would result in minimal and temporary impacts to surface water resources immediately adjacent to the project area. Short-term water quality impacts may result if high-intensity rainstorms occur during construction when soil is exposed and erosion occurs. A total of 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of soil would be exposed and contribute to increased suspended sediments in water runoff from the project area. The project area is more than 1.2 kilometers (0.7 mile) from the river; therefore, impacts to the water quality of the Rio Grande are expected to be negligible. Seasonal runoff channeled through the dry arroyo to the northern edge of the property is restricted by ponding at the arroyo's eastern terminus. Best Management Practices would be required at the construction location to mitigate erosion, which would include the use of silt fences and revegetation of bare soils; native grass seed would be used to rehabilitate the area. No long-term impacts to surface water resources are expected.

Compared to the No Action Alternative, 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of soil would be exposed that could possibly impact the Rio Grande watershed in the event of high-intensity storms during the construction phase of Alternative 3. The applicant would be required to prepare an SWPPP.

Construction activities to implement Alternative 3 would not reach a sufficient depth to impact groundwater.

3.1.3 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

SWCA has conducted a review of the most recent FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the proposed project areas. Alternative 2 is covered by map number 35043C1904D, and Alternative 3 is covered by map number 35043C1908D. Both maps became effective on 18 March 2008. The maps confirm that the project areas for Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 are located in Zone X, which is an area determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain (Appendix A).

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to floodplains since the fire station would not be constructed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in no impacts to floodplains since the project area does not occur in a floodplain.

Alternative 3 would result in no impacts to floodplains since the project area does not occur in a floodplain.

3.1.4 AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

The Clean Air Act and its amendments require the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment (Public Laws 88-206, 90-148, 91-604, 95-95, and 101-549). The act also allows states to adopt additional ambient air quality standards. The State of New Mexico's ambient air quality standards are more stringent for primary pollutants than the federal NAAQS. Although the NMED Air Quality Bureau does not conduct any regional air quality monitoring, Sandoval County has been classified by the EPA as an "attainment area," which means that ambient air quality meets the standards of the levels set in the NAAQS (NMED 2010).

The project area is within the Albuquerque-Mid Rio Grande Interstate Air Quality Control Region. The closest Class I airshed is 56 kilometers (35 miles) away in the Bandelier National Monument in the Santa Fe National Forest (NMED 2010). A Class I airshed applies to large wilderness areas and national parks that require the highest level of protection under the Clean Air Act.

According to the Western Regional Climate Center (2010), the normal annual precipitation for the Pueblo averaged 22.58 centimeters (8.89 inches) for the period of 1895 to 1982. The average maximum temperature for the area is 22.1 degrees Celsius (°C) (71.7 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]), and the average minimum temperature is 3°C (37.4°F) (Western Regional Climate Center 2010).

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to local air quality since no construction would be needed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would entail the construction of the fire station, which would result in a minor temporary increase in small particulate matter and a minimal decline in air quality, particularly during periods of active construction accompanied by high winds. There would be a negligible short-term (temporary) degradation of local air quality due to dust generated by construction activities and emissions from construction equipment. Under Alternative 2, 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of soil would be exposed and could contribute to decreased air quality during construction. These short-term effects would last only as long as the estimated 10- to 12-month construction period.

Alternative 3 would entail the construction of the fire station, which would result in a minor temporary increase in small particulate matter and a minimal decline in air quality, particularly during periods of active construction accompanied by high winds. There would be a negligible short-term (temporary) degradation of local air quality due to dust generated by construction activities and emissions from construction equipment. Under Alternative 3, 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of soil would be exposed and could contribute to decreased air quality during construction. These short-term effects would last only as long as the estimated 13- to 15-month construction period.

3.2 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

3.2.1 TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation in the project areas and vicinity are representative of a disturbed urban community in west-central New Mexico within the Plains-Mesa grassland/semiarid tablelands classification (Dick-Peddie 1993).

Native plants observed during the field visit of the Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area include the following: silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Adonis blazing star (*Mentzelia multiflora*), net-cup snapdragon vine (*Maurandya wislizeni*), broom dalea (*Psoralea scorparius*), narrowleaf globemallow (*Sphaeralcea angustifolia*), woolly plantain (*Plantago patagonica*), tarragon (*Artemisia dracuncululus*), panamint catseye (*Cryptantha angustifolia*), spectacle pod (*Dimorphocarpa wilizenii*), cutleaf viper grass (*Scorzonera laciniata*), biennial woollywhite (*Hymenopappus biennis*), scorpionweed (*Phacelia integrifolia*), long-spined purple prickly pear (*Opuntia macrocentra*), buffalograss (*Bouteloua dactyloides*), and broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*). Non-native plants identified during the survey are prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tall fescue (*Schedonorus phoenix*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*) (USDA-NRCS 2010b).

No wildlife was observed at the Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area.

Native plants observed during the field visit of the Alternative 3 project area include the following: silverleaf nightshade, scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*), fourwing saltbush, scorpionweed, hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), spectacle pod, broom dalea, flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*), and broom snakeweed. Non-native plants identified during the survey are prickly Russian thistle, tall fescue, Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), ornamental iris (*Iris sp.*), ornamental poplar (*Populus sp.*), ornamental juniper (*Juniperus sp.*), hare barley (*Hordeum leporinum*), and cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) (USDA-NRCS 2010b).

Wildlife seen during the site visit to the Alternative 3 project area include several house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), ground squirrel (*Spermophilus sp.*), and black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*).

Other mammals that may occur in the project vicinity include coyote (*Canis latrans*) and a variety of small rodents (Biota Information System of New Mexico 2010). Amphibians and reptiles that could be found in the area include red-spotted toad (*Bufo punctatus*), spadefoot toad (*Spea sp.*), New Mexico whiptail lizard (*Aspidoscelis neomexicana*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), gopher snake (*Pituophis sp.*), and whipsnake (*Masticophis sp.*). Bird species that may be present in the vicinity include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), greater roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*).

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to the terrestrial environment since construction of the fire station would not occur.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would remove approximately 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) of upland vegetation due to the construction of the fire station. This would result in a minimal long-term impact to wildlife due to habitat loss. Disturbance resulting from the construction could result in exposed soil that may be more prone to infestation from exotic plant species. Proper landscaping of the fire station would be undertaken to ensure invasive species do not become established.

Alternative 3 would remove approximately 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of upland vegetation due to the construction of the fire station and related road improvements along Juniper Hills Road. This would result in a larger long-term impact to wildlife due to habitat loss compared to Alternative 2 (Preferred). Disturbance resulting from the construction could result in exposed soil that may be more prone to infestation from exotic plant species. Proper landscaping of the fire station would be undertaken to ensure invasive species do not become established.

3.2.2 WETLANDS

Wetland field surveys of the Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 project locations were conducted on 21 April 2010. Neither project area had any signs of wetlands within or adjacent to the project areas.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to wetlands since the fire station would not be constructed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in no impacts to wetlands since the project area does not intersect and is not adjacent to any wetlands.

Alternative 3 would result in no impacts to wetlands since the project area does not intersect and is not adjacent to any wetlands.

3.2.3 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

SWCA has obtained and evaluated federal and state threatened and endangered species and state species of concern lists for Sandoval County for likelihood of occurrence or habitat suitability within the project areas (Appendix B). Of the seven federally listed threatened and endangered species in Sandoval County, none of the listed species are likely to be present within the project area. SWCA also consulted the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's (New Mexico Administrative Code 1995) list of rare or federally listed plants that are protected from collection, transplant, or destruction without regulation in New Mexico. None of these species were observed in the construction area during the survey.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to any listed species since the disturbance of habitat associated with the construction of the fire station would not occur.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in no impacts to threatened and endangered species because there is no suitable habitat for federally or state protected species at the Alternative 2 project area.

Alternative 3 would result in no impacts to threatened and endangered species because there is no suitable habitat for federally or state protected species at the Alternative 3 project area.

3.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act defines hazardous materials as substances or materials that when transported in commerce may create a risk to health, safety, and property (49 CFR 171.8). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act includes hazardous wastes (under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act), hazardous air pollutants (under the Clean Air Act), hazardous chemical substance or mixtures (under the Toxic Substance Control Act), and substances that may present substantial danger to public health (42 United States Code 9601).

SWCA has observed no evidence of hazardous waste spills or other soil contamination at the Alternative 2 (Preferred) or the Alternative 3 project areas, and the proposed project plans involve no storage of hazardous waste at either site.

Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative would result in no hazardous materials impacts because construction of the fire station would not occur.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in no hazardous material impacts. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Alternative 3 would result in no hazardous material impacts. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

3.4 SOCIOECONOMICS

The permanent population of the Pueblo, as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau (2000), is 479 with a median age of the residents at 28.5 years. The median household income in 2000 was \$45,179, which is slightly higher than the New Mexico median of \$41,509. The median value of owner-occupied residences was \$58,300, which is substantially lower than the New Mexico median of \$108,100.

The town of Bernalillo, also served by the new fire station, had a population of 6,611 in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). The median household income in Bernalillo in 2000 was \$30,864, which is lower than the New Mexico median of \$41,509.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to socioeconomic resources.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in minimal positive impacts to socioeconomic resources within the service area. The Sandoval County Fire Department does not expect to immediately hire any new staff upon completion of the new fire station because the permanent facility would be replacing a temporary substation on the Pueblo that is fully staffed. However, new staff may be hired over time (Jon Tibbetts, Sandoval County Fire Chief, personal communication with Coleman Burnett, SWCA, 29 April 2010). The new facility would house up to four emergency response students that would be enrolled in courses at the Central New Mexico Community College and gain on-the-job experience at the fire station.

Alternative 3 would result in the same socioeconomic impacts as Alternative 2.

3.5 ZONING AND LAND USE

The current and future land use for the project vicinity is defined by the 99-year Master Business Lease between the Pueblo and the Pueblo's corporate entity, Southern Sandoval Investments. The construction of the fire station on Pueblo lands would necessitate a long-term lease agreement between both parties to authorize the new land use. As such, the Sandoval County Fire Department has signed a long-term lease agreement with Southern Sandoval Investments for the Alternative 2 (Preferred) location.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would impact Pueblo zoning and land use because the current temporary fire station is authorized under a short-term lease agreement. Currently, there are no plans to renew or extend the short-term lease agreement.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would not impact Pueblo zoning or land use because the long-term lease agreement between the Sandoval County Fire Department and Southern Sandoval Investments has been finalized.

Alternative 3 would result in a long-term impact to the Pueblo's zoning and land use because the Alternative 3 location is not authorized by Southern Sandoval Investments. A long-term lease agreement between Sandoval County Fire Department and Southern Sandoval Investments would need to be negotiated to mitigate impacts to the current zoning and land use for the project area.

3.6 VISUAL RESOURCES

The Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area is currently in an area of disturbed ground near the Pueblo's groundwater pump station and unsurfaced roads. To the northwest of the site is a soccer

complex and to the east is the Santa Ana Golf Course. There are no residential properties adjacent to the proposed site. Vacant land is the predominant feature of the viewshed (Figure 3.1).

The Alternative 3 site currently houses the temporary fire substation. On the site is a large two-bay steel building, a mobile home, multiple abandoned utility lines and outlets, paved parking areas, and disturbed habitat (Figure 3.2). South of the site is the Santa Ana Pueblo Golf Course, and the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort lies 1.07 kilometers (0.67 mile) to the northeast (Figure 3.3).



Figure 3.1. View from the south edge of Alternative 2 project area facing north.



Figure 3.2. View of temporary fire substation at the Alternative 3 project area.



Figure 3.3. View from southwest side of Alternative 3 project area facing east.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no new impacts to visual resources since the temporary substation fire station would be maintained.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in some minor temporary impairment of the area's visual resources during construction and then a permanent new feature in the viewshed, taking up 1,215 square meters (13,074 square feet). The structure would be within the viewshed of individuals traveling along New Mexico Highway 528 and U.S. Highway 550. The fire station would be designed to blend in with the local architecture.

Alternative 3 would result in some minor temporary impairment of the area's visual resources during construction and then a permanent new feature in the viewshed, taking up 1,215 square meters (13,074 square feet). The existing structure is a temporary building that was not designed to blend in with the landscape. The proposed fire station would be designed to follow more traditional architectural designs of the region. The structure would be within the viewshed of individuals traveling along Tamaya Boulevard but is unlikely to be a visual obstruction for visitors at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort.

3.7 NOISE

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Sound is most commonly measured in decibels (dB) on the A-weighted scale, which is the scale most similar to the range of sound that the human ear can hear. The Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) is an average measure of sound. EPA guidelines, and those of many other federal agencies, state that outdoor sounds levels in excess of 55 dB DNL are "normally unacceptable" for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, or hospitals (EPA 1974). The Sandoval County Fire Department operates

sirens on all of their emergency response vehicles with an output of approximately 110 dB when standing directly in front of the siren speaker (Jon Tibbetts, Sandoval County Fire Chief, personal communication with Coleman Burnett, SWCA, 29 April 2010). The sound level diminishes as the angle, distance, and height between the siren speaker and a person increases. Other factors such as wind, temperature, and obstructions can impact the dB level. Sandoval County emergency response personnel wear noise-canceling intercom headsets while riding in an enclosed-cab emergency response vehicle and encounter little or no sound from the siren. The public is exposed to the siren when they are in the path of a vehicle responding to an emergency incident and the siren is activated. The proposed project site is located near vacant land, commercial businesses, and a soccer complex, thereby minimizing residential exposure to excessive siren noise.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no new noise impacts to the surrounding area because the temporary substation fire station would be maintained.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in short-term increases in noise levels during the construction phase of the project. To reduce noise levels during that phase, construction activities would take place between the hours of 6am and 7pm. Equipment and machinery installed at the project site would meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations. During operation of the fire station, sirens operated by emergency response vehicles would have a minor impact to the adjacent land uses, depending on the frequency and timing of emergency responses. The Preferred Alternative location has been selected, in part, because the vacant land surrounding the site would provide a reasonable noise buffer between the fire station and nearby land uses. The Preferred Alternative is 2.69 kilometers (1.67 miles) from the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and 0.43 kilometer (0.27 mile) from the Santa Ana Golf Course. Therefore, the Alternative 2 location minimizes the disturbance from the occasional sirens that occur during an emergency call. As a result, no significant impact would be expected.

Alternative 3 would result in short-term increases in noise levels during the construction phase of the project. To reduce noise levels, construction activities would take place between the hours of 6am and 7pm. Equipment and machinery installed at the project site would meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations. During operation of the fire station, sirens operated by emergency response vehicles would have a minor impact to the adjacent land uses, depending on the frequency and timing of emergency responses. The Alternative 3 location is within 1.32 kilometers (0.82 mile) from the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort and 0.20 kilometer (0.12 mile) from the Santa Ana Golf Course. Due to the location, some disturbance is expected to occur to patrons of the golf courses and resort due to the occasional sirens that occur during an emergency call. However, due to the short duration of the disturbance, no significant impact would be expected.

3.8 PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Construction of the fire station would require the extension of public services and utilities to the project areas. The utilities to be extended include three-phase electricity, natural gas, sewer, and water.

The fire station would service Sandoval County Fire District 1 west of the Rio Grande, which includes the Pueblo and the town of Bernalillo. The station would also serve the community of Placitas and Interstate 25 as necessary (Jon Tibbetts, Sandoval County Fire Chief, personal communication with Coleman Burnett, SWCA, 29 April 2010).

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no effects on public services or utilities since the fire station would not be constructed. There would be no change in the emergency response time because the location of the fire station would not change.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would improve emergency response time compared to the current location of the temporary substation. It is estimated that the response time from the Alternative 2 project area is two minutes faster compared to the current temporary substation and Alternative 3 (Gregg Kotila, Sandoval County Fire Department, personal communication with Coleman Burnett, SWCA, 19 April 2010).

Construction of the fire station would result in minimal impacts to public services or utilities. All utilities necessary for the fire station are currently located either on Prairie Star Road, along the south side of the project area, or along Tamaya Boulevard, on the east side of the project area.

Alternative 3 would maintain an emergency response time two minutes slower when compared with Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative). This project location would be 1.8 kilometers (1.1 miles) farther from the intersection of Tamaya Boulevard and U.S. Highway 550 compared to Alternative 2 (Preferred), which is the main access point for the Sandoval County Fire District 1 service area.

Construction of the fire station would result in minimal impacts to public services or utilities. Compared to Alternative 2, the ground disturbance required to bring in the necessary utilities is larger due to the distance from Tamaya Boulevard the other existing utility lines. The Alternative 3 location is currently served by a septic tank and leach field. Therefore, a new sewer line would be extended approximately 0.6 kilometer (0.4 mile) from Tamaya Boulevard to the Alternative 3 location. A new water connection would also need to be provided to supply the fire station with adequate water pressure. The water line would also be extended approximately 0.6 kilometer (0.4 mile) from Tamaya Boulevard along Juniper Hills Road. Natural gas and three-phase electricity are both currently available within the project area.

The Alternative 3 location does have existing residential buried utility lines on site due to the previous use as a mobile home park. These utility lines would need to be capped or removed prior to construction of the fire station at this location.

3.9 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

The Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area is on the west side of the intersection of Tamaya Boulevard and Prairie Star Road in Sandoval County. Major access to the fire station is provided by Tamaya Boulevard, which intersects U.S. Highway 550 and New Mexico Highway 528 just 600 meters (2,000 feet) to the south of the proposed fire station. Interstate 25 is easily accessible along U.S. Highway 550 heading east.

Slow-moving construction equipment would be entering and leaving the sites via U.S. Highway 550 and New Mexico Highway 528. However, the number of construction vehicles and the rate of their interaction with highway traffic would be slight. Construction equipment would consist of an excavator, backhoe, tracked bulldozer, and individual pickup trucks.

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in the continued disruption to traffic flow from the periodic emergency response activities from the current substation.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in periodic disruption to traffic flow due to routine emergency response activities from the new fire station.

Construction of the fire station would take approximately 10 to 12 months and would have minimal impacts to local traffic. Traffic patterns on U.S. Highway 550 and New Mexico Highway 528 would not be impacted due to the small number of vehicles involved and the location of the Preferred Alternative within Pueblo lands. Construction would be located at a great enough distance from the highways that no alteration in highway traffic would occur.

Alternative 3 would result in periodic disruption to traffic flow due to routine emergency response activities from the new fire station.

Construction of the fire station would take approximately 13 to 15 months and would have minimal impacts to local traffic. Traffic patterns on U.S. Highway 550 and New Mexico Highway 528 would not be impacted due to the small number of vehicles involved and the location of the Alternative 3 project area within Pueblo lands. Construction would be located at a great enough distance from the highways that no alteration in highway traffic would occur.

3.10 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As required by Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” this EA must address environmental justice concerns, including disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and/or low-income populations. According to the U.S. Census, tribal populations are considered minority populations. The median household income reported in 1999 for the Pueblo was \$45,179 and the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level was 5.1%. The median household income reported in 1999 for the town of Bernalillo was \$30,864 and the percentage of individuals living below the poverty level was 18.2%. The percentage of individuals living below the poverty line in the U.S. in 2000 was 12.4% (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no disproportionate impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would enhance firefighter and resident safety by increasing staffing levels and decreasing response times. There would be no disproportionately high or adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations. The resident population of the

Pueblo, Bernalillo, and the remaining service area would benefit from the improved emergency response capabilities.

Alternative 3 would result in the same environmental justice impacts as Alternative 2.

3.11 SAFETY AND SECURITY

Safety and security issues considered in this EA include the health and safety of area residents and the public, as well as the protection of personnel involved in activities related to the proposed construction of the fire station.

The Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area is currently vacant from any residential or commercial structures. No known catastrophic effects such as previous flooding, wildfire, or earthquakes are present in the project area. The Alternative 3 project area includes the current temporary fire substation that is already housed at that location. There are no other residential or commercial structures at the site. The project areas are not located in an active seismic zone or floodplain, and no hazardous materials are currently present at the sites.

Construction of a new fire station at either site would improve emergency response operations to both residents of the Pueblo and non-tribal members within the service area.

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would have a negative effect on community safety because the lack of a permanent fire station would continue to hinder the response capability of the Sandoval County Fire Department and protection of the community against fire hazards. The No Action Alternative would result in no safety or security issues related to construction since the fire station would not be constructed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would improve the Sandoval County Fire Department's emergency response operations. Alternative 2 (Preferred) would increase response times by two minutes when compared to the existing temporary substation location. The new fire station would also facilitate training of additional emergency response personnel, increasing available emergency response resources in the Sandoval County Fire District 1 service area. Enhancing emergency response operations is critical to the health and safety of residents throughout the Pueblo and neighboring communities.

Construction of the fire station would result in short-term safety risks. To minimize these risks, all construction activities would be performed using qualified personnel trained in proper use of the appropriate equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities would be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers would be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities. As mitigation, the project area would be thoroughly secured with fencing to prevent access during and after construction.

Alternative 3 would improve the Sandoval County Fire Department's emergency response operations. Alternative 3 would maintain current response times, which are two minutes slower

compared to the Alternative 2 (Preferred). There would be no change in the emergency response time for Alternative 3 compared to the No Action Alternative, which is the existing temporary substation location. The new fire station would also facilitate training of additional emergency response personnel, increasing available emergency response resources in the Sandoval County Fire District 1 service area. Enhancing emergency response operations is critical to the health and safety of residents throughout the Pueblo and neighboring communities.

Construction of the fire station would result in short-term safety risks. To minimize these risks, all construction activities would be performed using qualified personnel trained in proper use of the appropriate equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities would be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers would be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities. As mitigation, the project area would be thoroughly secured with fencing to prevent access during and after construction.

3.12 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Federal regulations require that FEMA consider the effects of the project on historic properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. TRC Companies, Inc. and David Evans and Associates, Inc. completed a Class III pedestrian cultural resources assessment survey between 17 May and 12 June 1998 under permission of the Pueblo (TRC Companies, Inc. 1998). The purpose of the survey was to identify and record cultural resources that occur within the 1998 land lease project area. The firms also performed an archeological records review (Class I) (New Mexico Cultural Resource Information System [NMCRIS] No. 61107). Based on the 1998 cultural resource report, FEMA has determined that Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 would have no effect on historic resources. FEMA submitted a copy of the Class III report to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division in May 2010. New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with this determination (Appendix C).

Fourteen regional tribes were consulted by written letter sent on 27 April 2010 (Table 3.1). Response letters were received from those tribes indicated with an asterisk in Table 3.1. Copies of the letters and all corresponding responses are included in Appendix C.

Table 3.1. List of Tribes Consulted for the Project

Isleta Pueblo*	Hopi Tribe	Navajo Nation*
Cochiti Pueblo*	Comanche Indian Tribe	Jicarilla Apache Nation
Laguna Pueblo	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	San Felipe Pueblo
San Ildefonso Pueblo	Sandia Pueblo*	Santa Clara Pueblo
Kewa Pueblo (formally Santo Domingo Pueblo)		Zia Pueblo

Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 (No Action) would result in no impacts to cultural resources since the fire station would not be constructed.

Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative) would result in no impacts to cultural resources because of the absence of cultural resources determined by previous surveys.

Alternative 3 would result in no impacts to cultural resources because of the absence of cultural resources determined by previous surveys.

4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The EA must consider the cumulative effects of the action alternatives in conjunction with other federal and non-federal activities. A cumulative impact to the environment results from the incremental impact of a proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over the period of time in which the action alternatives would take place.

According to the Pueblo, there are no known plans for any additional construction in the area that would result in soil disturbance or vegetation clearing (Robert Ortiz, Pueblo, personal communication with Coleman Burnett, SWCA, 4 May 2010). Neither the Pueblo nor the Pueblo's corporate agency, Southern Sandoval Investments, has received any permit requests, and the land adjacent to the project area is in tribal ownership; therefore, additional foreseeable future land improvements from the private sector are not expected.

With implementation of either Alternative 2 or 3, the primary impacts would concern soil, vegetation, air quality, noise, and traffic disturbance where the fire station would be constructed. The most critical direct impacts would involve the removal of soil and vegetation from an area of approximately 1.5 hectares (3.7 acres) under Alternative 2 (Preferred). Approximately 2.3 hectares (5.6 acres) of soil and vegetation would be disturbed under Alternative 3.

Heavy equipment used for excavation and earthmoving to construct the fire station would create some local noise disturbance, but the noise is not expected to be at unsafe decibel levels. There may be some cumulative impact from the addition of construction noise to the normal highway traffic noise, but the impacts would not be significant. The project would result in long-term impacts to noise due to the periodic emergency response sirens and other activities associated with a fire station. These long-term impacts to noise are not expected to be significant.

The proposed project would result in a slight temporary increase in traffic from trucks and passenger vehicles, mainly due to the contractors' presence at the site. The project would also result in long-term but infrequent impacts to traffic due to the periodic emergency response sirens and other transportation activities associated with a fire station. The roads would be improved to accommodate the long-term traffic patterns of the fire station, and improved signage would be posted to alert other traffic and pedestrians of the fire station's presence.

Development would eventually increase within the service area of the proposed fire station. As of 2000, the Pueblo's population was 479. The town of Bernalillo, also served by the new fire station, had a population of 6,611 in 2000 (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Bernalillo estimates a 2.0% growth rate over the next 15 years. The population of Sandoval County was 90,584 in 2000 and has an annual growth rate estimate of 2.77% (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). The addition of the fire station would help the Sandoval County Fire Department meet both the current and future demands for fire response.

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 SOILS AND VEGETATION

Due to the soil disturbance associated with the proposed project, weeds and invasive plants could become established. With prompt reclamation and landscaping in areas of surface disturbance as described in the engineered drawings, the long-term impact to vegetation from weeds will be minimized. The contractor will develop an erosion control plan as part of normal operating procedures that will be implemented as part of the SWPPP.

5.2 AIR QUALITY

Due to the construction activity associated with the proposed project, temporary impacts to local air quality may occur. In order to minimize the effects on local air quality, regular watering of disturbed areas will be made during construction to reduce dust and other particulate matter from impacting nearby businesses.

5.3 VISUAL RESOURCES

The new fire station will be designed and constructed to blend in with the surrounding landscape in order to reduce impacts to the local viewshed.

5.4 NOISE

To reduce noise levels, construction activities will take place during the hours of 6am to 7pm. Equipment and machinery installed at the project site will meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.

5.5 TRAFFIC

Temporary signage will be posted on the affected roadways during construction. The installation of permanent flashing signals and warning signs are planned for Tamaya Boulevard and at the access points from either Prairie Star Drive (for Alternative 2) or Juniper Hills Loop (Alternative 3).

5.6 SAFETY AND SECURITY

All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of appropriate equipment, including all applicable safety precautions. All activities will be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of the project activities.

5.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

In the event that archeological deposits, including any Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project will be halted and the contractor will stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The contractor will inform the Pueblo and FEMA immediately. FEMA will consult with the Pueblo and SHPO. Work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

5.8 OTHER

The applicant or its contractors are required to obtain any necessary local, state, or federal permits prior to initiating the project.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the lead agency for ensuring environmental compliance for the proposed Pueblo fire station. It is the goal of the lead agency to be responsive to the needs of the community and the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, while meeting the intent of federal environmental and cultural resource laws, including NEPA, and complying with all necessary provisions.

The Pueblo and the Sandoval County Fire Department will notify the public of the availability of the Draft EA through publication of a notice in the local newspaper of record. The Draft EA will be available at both a local repository and at FEMA.gov. A 15-day public comment period will commence on the initial date of the public notice.

FEMA will consider and respond to all public comments either individually or in the Final EA.

7.0 CONSULTATION

SWCA staff has consulted with Amy Barnes, FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation Specialist during the development of this EA. A phone conversation on 20 April 2010 between Coleman Burnett, SWCA Natural Resources Planner, and Amy Barnes confirmed the requirement to complete an EA. Amy Barnes provided an email to Coleman Burnett on 14 May 2010 stating that a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment is not required for this project.

Coleman Burnett also coordinated with Amy Barnes on 14 May 2010 regarding the concurrence request letter to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. FEMA submitted a copy of the Class III report to the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division in May 2010. The New SHPO has concurred with this determination (Appendix C).

Consultation letters were sent to the appropriate agencies and tribes on 22 April 2010. Copies of these letters and responses received are provided in Appendix C.

8.0 CONCLUSION

No significant impacts to geology, water resources, floodplains, air resource, wetlands, environmental justice, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials, visual resources, zoning and land use, traffic, noise, or socioeconomic resources are anticipated with Alternative 2 (Preferred) or Alternative 3. Positive impacts to public health and safety are expected under each alternative. Alternative 2 (Preferred) would result in smaller short-term construction-related impacts and a faster response time for public safety.

During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils and vegetation, air quality, visual resources, noise, traffic, and public safety are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. Mitigation measures are outlined above in Section 5.0.

The findings of this EA conclude that the proposed construction of a new fire station for the Pueblo would result in no significant environmental impacts to the human or natural environment. The Proposed Action meets the requirements of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Pete David, Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 254-1115
pdavid@swca.com

Coleman Burnett, Natural Resources Planner
SWCA Environmental Consultants
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 254-1115
cburnett@swca.com

Victoria Amato, Natural Resources Planner
SWCA Environmental Consultants
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 254-1115
vamato@swca.com

Christopher London, Biologist
SWCA Environmental Consultants
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 254-1115
clondon@swca.com

10.0 LITERATURE CITED

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**APPENDIX A
FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAPS FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 AND
ALTERNATIVE 3 PROJECT AREAS**



Figure A.1. Floodplain map for the Alternative 2 (Preferred) project area.



Figure A.2. Floodplain map for the Alternative 3 project area.

**APPENDIX B
LIST OF FEDERAL THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND
SPECIES OF CONCERN, AND STATE THREATENED AND
ENDANGERED SPECIES FOR SANDOVAL COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO**

Table B.1. Threatened and Endangered Species in Sandoval County, New Mexico

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS Status	State Status	Likelihood of Occurrence
American marten	<i>Martes americana origenes</i>	–	T	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	E	–	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Baird's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	–	T	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Costa's hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>	–	T	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Gray vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	–	T	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Mexican spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida*</i>	T	S	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
New Mexican meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i>	C	E	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Parish's alkali grass	<i>Puccinellia parishii</i>	–	E	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Rio Grande cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis</i>	C	–	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Rio Grande silvery minnow	<i>Hybognathus amarus</i>	E	E	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus*</i>	E	E	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	–	T	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Wrinkled marshsnail	<i>Stagnicola caperata</i>	–	E	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.
Yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C	–	Unlikely, no suitable habitat in project areas.

Note: C = Candidate; E = Endangered; S = Sensitive; T = Threatened; * = Designated Critical Habitat.

APPENDIX C
CONSULTATION LETTERS AND RESPONSES

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2010

Marcellus Medina
Governor
Zia Pueblo
135 Capitol Square Drive
Zia Pueblo, NM 0

Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Governor Medina,

This letter is to inform you that Sandoval County has received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Pueblo has hired WH Pacific, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico to complete construction of the fire and EMS facility that will serve the Pueblo and a portion of Sandoval County. SWCA, Inc. is completing an Environmental Assessment to support the project.

The purpose of the new fire and EMS facility is to provide a permanent response location for the Sandoval County Fire District 1. The project is needed because the current fire and EMS facility on the Pueblo is located in a small, temporary building further away from the main access highway, State Highway 550. In the current situation, the temporary facility lacks enough space for proper housing, does not meet the current building codes, and does not have access to proper utilities necessary for emergency operations. In addition, current response times are slower than desired due to the remote location of the facility. Attached, please find a map of the proposed and alternative project areas. Table 1 summarizes the basic design details of the project.

Table 1. Design Details for the Proposed Fire and EMS Facility

Total Disturbance Area: 3.7 acres
Proposed Building Size: 12,890 square yards
Concrete and Asphalt Footprint: 7,530 square yards
The new facility will be connected to an existing sewer system.

A class III archeological survey of the area was performed by David Evans and Associates, Inc. in 1998. SWCA, Inc. will be completing a biological survey and wetlands survey as part of this project.

The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. **The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010.** You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The Pueblo and Sandoval County appreciate your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,

Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana

cc. PSA FD
PSAPD

encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the project summary and additional information, has provided comments for the proposed project or has no comments.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Name: _____ Title: _____

The above letter was mailed to the following agencies and tribes on 26 April 2010:

Name	Title	Agency
Roxanne Runkel	Planning/ Environmental Protection Tech	U.S. Dept of Interior-National Park Service Intermountain Region
Wally Murphy	Field Supervisor	U.S. Dept of Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service-NM Ecological Services Field Office
Matthew Wunder	Chief	NM Dept. of Game and Fish-Conservation Services Division
Bob Sivinski	Rare and Endangered Plant Specialist	NM Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department-Forestry Division
Allan Steinle	Bureau Chief	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Albuquerque District Regulatory Branch
Dennis Alexander	State Conservationist	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation Service-NM State Office
Georgia Cleverly	Environmental Impact Review Coordinator	NM Environment Department
Glenn Saums	Bureau Chief	NM Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau
Bill Olson	Bureau Chief	NM Environment Department-Ground Water Quality Bureau
Margaret Ryan	Bureau Chief	NM Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau
Auralie Ashley-Marx	Bureau Chief	NM Environment Department-Solid Waste Bureau
Mary Uhl	Bureau Chief	NM Environment Department-Air Quality Bureau
Peggy Wade	Air Planning Section	EPA Region 6, 6 PD-L
Claybourne Chesney	Program Contact	EPA Region 6, Sole Source Aquifer Program
William Borthwick	Floodplain Coordinator	Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Kelly Romero	Floodplain Manager	Sandoval County
Cathy Gilmore	Office of Planning and Coordination	EPA Region 6
Michelle Ensey	State Archaeological Permits	New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division
Hopi Tribal Council		
Robert Benavides	Governor	Pueblo of Isleta
Joe Shirley Jr.	President	Navajo Nation
Vernon M. Garcia	Governor	Cochiti Pueblo
Michael Burgess	Chairman	Comanche Indian Tribe
Joshua Madalena	Governor	Jemez Pueblo
Levi Pesata	President	Jicarilla Apache Nation
John Antonio, Sr.	Governor	Laguna Pueblo
Marcelino Aguino	Governor	Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo
Feliciano Candelaria	Governor	San Felipe Pueblo
Perry Martinez	Governor	San Ildefonso Pueblo
Joe M. Lujan	Governor	Sandia Pueblo
Walter Dasheno	Governor	Santa Clara Pueblo
Tony Tortalita	Governor	Kewa Pueblo
Marcellus Medina	Governor	Zia Pueblo

Bill Richardson
Governor

John W. Wheeler
Cabinet Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 28, 2010

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson Street NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Burnett:

We received a letter from Bruce Sanchez, Governor Pueblo of Santa Ana concerning the above named project. It is important to our mitigation efforts that proper measures are taken to reduce losses as a result of development in floodplain areas. It is imperative to confirm through an engineer study that your project "adequately guards against inundation from floodwaters" and is in accordance with good engineering practices.

The following community is currently participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Sandoval County, New Mexico with a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 350055, dated 06/30/98.

Therefore, you should ensure that all NFIP Code of Federal Regulations 44 (CFR) part 60, Executive Order 11988, all pertinent development regulations and the community local flood damage prevention ordinance are followed. You need to further ensure that you have all necessary local, state and federal permits for this project.

If all of the above Regulations, Executive Order and the Local Ordinance are adhered to, there is no objection to this proposed project from this office. Your coordination needs to be made with the local floodplain administrator for the community involved in this project and for detailed community floodplain management information. Our records indicate that the following floodplain administrator or designated point of contact (poc) is:

Ms. Kelly Romero, CFM, Floodplain Administrator
Sandoval County
711 Camino del Pueblo
Bernalillo, New Mexico 87004
Phone No. (505) 867-7651
E-mail kromero@sandovalcounty.com

If I can be of any further assistance regarding this matter, please call me at (505) 476-9617.

P.O. Box 27111
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505)476-9600

Bill Richardson
Governor

John W. Wheeler
Cabinet Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Ms. Coleman Burnett
April 28, 2010
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Borthwick".

Bill Borthwick, CFM, State Floodplain Coordinator

Cc: Ms. Kelly Romero, CFM, Floodplain Administrator
Bruce Sanchez, Governor Pueblo of Santa Ana

P.O. Box 27111
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505)476-9600

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
800 N Loop 288
Denton, Texas, 76309



FEMA

089509

May 17, 2010



Michelle Ensey
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: Construction of Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility

Dear Ms. Ensey,

The Grants Programs Directorate (GPD) of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is providing funding, through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), to Sandoval County (Applicant) for the construction of a new fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility (Undertaking). FEMA has determined that this project constitutes an Undertaking and is initiating consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The new fire and EMS facility will be located on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo) lands on Tamaya Boulevard, northwest of the intersection with Prairie Star Road. Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates for the project area are E 357293.703 and N 3911358.699 (North American Datum [NAD] 83) or 35°20'7.079"N latitude and 106°34'12.875"W longitude. The proposed project will disturb 2.0 acres of upland vegetation and the facility building will have a footprint of 13,074 square feet. The new building will be connected to existing sewer and utility systems in the area. With the construction of the facility, parking, access routes the total projected disturbance area will be 2.0 acres.

An alternate site was considered and dismissed from consideration as it will not allow the Applicant to meet national response time goals due to its more remote location. The alternate location is shown on the attached map.

In 1998, David Evans and Associates, Inc. completed Class I and Class III archeological inventories of 1,325 acres as part of the Pueblo's Master Business Lease Expansion. The NMCRIIS number for this report is 61107. The proposed and alternative locations for the new fire and EMS facility are located within the previously inventoried area. (Please see Figure 1.2 in the 1998 report for the inventory boundary.) The 1998 report did not identify any archeological resources within the project area.

Michelle Ensey
May 17, 2010
Page 2

Based on archival research and the above referenced report, FEMA has determined that there are no properties listed or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in the project area. All construction activities will take place within a previously disturbed area with no known archeological resources. Therefore, FEMA has determined that there will be No Historic Properties Affected due to the proposed undertaking and we request your concurrence with this finding.

FEMA will be consulting separately with the Pueblo of Santa Ana on this project per 36 CFR 800.3 (d).

Your prompt review of this project is greatly appreciated. Should you need additional information please contact Amy Barnes, Historic Specialist at (940) 383-7260.

Sincerely,



Teresa L. Lukes
Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region VI

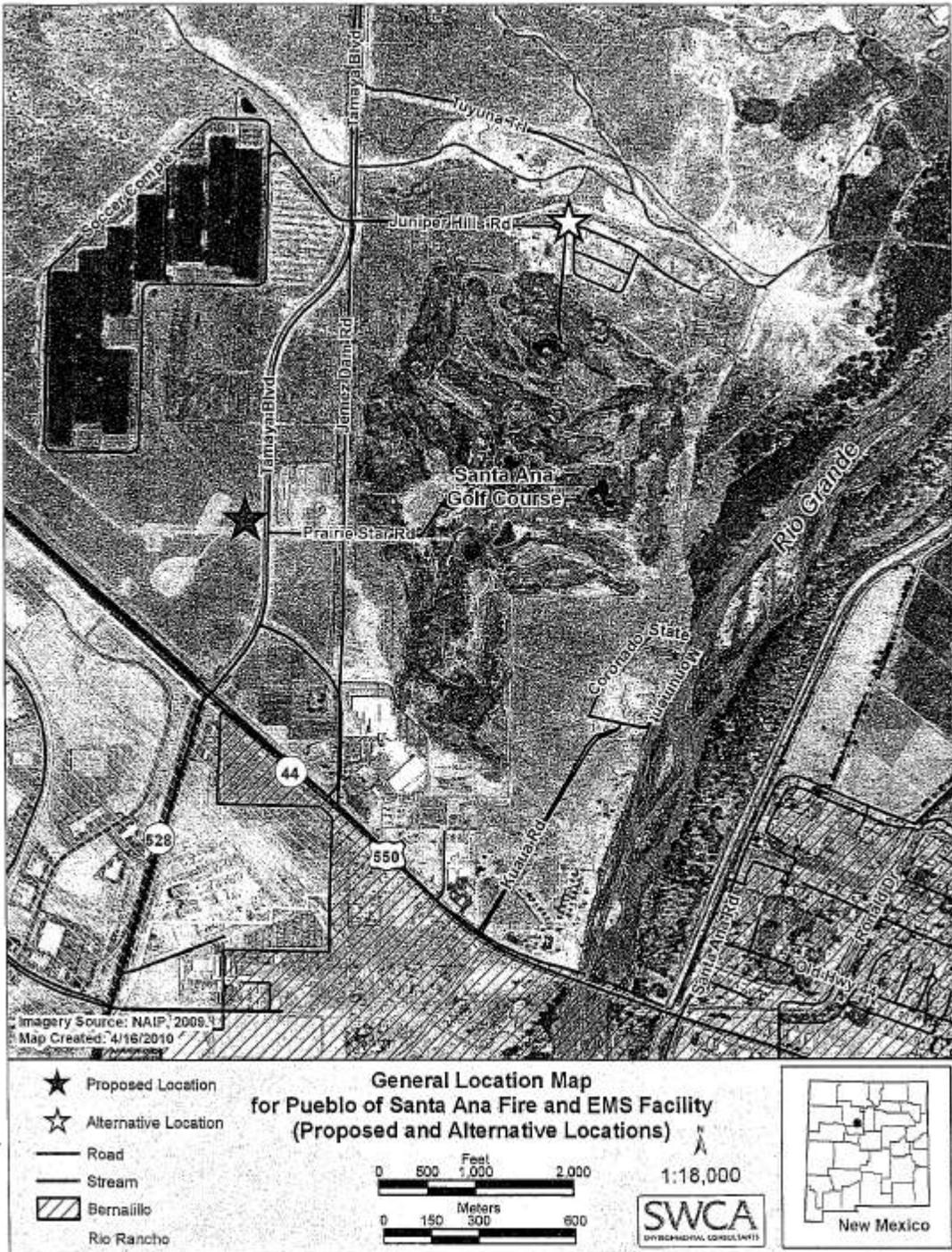
enclosure

No Historic Properties Affected.



Michelle Ensey 7/8/10
for NM State Historic Preservation Officer

Michelle Ensey
May 17, 2010
Page 3



PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

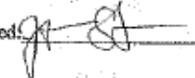
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2010

Roxanne Runkel
Planning and Environmental Protection Tech
U.S. Dept of Interior-National Park Service Intermountain Region
12795 Alameda Pkwy
Denver, CO 80225



The National Park Service reviewed this project and determined that no parks will be affected; therefore, we have no comments.

Signed:  Date: 5/3/10

Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Runkel,

This letter is to inform you that Sandoval County has received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Pueblo has hired WH Pacific, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico to complete construction of the fire and EMS facility that will serve the Pueblo and a portion of Sandoval County. SWCA, Inc. is completing an Environmental Assessment to support the project.

The purpose of the new fire and EMS facility is to provide a permanent response location for the Sandoval County Fire District 1. The project is needed because the current fire and EMS facility on the Pueblo is located in a small, temporary building further away from the main access highway, State Highway 550. In the current situation, the temporary facility lacks enough space for proper housing, does not meet the current building codes, and does not have access to proper utilities necessary for emergency operations. In addition, current response times are slower than desired due to the remote location of the facility. Attached, please find a map of the proposed and alternative project areas. Table 1 summarizes the basic design details of the project.

Table 1: Design details for the proposed fire and EMS facility

Total Disturbance Area: 3.7 acres
Proposed Building Size: 12,890 square yards
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The new facility will be connected to an existing sewer system.

A class III archeological survey of the area was performed by David Evans and Associates, Inc. in 1998. SWCA, Inc. will be completing a biological survey and wetlands survey as part of this project.

PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2010

Auralie Ashley-Marx
Bureau Chief
NM Environment Department-Solid Waste Bureau
PO Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RECEIVED

APR 29 2010

SOLID WASTE BUREAU

Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms. Ashley-Marx,

This letter is to inform you that Sandoval County has received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Pueblo has hired WH Pacific, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico to complete construction of the fire and EMS facility that will serve the Pueblo and a portion of Sandoval County. SWCA, Inc. is completing an Environmental Assessment to support the project.

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1
02 DOVE ROAD • SANTA ANA PUEBLO • NM 87004
TEL: 505-867-3301 • FAX: 505-867-3395 • govt@santaana.org

The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010. You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The Pueblo and Sandoval County appreciate your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,



Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana

cc. PSA FD
PSAPD

encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the project summary and additional information, has provided comments for the proposed project or has no comments.

Signature: A. Ashley-Mark Date: 5/11/10
Name: A. Ashley-Mark Title: Chief Solid Waste Bureau



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

May 4, 2010

Honorable Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana
02 Dove Rd.
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

Dear Governor Sanchez:

We have received your April 22, 2010, letter requesting our evaluation of the potential environmental impacts which might result from the following project:

**Construction of Facility
Fire and Emergency Medical
Services Facility
Sandoval County Fire District 1
Sandoval County, New Mexico**

In administering the sole source aquifer (SSA) program under Section 1424 of the Safe Drinking Water Act our Office performs evaluations of projects with federal financial assistance which are located over a designated sole source aquifer.

Based on the information provided, we have concluded that the project does not lie within the boundaries of a designated sole source aquifer and is thus not eligible for review under the SSA program.

If you did not include the Parish/County; a legal description; project location and the latitude and longitude if available, please do so in future Sole Source Aquifer correspondence. To view a map of the Sole Source Aquifer delineation(s) for your state go to the following website. <http://www.epa.gov/region6/water/swp/ssa/maps.htm>

If you have any questions on this letter or the sole source aquifer program please contact me at (214) 665-7133.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Bechdol".

Michael Bechdol, Coordinator
Sole Source Aquifer Program
Ground Water/UIC Section

cc: Bill Olson, NMED
Coleman Burnett, SWCA, Inc.



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary
Jon Goldstein
Deputy Secretary

May 25, 2010

Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Santa Ana Pueblo
02 Dove Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

RE: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility

Dear Governor Sanchez:

Your letter regarding the above named project was received in the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Please note that NMED does regulate or have jurisdiction over tribal lands. It is recommended that you contact EPA Region VI for additional information. However, comments and suggestions from the Air Quality, Ground Water Quality and Surface Water Quality Bureaus are listed below.

Air Quality Bureau

The proposed Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana is located in Sandoval County. Sandoval County is currently considered to be in attainment with all New Mexico and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The New Mexico Environment Department does not have jurisdiction over air quality on tribal lands. However, the following comments are given as suggestions for dust control to minimize the impact on the local community during project construction.

Controlling construction-related air quality impacts during projects should be considered to reduce the impact of fugitive dust and/or noise on community members. Dust control measures should be taken to minimize the release of particulates due to vehicular traffic and construction. Areas disturbed by the construction activities, within and adjacent to the project area should be reclaimed to avoid long-term problems with erosion and fugitive dust.

Activities identified in this proposal will increase emissions and may temporarily impact air quality in the area. Negative impacts associated with construction activities identified in this proposal will be minimized if regulations and guidelines identified in this document are followed.

Ground Water Quality Bureau

The proposed EMS station would be constructed on Santa Ana Pueblo lands. Therefore, NMED would not have any regulatory jurisdiction over the discharge of domestic wastewater associated with the station under the WQCC Regulations, nor would the reporting and spill response requirements of Section 1203 of the WQCC Regulations apply at this location.

Surface Water Quality Bureau

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) coverage for storm water discharges from construction projects (common plans of development) that will result in the disturbance (or re-disturbance) of one or more acres, including expansions, of total land area. Because this project appears to exceed one acre (including staging areas, etc.), it may require appropriate NPDES permit coverage prior to beginning construction (small, one - five acre, construction projects may be able to qualify for a waiver in lieu of permit coverage - see Appendix D).

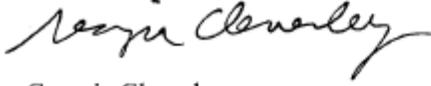
Among other things, this permit requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared for the site and that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be installed and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants (primarily sediment, oil & grease and construction materials from construction sites) in storm water runoff from entering waters of the U.S. This permit also requires that permanent stabilization measures (revegetation, paving, etc.), and permanent storm water management measures (storm water detention/retention structures, velocity dissipation devices, etc.) be implemented post construction to minimize, in the long term, pollutants in storm water runoff from entering these waters. In addition, permittees must ensure that there is no increase in sediment yield and flow velocity from the construction site (both during and after construction) compared to pre-construction, undisturbed conditions (see Subpart 10.D.1.b)

You should also be aware that EPA requires that all "operators" (see Appendix A) obtain NPDES permit coverage for construction projects. Generally, this means that at least two parties will require permit coverage. The owner/developer of this construction project who has operational control over project specifications (probably the Pueblo of Santa Ana and/or Sandoval County in this case), the general contractor who has day-to-day operational control of those activities at the site, which are necessary to ensure compliance with the storm water pollution plan and other permit conditions, and possibly other "operators" will require appropriate NPDES permit coverage for this project.

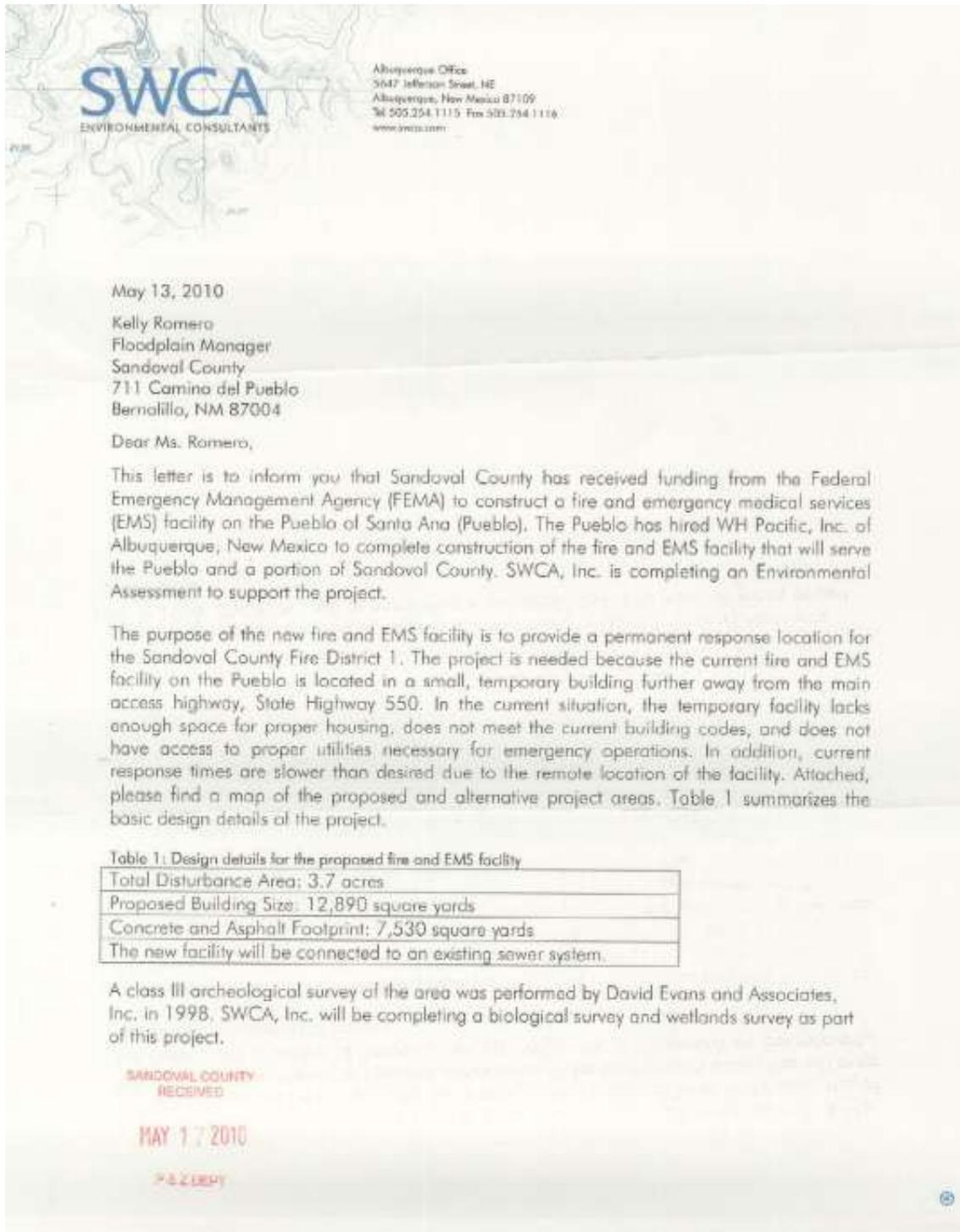
The CGP was re-issued effective June 30, 2008. The CGP, Notice of Intent (NOI), Fact Sheet, and Federal Register notice can be downloaded at:
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgp.cfm>

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Georgia Cleverley".

Georgia Cleverley
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator





The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010. You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

I appreciate your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,

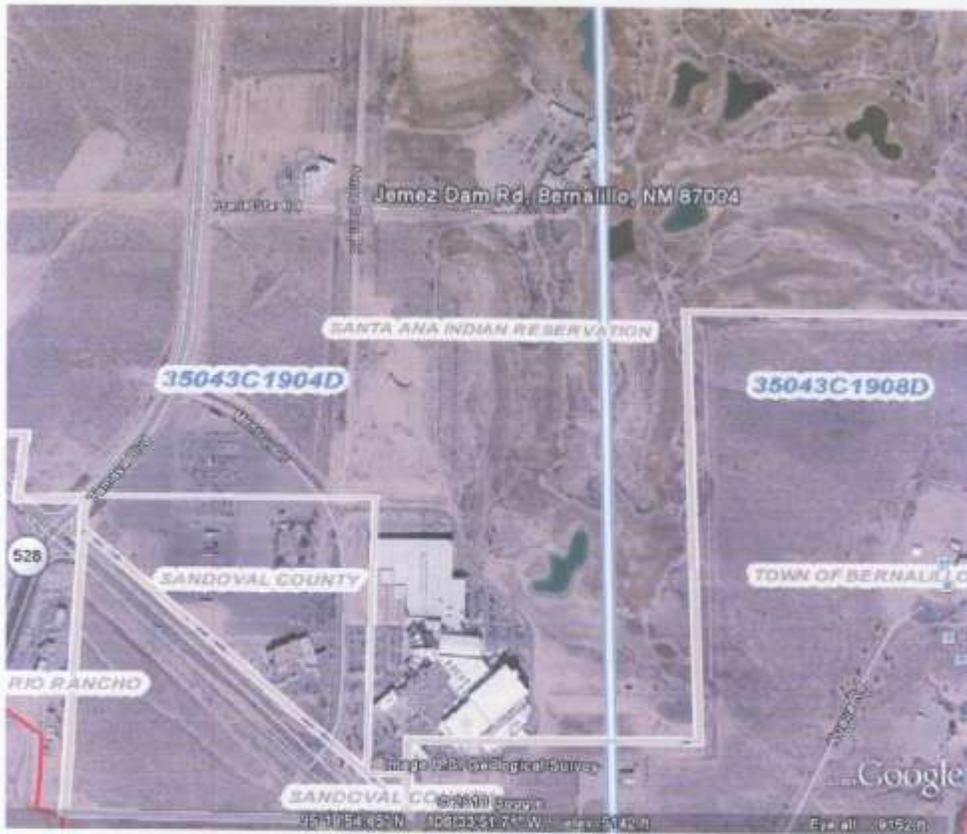
Coleman T. Burnett
SWCA Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the attached project summary and additional information, if provided, concurs with the initial determination or has no comments.

Signature: Kelly Romero
Name: Kelly Romero

Date: 05/17/10
Title: Certified Fire Captain Manager



GOVERNOR
Bill Richardson



DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY
TO THE COMMISSION

Tod Stevenson

Robert S. Jenks, Deputy Director

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way
Post Office Box 25112
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Phone: (505) 476-8101
Fax: (505) 476-8128

Visit our website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us
For information call: 965/476-8900
To order free publications call: 1-800-662-0310

STATE GAME COMMISSION

JIM McCLINTIC, Chairman
Albuquerque, NM

SANDY BUFFETT, Vice-Chairwoman
Santa Fe, NM

DR. TOM ARVAS, Commissioner
Albuquerque, NM

GARY W. FONAY, Commissioner
Hobbs, NM

KENT A. SALAZAR, Commissioner
Albuquerque, NM

M.H. "DUTCH" SALMON, Commissioner
Silver City, NM

THOMAS "DICK" SALDPEK, Commissioner
Las Cruces, NM

May 6, 2010

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Re: Santa Ana Pueblo EMS facility; NMDGF No. 13338

Dear Mr. Burnett,

In response to your letter dated April 22, 2010, regarding the above referenced project the Department of Game and Fish (Department) does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitats. For your information, we have enclosed a list of sensitive, threatened and endangered species that occur in Sandoval County.

For more information on listed and other species of concern, contact the following sources:

1. BISON-M Species Accounts, Searches, and County lists: <http://www.bison-m.org>
2. Habitat Handbook Project Guidelines: http://wildlife.state.nm.us/conservation/habitat_handbook/index.htm
3. For custom, site-specific database searches on plants and wildlife, go to <http://nhnm.unm.edu>, then go to Data, then to Free On-Line Data, and follow the directions
4. New Mexico State Forestry Division (505-476-3334) or <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/index.html> for state-listed plants
5. For the most current listing of federally listed species always check the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (505-346-2525) or <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/SBC.cfm>.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your project. If you have any questions, please contact Ross Morgan, Northwest Area Public Information Office at (505) 222-4707 or ross.morgan@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Terra Manasco
Assistant Chief, Conservation Services Division
Technical Guidance Section

TLM/rm

xc: Wally Murphy, Ecological Services Field Supervisor, USFWS
Brian Gleadle, NW Area Operations Chief, NMDGF

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE OF CONCERN SANDOVAL COUNTY

For complete up-dated information on federal-listed species, including plants, see the US Fish & Wildlife Service NM Ecological Services Field Office website at <http://www.fws.gov/lfw20s/NewMexico/SBC.cfm>. For information on state-listed plants, contact the NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Division of Forestry, or go to <http://nmrareplants.unm.edu/>. If your project is on Bureau of Land Management, contact the local BLM Field Office for information on species of particular concern. If your project is on a National Forest, contact the Forest Supervisor's office for species information.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>±</u>	<u>NMGF</u>	<u>US FWS</u>	<u>critical habitat</u>
Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>	T		
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii eximius</i>	E	E	Y
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	s		
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	T		
Baird's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	T	SOC	
Western Small-footed Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis cililabrum melanorhinus</i>	s		
Yuma Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis yumanensis</i>	s		
Little Brown Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus carissima</i>	s		
Occult Little Brown Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus occultus</i>	s		
Long-legged Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis volans interior</i>	s		
Fringed Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis thysanodes thysanodes</i>	s		
Long-eared Myotis Bat	<i>Myotis evotis evotis</i>	s		
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	T		
Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	s	SOC	
Big Free-tailed Bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	s		
Goat Peak Pika	<i>Ochotona princeps nigrescens</i>	s	SOC	
Gunnison's Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys gunnisoni</i>	s		
New Mexican Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i>	E	SOC	
American Marten	<i>Martes americana origenes</i>	T		
Black-footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>		E	
Wrinkled Marshsnail	<i>Stagnicola caperata</i>	E		
Socorro Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix neomexicana</i>	s		

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 305
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 Fax: (505) 761-4462
Website: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

May 13, 2010

Mr. Coleman Burnett
SWCA
5647 Jefferson Street NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Dear Mr. Burnett:

We have received a request for information from the Pueblo of Santa Ana concerning a proposed project to construct a Fire and EMS Facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana. There are no prime farm lands or soils of statewide importance in the proposed location or in the alternative location. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has no objections to the proposed action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. Alexander".

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109

May 18, 2010

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Action No. SPA-2010-00246-ABQ, Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire & EMS Facility;
Sandoval County, New Mexico

Coleman Burnett
SWCA, Inc.
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Ms. Burnett:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is in receipt of the Pueblo of Santa Ana dated April 22, 2010, concerning a proposal to construct a fire and emergency medical services facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana, Sandoval County, New Mexico. The project area may occupy approximately 2.5 acres of uplands. We have assigned Action No. SPA-2010-00246-ABQ to this activity. To avoid delay, please include this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

We have reviewed this project in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA). Under Section 404, the Corps regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The Corps responsibility under Section 10 is to regulate any work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the United States. Based on your description of the proposed work, other information available to us, and current regulations and policy, we have determined that this project will not involve any of the above activities. Therefore, it will not require Department of the Army authorization under the above laws. However, it is incumbent upon you to remain informed of any changes in the Corps Regulatory Program regulations and policy as they relate to your project.

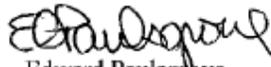
The Corps based this decision on an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) that there are no waters of the United States on the project site. The basis for this approved JD is that the project site is situated entirely on uplands. The JD form is available at http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/reg/Jurisdictional_Determinations/jurisdictional_determinations.asp. This approved JD is valid for a period of no more than five years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the delineation before the expiration date.

- 2 -

You may accept or appeal this approved JD or provide new information in accordance with the Notification of Administration Appeal Options and Process and Request For Appeal (NAAOP-RFA). This form is available at http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/reg/Administrative%20Appeals/appeals_process.asp. If you elect to appeal this approved JD, you must complete Section II (Request For Appeal or Objections to an Initial Proffered Permit) of the form and return it to the Army Engineer Division, South Pacific, CESPDPDS-O, Attn: Tom Cavanaugh, Administrative Appeal Review Officer, 1455 Market Street, Room 1760, San Francisco, CA 94103-1399 within 60 days of the date of this notice. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.

If you have any questions concerning our regulatory program, please contact me at 505-342-3279 or by e-mail at Ed.L.Paulsgrove@usace.army.mil. At your convenience, please complete a Customer Service Survey on-line available at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>.

Sincerely,



Edward Paulsgrove
Project Manager

APR-30-2010 10:20AM

FROM-US.FISH AND WILDLIFE

+5053462542

T-458 P.001/004 F-781

20 April 10



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2543

APR 30 2010

Thank you for your recent request for information on threatened or endangered species or important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office has posted lists of the endangered, threatened, proposed, candidate and species of concern occurring in all New Mexico Counties on the Internet. Please refer to the following web page for species information in the county where your project occurs: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/SBC_intro.cfm. If you do not have access to the Internet or have difficulty obtaining a list, please contact our office and we will mail or fax you a list as soon as possible.

After opening the web page, find New Mexico Listed and Sensitive Species Lists on the main page and click on the county of interest. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. This information should assist you in determining which species may or may not occur within your project area.

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with us further. Similarly, it is their responsibility to determine if a proposed action has no effect to endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat. On December 16, 2008, we published a final rule concerning clarifications to section 7 consultations under the Act (73 FR 76272). One of the clarifications is that section 7 consultation is not required in those instances when the direct and indirect effects of an action pose no effect to listed species or critical habitat. As a result, we do not provide concurrence with project proponent's "no effect" determinations.

If your action area has suitable habitat for any of these species, we recommend that species-specific surveys be conducted during the flowering season for plants and at the appropriate time for wildlife to evaluate any possible project-related impacts. Please keep in mind that the scope of federally listed species compliance also includes any interrelated or interdependent project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations) and any indirect or cumulative effects.

2

Candidates and species of concern have no legal protection under the Act and are included on the web site for planning purposes only. We monitor the status of these species. If significant declines are detected, these species could potentially be listed as endangered or threatened. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided. We recommend that candidates and species of concern be included in your surveys.

Also on the web site, we have included additional wildlife-related information that should be considered if your project is a specific type. These include communication towers, power line safety for raptors, road and highway improvements and/or construction, spring developments and livestock watering facilities, wastewater facilities, and trenching operations.

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. We recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetlands function and value.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to all birds protected under the MBTA, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general migratory bird nesting season of March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until nesting is complete.

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

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area.

Sincerely,



Wally Murphy
Field Supervisor



**THE
NAVAJO
NATION**

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

BEN SHELLY
VICE-PRESIDENT

June 24, 2010

Coleman Burnett
SWCA, Inc.
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Dear Mr. Burnett:

Our apology for an oversight and missing the deadline date of our response to your request, and that the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program (NNHPD-TCP) is in receipt of the proposed project regarding the construction of a Fire and Emergency Medical Services facility within the Pueblo of Santa Ana, Sandoval County, New Mexico and that an Environmental Assessment will be conducted by SWCA, Inc.

After reviewing your consultation documents, HPD-TCP has concluded the proposed undertaking/project area **will not impact** Navajo traditional cultural properties. The NNHPD-TCP, on behalf of the Navajo Nation has no concerns at this time.

However, the determination made by the HPD-TCP does not necessarily mean that the Navajo Nation has no interest or concerns with the proposed project. If the proposed project inadvertently discovers habitation sites, plant gathering areas, human remains and objects of cultural patrimony the HPD-TCP request that we be notified respectively in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The HPD-TCP appreciates the SWCA, Inc. consultation effort, pursuant to 36 CFR Pt. 800.1 (c)(2)(iii). Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions, do not hesitate to contact me electronically at tonyjoe@navajo.org or telephone at 928-871-7750. Mr. Kelly Francis will be taking over all Section 106 Consultations soon within the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony H. Joe, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Tony H. Joe, Jr., Supervisory Anthropologist (*Section 106 Consultations*)
Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program

TCP 10-523
CC: Office File/Chrono

The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010. You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The Pueblo and Sandoval County appreciate your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,



Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana

cc: PSA FD
PSAPD

encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the project summary and additional information,
 has provided comments for the proposed project or has no comments.

Signature: Veronica Garcia Date: 04.29.10
Name: VERONICA GARCIA Title: GOVERNOR - Cochiti Pueblo

Fax:

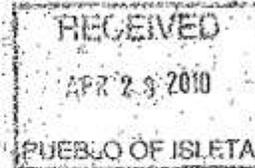
May 4 2010 02:20pm P001/003

PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2010

Robert Benavides
Governor
Pueblo of Isleta
PO Box 1270
Isleta Pueblo, NM 87022



Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Governor Benavides:

This letter is to inform you that Sandoval County has received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Pueblo has hired WPI Pacific, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico to complete construction of the fire and EMS facility that will serve the Pueblo and a portion of Sandoval County. SWCA, Inc. is completing an Environmental Assessment to support the project.

The purpose of the new fire and EMS facility is to provide a permanent response location for the Sandoval County Fire District 1. The project is needed because the current fire and EMS facility on the Pueblo is located in a small, temporary building further away from the main access highway, State Highway 550. In the current situation, the temporary facility lacks enough space for proper housing, does not meet the current building codes, and does not have access to proper utilities necessary for emergency operations. In addition, current response times are slower than desired due to the remote location of the facility. Attached, please find a map of the proposed and alternative project areas. Table 1 summarizes the basic design details of the project.

Table 1: Design details for the proposed fire and EMS facility

Total Disturbance Area: 3.7 acres
Proposed Building Size: 12,890 square yards
Concrete and Asphalt Footprint: 7,530 square yards
The new facility will be connected to an existing sewer system.

A class III archeological survey of the area was performed by David Evans and Associates, Inc. in 1998. SWCA, Inc. will be completing a biological survey and wetlands survey as part of this project.

1
02 DOVE ROAD • SANTA ANA PUEBLO • NM 87004
TEL: 505-867-3301 • FAX: 505-867-3395 • gov@santana.org

Fax:

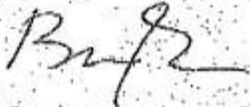
May 4 2010 02:29pm P002/003

The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010. You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The Pueblo and Sandoval County appreciates your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,



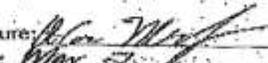
Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana

cc: PSA-FD
PSAPD

encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the project summary and additional information, has provided comments for the proposed project or has no comments.

Signature:  Date: 5-4-10
Name: Max Lopez Title: Governor

PUEBLO OF SANTA ANA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 22, 2010

Joe M. Lujan
Governor
Sandia Pueblo
481 Sandia Loop
Bernalillo, NM 87004

RECEIVED

APR 28 2010

PUEBLO OF SANDIA

Re: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility Environmental Assessment

Dear Governor Lujan,

This letter is to inform you that Sandoval County has received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a fire and emergency medical services (EMS) facility on the Pueblo of Santa Ana (Pueblo). The Pueblo has hired WH Pacific, Inc. of Albuquerque, New Mexico to complete construction of the fire and EMS facility that will serve the Pueblo and a portion of Sandoval County. SWCA, Inc. is completing an Environmental Assessment to support the project.

The purpose of the new fire and EMS facility is to provide a permanent response location for the Sandoval County Fire District 1. The project is needed because the current fire and EMS facility on the Pueblo is located in a small, temporary building further away from the main access highway, State Highway 550. In the current situation, the temporary facility lacks enough space for proper housing, does not meet the current building codes, and does not have access to proper utilities necessary for emergency operations. In addition, current response times are slower than desired due to the remote location of the facility. Attached, please find a map of the proposed and alternative project areas. Table 1 summarizes the basic design details of the project.

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1

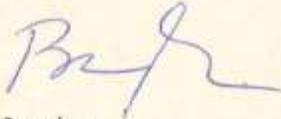
02 DOVE ROAD • SANTA ANA PUEBLO • NM 87004
TEL: 505-867-3301 • FAX: 505-867-3395 • govts@santaana.org

The environmental compliance process requires coordination with pertinent agencies and interested parties. Your review and comment on the proposed project is an important element in the overall review. The Pueblo requests that you please complete and return a copy of the acknowledgement below by May 24, 2010. You may fax the form to 505.254.1116. You may also provide written comments to the following address:

SWCA, Inc.
c/o Coleman Burnett
Attention: Pueblo of Santa Ana Fire and EMS Facility
5647 Jefferson St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

The Pueblo and Sandoval County appreciate your consideration of this important public service project.

Sincerely,



Bruce Sanchez
Governor
Pueblo of Santa Ana

cc. PSA FD
PSAPD

encl.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

As a representative for the referenced organization, the undersigned acknowledges receipt of this request for comment, and having reviewed the project summary and additional information,
 has provided comments for the proposed project or has no comments.

5PM
Signature: Joe M. Lujan Date: 5-17-10
Name: JOE M. LUJAN Title: GOVERNOR