



REGION 6

DALLAS, TX 75270

September 25, 2026

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

To: All Interested Persons

In accordance with the environmental review procedures of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Assessing the Environmental Effects Abroad of EPA Actions" as guidance, EPA has performed an environmental review of the following proposed action:

Project Name:	Wastewater Collection Improvements in Ciudad Río Bravo and Nuevo Progreso
Name and Address of Applicant:	COMAPA Río Bravo, Libertad S / N, Río Bravo, 88910 Ciudad Río Bravo, Tamps., Mexico
Project Location:	Río Bravo WWTP, Río Bravo Lift Station, Nuevo Progreso Lift Station
Estimated EPA Share:	\$ 6,500,000
Estimated Local Share:	\$ 7,200,000

Background

The wastewater collection and treatment systems serving Río Bravo and Nuevo Progreso are aging and deteriorated, with failing conveyance and treatment infrastructure leaving portions of the area underserved and contributing to untreated discharges into drainage channels that reach the Río Grande. Population growth and stormwater infiltration further strain the system, creating public health and environmental risks. The proposed project aims to rehabilitate and improve wastewater infrastructure to reduce overflows, eliminate untreated discharges, and achieve compliance with applicable CONAGUA regulations.

The Project consists of three components. The first is the rehabilitation of collectors and lift stations in Río Bravo and Nuevo Progreso, along with the installation of new conveyance lines and collectors to increase system capacity, reduce overflows, and expand service coverage. The second is the rehabilitation of the WWTP in Río Bravo and the addition of an anaerobic system, facultative system, and polishing lagoon to improve treatment through natural, low-energy processes within the existing facility. The third is the conveyance of treated effluent to nearby third-party users, such as industrial, power, or agricultural facilities, using gravity, pipeline, or pumping as needed.

Environmental Review

EPA Region 6 has performed an environmental review and assessment on the Environmental Information Document, and other supporting data, prepared for the proposed project. The environmental review and assessment process did not identify any potentially significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The project individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other actions is not expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the environment. Accordingly, EPA Region 6 has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted.

Comments regarding this preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) may be submitted to Salvador Gandara, Drinking Water Infrastructure Supervisor, at gandara.salvador@epa.gov. All comments will be taken into consideration. No administrative action will be taken on this decision during the 30-day comment period. This preliminary decision, and the FONSI, will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new information is provided to alter this finding.

Branch Manager
Assistance Programs Branch

____9/25/26_____
Date

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment Wastewater Collection Improvements In Ciudad Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso

Environmental Assessment

WASTEWATER COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS IN CIUDAD RIO BRAVO AND NUEVO PROGRESO Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico

Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270



September 2, 2026

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1.0 Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF), which provides grant funding for water and wastewater infrastructure projects located along the international boundary between the United States (U.S.) and Mexico. EPA policy for use of border funds requires evaluation and certification of projects by the North American Development Bank (NADB) as a condition for grant award. As part of the NADB certification process, the proposed project must comply with (1) Mexican environmental regulations and (2) the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EPA requires compliance with NEPA before BEIF funds can be authorized. Projects within 62 miles (mi) of the U.S./Mexico border are eligible for BEIF assistance.

In accordance with EPA regulations (40 CFR Part 6), this Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the environmental consequences in the U.S. of the proposed federal action. The purpose of this document is to comply with NEPA documentation requirements for the proposed federal action under consideration, which consists of the rehabilitation of a lift station, the wastewater collectors, force mains and the installation of a conveyance line running parallel to the city of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas. In the city of Nuevo Progreso, the application includes the rehabilitation of a lift station and four sub-collectors and the installation of two sub-collectors. For the wastewater treatment plant, the application includes rehabilitating the existing facility and adding two treatment trains to the existing trains.

1.1 Study Location

The proposed project is located in the town of Río Bravo, located in the northern portion of the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, adjacent to the Rio Grande. It is approximately 2 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, and the sister city of Donna, Texas, in Hidalgo County. Río Bravo belongs to the Reynosa Subregion No. 2 and is part of the regional system of the Rio Grande Basin. With a population of approximately 132,484 as of 2020, it is the eighth largest city in terms of population in the state of Tamaulipas. As shown in Figure 1 on page 5, Texas State and Tamaulipas are neighboring states along the U.S.- Mexico International Border, and the Rio Grande flows between the border boundaries.

Río Bravo, Tamaulipas (coordinates 25°59'00" N 98°05'00" W) is located at an elevation of 98 feet (30 meters) above mean sea level. The municipality is largely flat, reaching maximum height to the southwest of the municipality, with an altitude of about 490 feet (150 meters) above mean sea level.

Nuevo Progreso, Tamaulipas (coordinates 26°05'00" N 97°56'00" W) is located at an elevation of 80 feet (25 meters) above mean sea level. The municipality is mostly flat, and the town is situated along the banks of the Rio Grande serving as a natural border between Mexico and the United States.

COMAPA Río Bravo is the sole water and wastewater utility for Rio Bravo, their service area is approximately equivalent to the boundaries of the City Limits, including the project area. COMAPA Rio Bravo has a system of collectors and sub-collectors that flow to a total of 23 main discharges to the Rio Bravo Drain which is located to the northern side of the city. COMAPA Rio Bravo has a governing Board and staff that consists of a General Manager, Technical Manager, Treasurer, Administrative Assistants, and Technical Assistance for the system's operation and maintenance. In addition, it has support from Comisión Estatal del Agua en Tamaulipas, a utility that has staff specialized in operation and

maintenance of water and wastewater systems.



Figure 1: Location Map Depicting the City of Río Bravo in the Mexican State of Tamaulipas, Shown in Relation to Hidalgo County in the U.S. State of Texas

1.2 Purpose and Need

The wastewater collection and treatment systems serving Río Bravo and Nuevo Progreso are aged, deteriorated, and no longer fully functional. Existing infrastructure includes failing force mains, lift stations, sewer mains, and a regional wastewater treatment plant that is currently inoperable due to conveyance line leaks, corrosion, vandalism, and vegetation overgrowth. As a result, a significant portion of the project area remains underserved and some wastewater is discharged to drainage channels that ultimately reach the Rio Grande.

The project area also experiences increasing wastewater flows from population growth and stormwater infiltration during heavy rain events, which overload the system. These conditions create public health risks and potential transboundary impacts to soil, groundwater, and surface waters, including the Rio Grande and downstream water bodies.

The purpose of the proposed project is to rehabilitate and improve wastewater collection, conveyance, and treatment infrastructure in Río Bravo and Nuevo Progreso to reduce sanitary sewer overflows, eliminate untreated discharges, and achieve compliance with applicable CONAGUA wastewater

regulations.

1.3 Scope of Analysis

The scope of this EA includes the evaluation of the impact of the alternatives to the relevant environmental resources within the defined area of concern in the U.S. , the scope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in a NEPA-compliant document.

2.0 Project Description and Alternatives

This section of the EA: 1) presents and objectively evaluates the alternatives, including the No Action alternative; 2) devotes substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail so the reviewers may evaluate comparative merits; and 3) includes appropriate mitigation measures. Based on the information and analysis presented in Section 3, Affected Environment, this section also presents the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives in comparative form, which defines the issues and provides a clear basis for choice among options by decision makers and the public.

2.1 Wastewater Collection

2.1.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, no improvements to the wastewater collection system will take place. The collectors, lift stations, and force mains of both the Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso systems will remain in their current condition with no major rehabilitation or repair. As a result, they will likely require frequent, costly maintenance and repair and will continue to deteriorate. Residents will rely more on latrine systems. This will lead to more instances of infrastructure collapse and discharges of raw wastewater, creating adverse environmental and human health impacts. If the no-action alternative were selected, the current deficiencies would not be corrected. Although the No-Action Alternative is not one of the preferred options, it is included as a baseline for all other alternatives to be compared to. This alternative is not in line with the goals of EPA, NADB, COMAPA, or the cities of Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso, as it presents serious public health and environmental concerns.

2.1.2 Proposed Action – Lift Stations and Collectors Improvement

Proposed improvements for the Río Bravo areas include the rehabilitation of collectors and the installation of a conveyance line running parallel to the river. In Nuevo Progreso, planned improvements include the addition of two collectors, installation of a 900-meter force main, and rehabilitation improvements include the addition of two collectors, spanning 1.5 miles. The proposed action would increase system capacity to more efficiently collect wastewater and reduce overloads and backups. Expanded service coverage would ensure that a larger population has access to adequate wastewater management services. The improvements would also enhance the resilience of the wastewater infrastructure against natural disasters and other unforeseen events, helping ensure continuous service and reducing the risk of contamination and public exposure to raw wastewater and affected water bodies

2.2 Wastewater Treatment

2.2.1 No Action

In the Río Bravo region, there is no treatment of wastewater, highlighting a significant environmental and public health concern regarding the discharge of untreated sewage into the surrounding ecosystem. Conversely, Nuevo Progreso faces challenges with inadequate wastewater treatment facilities, indicating a pressing need for improved infrastructure and processes to properly manage and treat wastewater before its disposal.

Under the No Action Alternative, no improvements to the wastewater treatment system will take place. The WWTP will remain in its current condition with no major rehabilitation or repair. As a result, it will likely continue to deteriorate and wastewater contamination of the Rio Grande will continue, creating adverse environmental and human health impacts.

Although the No-Action Alternative is not one of the preferred options, it is included as a baseline for all other alternatives to be compared to. This alternative is not in line with the goals of EPA, NADB, COMAPA, or the cities of Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso, as it presents serious public health and environmental concerns.

2.2.2 Proposed Action – Treatment Train Addition

The plan involves rehabilitating the existing wastewater treatment plant and using natural processes to treat wastewater with minimal energy and technical expertise. It will maximize the use of available land by adding a treatment train composed of an anaerobic system, a facultative system, and a polishing lagoon within the existing facility, as shown in Figure 2.

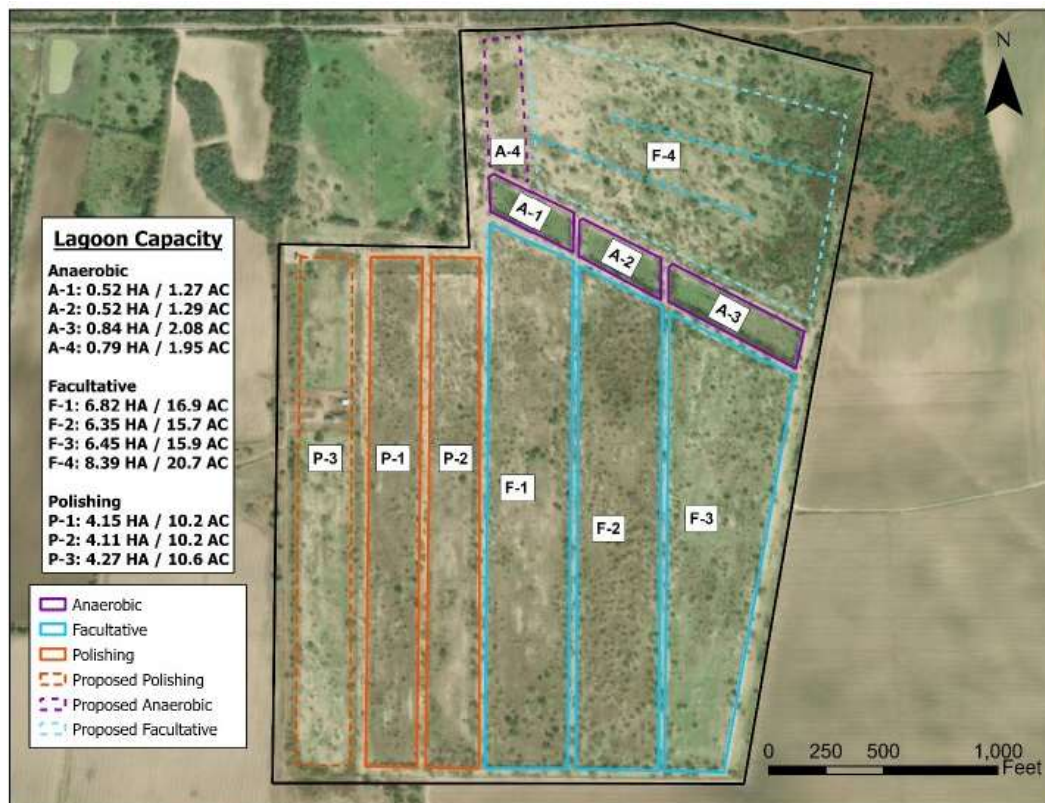


Figure 2: Wastewater Treatment: Proposed Action – Treatment Train Addition

2.3 Treated Wastewater Discharge

2.3.1 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, it is assumed that the WWTP will be rehabilitated and fully functional; however, no improvements or changes will be made to the effluent discharge. Due to inadequate treatment capacity, the effluent will not meet the total nitrogen and total phosphorus standards under NOM-001-SEMARNAT-2021. Maintaining appropriate levels of these nutrients in wastewater discharges is crucial to preventing eutrophication and protecting aquatic life. Excess nitrogen and phosphorus can degrade water quality by promoting algal blooms and the release of toxins. Compliance with regulations governing these nutrient levels is essential to safeguard aquatic ecosystems and human health and to reduce environmental risks effectively.

Although the No-Action Alternative is not one of the preferred options, it is included as a baseline for all other alternatives to be compared to. This alternative is not in line with the goals of EPA, NADB, COMAPA, or the cities of Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso, as it presents public health and environmental concerns, and it results in a facility that does not meet appropriate effluent standards.

2.3.2 Proposed Action – Discharge to Third-Party Facilities

In the proposed action, the treated effluent wastewater will be discharged to a third-party facility, to provide water for their operations. This can include one or more of the following local facilities:

- Metallurgical Plant – approx. 9 miles
- Power Plant within Rio Bravo – approx. 5.5 miles
- Paper Production Facility – approx. 4 miles
- Power Plant outside Rio Bravo – approx. 20 miles
- Local agricultural land

In order to accomplish this, the treated effluent will need to be conveyed from the WWTP to the third-party facility, via gravity, pressurized pipeline or by drain, depending on the topography.

Depending on the location, this may require the construction of a lift station facility to pump the effluent to these facilities. Figure 3 below illustrates the proposed third-party facilities.



Figure 3: Treated Wastewater Discharge – Proposed Action: Effluent Discharge Options

3.0 Affected Environment

This section describes the environmental resources in the U.S. that may be affected by the proposed action or the no action alternative described in Section 2. The description of the environmental setting focuses on environmental resources located within the U.S. near the U.S.-Mexico border. However, environmental resources in Mexico are also described in some instances when there is a direct correlation between resources in both countries.

The Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso areas are hot and arid, with abundant sunshine and low humidity. The coolest days are from December to February, but temperatures can still average to 82 degrees Fahrenheit. The Project Area falls within the Town of Nuevo Progreso and the City of Rio Bravo.

3.1 Land Use

Land use in the Project Area can be generally categorized as natural or human modified. Natural land uses include topography, vegetation, and wildlife habitat, while human-modified land uses include residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, utility, agricultural, institutional, recreational, and other developed areas. Land use is influenced by local plans, policies, regulations, and ordinances that guide development and protect sensitive areas. For the purposes of this EA, environmental information

from nearby areas in the United States may be used to help characterize conditions in Mexico due to the proximity of the Project Area to the U.S. border.

The Project Area is relatively flat, with elevations ranging from about 18 to 36 meters (60 to 120 feet) above mean sea level. Nuevo Progreso, located directly along the Rio Grande across from Progreso, Texas, has elevations ranging from about 18 to 28 meters (60 to 92 feet) above mean sea level. Río Bravo is located about 15 kilometers (9 miles) southwest of Nuevo Progreso on terraced plains south of the Rio Grande, with elevations ranging from about 25 to 36 meters (80 to 120 feet) above mean sea level.

The Municipality of Río Bravo is located in north-central Tamaulipas and is predominantly agricultural, with most land used for cropland and the remainder consisting of urban and government/common lands. Within the City of Río Bravo, land use is primarily residential, commercial, and service-oriented, with some transportation and industrial development near the city's perimeter and along the Reynosa to Matamoros Highway corridor. The surrounding area is mainly cropland, pastureland, and rangeland. In Nuevo Progreso, land use is also primarily residential, commercial, and service-oriented, with transportation and industrial development concentrated near the southern outskirts and along the international bridge corridor. Surrounding lands are mainly cropland, with pastureland and rangeland farther south.

3.2 Topography and Soils

Topography is the variation in elevation across the surface of a land area. It is influenced by factors such as underlying geology, climate, erosion, seismic activity, and human activity. Topographic descriptions typically include surface elevations, slope, and notable landforms and their relationship to human use.

A geology map from the Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) was reviewed for the Project Area. The dominant soil and geologic types in the Project Area include Chernozems, Vertisols, and Calcisols. Chernozems are dark, fertile, humus-rich grassland soils commonly used for crops and livestock. Vertisols are clay-rich soils that crack deeply during dry periods and typically support grass, savanna, and desert-shrub vegetation. Calcisols are soils with significant calcium carbonate accumulation. Chernozems are more common near Río Bravo, while Vertisols are more common near Nuevo Progreso.

Soil surveys from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture (NRCS/USDA) were also reviewed for Hidalgo County near the U.S.-Mexico border. The most common soils near the Project Area include Harlingen clay and Matamoros silty clay, both of which are moderately well drained and typically found on floodplains or delta plains. Rio Grande silt loam, Rio Grande silty clay loam, and Runn silty clay are also common and occur on low stream terraces, river valleys, or delta plains. These soils are generally well drained to moderately well drained. Only Grulla clay meets the criteria for hydric soil.

Because of the proximity of these mapped soils to the Project Area, soils within the Mexico portion of the Project Area are expected to be similar in composition. The Project Area is relatively flat between

Nuevo Progreso and Río Bravo, and the soils in this area were formed and shaped by Rio Grande fluvial processes.

3.3 Water Resources

The Project Area is located within the RH24Ab R. Bravo–Reynosa watershed in Mexico and the Lower Rio Grande watershed on the U.S. side. Surface waters in the area include the Rio Grande and nearby canals and tributaries. The Project Area also lies within the N088 BRB/Gulf Coast transboundary aquifer, which has been identified as having good to moderate water quality and aquifer potential.

The Rio Grande serves as a natural boundary between Mexico and the U.S., making it an essential water source for both countries. The Mexican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) recognizes the challenges faced by the watershed, including water pollution, over-extraction for agricultural and urban use, and environmental degradation due to human activities. Surface waters within the RH24Ab watershed generally flow west to east.

The International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) produces global maps of transboundary aquifers and has recently produced a transboundary aquifer map for the U.S. and Mexico. Per a review of the map, the Project Area occurs within N088, the BRB/Gulf Coast Aquifer, which has an approximate area of 48,209 kilometers squared. The BRB/Gulf Coast Aquifer was identified as one of the transboundary aquifers with good to moderate aquifer potential and good to moderate water quality conditions.

As per Executive Order 11988 Floodplains Management, an impact on a U.S. floodplain would be significant if it would negatively affect a floodplain's capacity for floodwater conveyance or negatively affect the floodplains capacity for flood and sediment storage. As a result, determining the significance of potential impacts to the floodplains is based on the areas that would be impacted by the project implementation. Based on the EID, the Proposed Action does not appear likely to have significant floodplain impacts, but it does have a connection to floodplain-related conditions. The project includes rehabilitation of existing wastewater collectors, lift stations, force mains, and the WWTP, and the EID notes that all proposed wastewater infrastructure would be constructed along existing public ROWs. The project is largely within already disturbed, developed areas rather than new floodplain disturbance.

Heavy rain events can overload the community's wastewater collection system and increase runoff and overflow risk, creating untreated wastewater and runoff to the Rio Grande and downstream waters. Thus, the projects would be helpful to the flood-related conveyance issues. Lastly, all construction will be conducted in Mexico; which does not have standards for establishing floodplains. This will result in no significant impact on floodplains

3.4 Wetlands

Wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface. Wetlands vary widely because of regional and local differences in soils, topography, climate, hydrology, water chemistry, vegetation, and other factors, including human disturbance. Under the Clean Water

Act, the term wetland means, “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.”

Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, a conservation organization that protects habitat for waterfowl, has identified 28 key wetlands for migratory and resident waterfowl in Mexico. The closest key wetlands to the Nuevo Progreso–Río Bravo area are the Rio Grande Delta, located about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Río Bravo, and the Laguna Madre, located about the same distance south of Río Bravo (Ducks Unlimited de Mexico, 2005). The Laguna Madre is the most relevant to this project because the Dren Río Bravo, which receives wastewater from Río Bravo, eventually flows to the Laguna Madre.

3.5 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, along with the 1977 and 1990 amendments, established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for key air pollutants, including sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb).

According to the 2019 Update on the Texas State Implementation Plan and Federal Air Quality Standards, Hidalgo County’s ozone and particulate matter levels were below applicable standards, with no expected PM₁₀ exceedances and air quality generally within the “Good” range of the Air Quality Index. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley operates an air monitoring station in Hidalgo County near Río Bravo, and recent data indicate that air quality remains within acceptable levels. Because of its proximity, this information is used to characterize air quality conditions in the Río Bravo Project Area.

3.6 Noise

The proposed project would be constructed in both developed and undeveloped areas in Mexico and would require the use of heavy construction equipment on the Mexican side of the international boundary.

As a general rule, noise from a stationary point source decreases by approximately 6 dB over hard surfaces and 9 dB over soft surfaces with each doubling of distance. For example, if a noise source produces 85 dBA at a reference distance of 50 feet over a hard surface, the sound level would decrease to about 79 dBA at 100 feet, 73 dBA at 200 feet, and so on.

Common construction equipment can generate noise levels of about 81 dBA, although these levels typically attenuate to approximately 65 dBA at a distance of 300 feet from the source. To minimize noise impacts, construction activities near residential areas would be limited to weekday daylight hours, specifically between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. During operation, backup generators may produce noise levels of up to 75 dBA, but they would be equipped with appropriate sound-muffling devices to reduce noise emissions.

3.7 Biological - Vegetation & Terrestrial Wildlife

Biological resources include native or naturalized plants and animals and the habitats in which they

occur. For the purposes of this EA, biological resources were examined within the project area; Hidalgo County, Texas; and near the international boundary.

Sensitive plant and wildlife species are subject to regulations under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. FWS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas Historical Commission (State Historical Preservation Office). Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not apply to the Proposed Action due to its extraterritorial location. The preamble¹ to the 1986 revisions to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 states that “the proposed rule cut back the scope of section 7 to the United States, its territorial sea, and the outer continental shelf, because of the apparent domestic orientation of the consultation and exemption processes resulting from the Amendments, and because of the potential for interference with the sovereignty of foreign nations”. Therefore, the following analysis is limited to impacts to sensitive species within the United States.

Biological resources were examined within the project area, Hidalgo County, Texas, and near the international boundary. The region lies within the South Texas Plains Ecoregion, which is characterized by flat terrain, thorny brush, scattered trees, and subtropical vegetation. The area receives 20 to 32 inches of annual rainfall and supports a mix of agricultural lands, native brush, and urban development. TPWD vegetation mapping indicates that the dominant land cover near the Project Area is row crops, followed by Rio Grande Delta evergreen thorn woodland and shrubland, South Texas disturbance grassland, and urban low-intensity areas. Typical vegetation includes mesquite, acacia, prickly pear, sugar hackberry, cedar elm, granjeno, and several grass species. South Texas disturbance grassland consists of heavily grazed grasslands and managed exotic pastures, including bermudagrass, Kleberg bluestem, and King Ranch bluestem.

Due to the Project Area’s proximity to Hidalgo County, vegetation conditions in the Mexico portion of the Project Area are expected to be similar and are consistent with INEGI land use maps showing cultivated pasture and other agricultural uses.

Arcadis reviewed U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Official Species List for Hidalgo County, Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department lists of threatened and endangered (T&E) species of potential occurrence in Hidalgo County, Texas which is immediately adjacent to the Project Area in Rio Bravo. Figure 4 below provides a list of those species.

Figure 4: Federal and State-Listed Threatened and Endangered Species in Hidalgo County, Texas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^{1,3}	State Status ^{2,3}
Birds			
Cactus Ferruginous pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum</i>	T	T
Common black-hawk	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	--	T
Eastern black rail	<i>Lateralus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i>	T	
Gray hawk	<i>Buteo plagiatus</i>	--	T
Northern Aplomado falcon	<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>	E	-- ⁴
Northern beardless-tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma imberbe</i>	--	T
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T	T
Red knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	T	-- ⁴
Red-crowned parrot	<i>Amazona viridigenalis</i>	--	T
Rose-throated becard	<i>Pachyrhamphus aglaiae</i>	--	T
Swallow-tailed kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	--	T
Tropical parula	<i>Setophaga pitayumi</i>	--	T
White-faced ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	--	T
White-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	--	T
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	--	T
Zone-tailed hawk	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>	--	T
Fish			
Rio Grande shiner	<i>Notropis jemezianus</i>	--	T
River goby	<i>Awaous banana</i>	--	T
Speckled chub	<i>Macrhybopsis aestivalis</i>	--	T
Tamaulipas shiner	<i>Notropis braytoni</i>	--	T
Mammals			
Coues' rice rat	<i>Oryzomys couesi aquaticus</i>	--	T
Gulf coast jaguarundi	<i>Puma yagouaroundi cacomitli</i>	E	-- ⁴
Ocelot	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	E	E
Tricolored bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	PE	-- ⁴
White-nosed coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>	--	T
Mollusks			
Mexican fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla cognata</i>	--	T
Salina mucket	<i>Potamilus metnecktayi</i>	PE	T
Texas hornshell	<i>Popenaias poppei</i>	E	E
Amphibians			
Black-spotted newt	<i>Notophthalmus meridionalis</i>	--	T
Mexican burrowing toad	<i>Rhinophrynus dorsalis</i>	--	T
Mexican treefrog	<i>Smilisca baudinii</i>	--	T
Sheep frog	<i>Hypopachus variolosus</i>	--	T
South Texas siren (large form)	<i>Siren sp. 1</i>	--	T
White-lipped frog	<i>Leptodactylus fragilis</i>	--	T
Reptiles			
Black-striped snake	<i>Coniophanes imperialis</i>	--	T
Northern cat-eyed snake	<i>Leptodeira septentrionalis septentrionalis</i>	--	T
Speckled racer	<i>Drymobius margaritiferus</i>	--	T
Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	--	T
Texas tortoise	<i>Gopherus berlandieri</i>	--	T
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T	-- ⁴
Hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	E	-- ⁴
Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	E	-- ⁴
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E	-- ⁴
Insects			
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	C	-- ⁴

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^{1,3}	State Status ^{2,3}
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Plants			
Ashy dogweed	<i>Thymophylla tephroleuca</i>	E	-- ⁴
Bushy whitlow-wort	<i>Paronychia congesta</i>	PE	-- ⁴
South Texas ambrosia	<i>Ambrosia cheiranthifolia</i>	E	-- ⁴
Star cactus	<i>Astrophytum asterias</i>	E	E
Texas ayenia	<i>Ayenia limitaris</i>	E	E
Walker's manioc	<i>Manihot walkerae</i>	E	E
Zapata bladderpod	<i>Physaria thamnophila</i>	E	-- ⁴

1 – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 2024

2 – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), 2024b

3 – DL=de-listed; T=threatened; E=endangered; C=candidate for listing; PE=proposed endangered

4 – Species not listed on TPWD County List.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects migratory birds, their eggs, nests, and young from harm unless specifically authorized. To avoid impacts, vegetation clearing should be scheduled outside the general nesting season of March through August. If work occurs during this period, the area should be surveyed first to ensure no active nests are disturbed, and any occupied nest areas should remain undisturbed until the young have fledged.

No sensitive plant or wildlife species are known to occur within the project area as the project areas is a developed, asphalt zone. Thus, it is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for sensitive species. For purposes of this EA, the analysis of endangered species is limited to U.S. resources, as ESA Section 7 does not apply to the Proposed Action due to its extraterritorial location.

3.8 Cultural, Historic & Archeological Property

Archaeological resources comprise areas where prehistoric or historic activity measurably altered the earth or deposits, and include physical remains (e.g., arrowheads, bottles) discovered therein. Architectural resources include standing buildings, districts, bridges, dams, and other structures of historic or aesthetic significance. Traditional cultural resources can include archaeological resources, structures, neighborhoods, prominent topographic features, habitats, plants, animals, and minerals that Native Americans or other groups consider essential for the persistence of traditional culture.

The Project Area is located within a developed, urban zone that has been previously disturbed. No cultural resources are anticipated to occur in the Project Area; however, a letter will be sent to the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) to confirm existing conditions. A determination from INAH will be obtained upon their response.

3.9 Socioeconomics

Socioeconomics is defined as the basic attributes and resources associated with the human environment, particularly population and economic activity. Human population is affected by regional birth and death rates as well as net immigration or emigration. Economic activity typically comprises employment, personal income and industrial growth. Impacts on these three fundamental socioeconomic indicators can also influence other components such as housing availability and public services provision.

In 2020, the estimated population of Hidalgo County, Texas, was 870,787, representing an increase from 2010. The county had an estimated unemployment rate in 2020, and its largest employment sectors

included several major industries. Unemployment rates in Hidalgo County and nearby cities have generally declined since 2010, although there has been a slight increase in recent years. In 2022, the percentage of residents living below the poverty level was approximately 38.3% in the City of Progreso, Texas and 27.4% in Hidalgo County.

On the Mexican side, the population of Río Bravo, Tamaulipas municipality increased by 12 percent between 2010 and 2020, reaching 132,484. This growth reflects Río Bravo's expanding industrial base and economic opportunities associated with its proximity to the U.S. border. The City of Río Bravo and the Town of Nuevo Progreso had estimated populations of 111,314 and 10,272, respectively, in 2020. From 2010 to 2020, Río Bravo experienced an annual population change rate of 1.5 percent, while Nuevo Progreso experienced a much lower annual change rate of 0.09 percent.

3.10 Municipal Services - Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, & Pollution Prevention

Waste management refers primarily to hazardous wastes. Hazardous waste is a waste material with properties that make it dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. The universe of hazardous wastes is large and diverse; hazardous wastes can be liquids, solids, contained gases, or sludges. They can include byproducts of manufacturing processes or simply discarded commercial products, like cleaning fluids or pesticides.

Numerous local, state, and federal laws regulate the storage, handling, disposal, and transportation of hazardous materials and wastes; the primary purpose of these laws is to protect public health and the environment.

Current operation of the wastewater treatment system does not utilize or produce hazardous materials. Hazardous waste byproducts of the system are contained and disposed of according to established guidelines. However, the existing infrastructure allows inadvertent discharge of partially treated wastewater into the environment. This uncontrolled discharge constitutes a release of waste into the environment, which flows north toward the US–Mexico international border.

3.11 Public Health & Safety

Public health is a key concern in Río Bravo because inadequate wastewater collection and treatment systems can contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases, including gastrointestinal illnesses and hepatitis A. A functioning wastewater system is needed to contain and treat wastewater before it is released to the environment, reducing the risk of contamination to soil, groundwater, and surface waters.

In Río Bravo, the existing wastewater infrastructure is aging and has experienced failures that limit its ability to properly collect, convey, and treat wastewater. The system is also vulnerable to stormwater infiltration during heavy rain events, which can increase flows, overload the system, and contribute to sanitary sewer overflows or untreated discharges. These conditions present potential risks to public health and safety, as well as to water quality in the Rio Grande and downstream waters.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

Potential impacts are described for each of the alternatives considered. For the resource areas where effects will occur, the different types of effects (e.g., beneficial, adverse) are identified for each resource (e.g., air, water). Furthermore, cumulative impacts and irreversible commitment of resources for each alternative are described.

The description of impacts is focused specifically on impacts to U.S. resources but may contain descriptions of impacts in the entire area of concern, which encompasses Hidalgo County, Texas, City of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, and Town of Nuevo Progreso, Tamaulipas.

4.1 Land Use

The Project Area is located within existing COMAPA wastewater system infrastructure routes. This land is developed and primarily covered in asphalt. As a result, construction activities will not require the acquisition of land or the development of undisturbed sites. Existing land uses would not be impacted due to the Proposed Action or Alternative 1.

4.2 Topography & Soils

The Project Area is located within existing COMAPA wastewater system infrastructure routes. This land is developed and primarily covered in asphalt. As a result, construction activities will not disturb additional soils. Therefore, soils and prime farmland would not be impacted due to the Proposed Action.

4.3 Water Resources

The Proposed Action is anticipated to have positive effects on the local water systems, vegetation, and wetlands of Rio Bravo and Nuevo Progreso. Removal of untreated wastewater from the local water systems will help produce healthier ecosystems. Untreated wastewater can contain a range of pollutants, including heavy metals, pathogens, and nutrients, which can severely impact water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The removal of untreated wastewater helps prevent water pollution, protecting marine life, and preserving biodiversity. By reducing the discharge of pollutants into water bodies, the process of removing untreated wastewater contributes to the restoration and improvement of aquatic habitats. Furthermore, untreated wastewater often contains disease-causing microorganisms that can pose risks to human health through contaminated water sources. Thus, proper treatment and removal of wastewater not only safeguard environmental health but also enhance public health by reducing the spread of waterborne diseases. For floodplains, the Proposed Action would be constructed within existing developed wastewater corridors and would have no significant impact on floodplains, while, while helping reduce stormwater-related sewer overflows and untreated discharges to the Rio Grande.

4.4 Wetlands

No natural wetlands are known to exist within or near the proposed project area in Río Bravo. Under the proposed project, construction would occur within existing developed areas and no direct impacts to wetlands are expected. The project would improve wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure,

which would reduce the potential for untreated discharges to reach downstream waters, including wetland areas such as the Laguna Madre. The closest key wetlands to the Río Bravo area are the Rio Grande Delta, located about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Río Bravo, and the Laguna Madre, located about the same distance to the south. Under the No Action Alternative, existing infrastructure would continue to deteriorate, increasing the potential for wastewater discharges that could adversely affect downstream water quality and wetland resources.

4.5 Air Quality

Construction activities have the potential to produce fugitive dust and non-regulated air emissions from construction vehicles and equipment; however, these activities are temporary and are not considered a significant source of emission. Construction activities may also contribute to a short-term increase in particulate matter (PM-10 or dust) which will be minimized through the development and implementation of a dust control program during construction of the project, if warranted. It is determined that there will not be a significant impact on air quality due to the implementation of the Proposed Action.

4.6 Noise

The Proposed Action may result in short-term, temporary elevated noise levels during construction; however, no sensitive noise receptors would be affected as there are no sensitive noise receptors near the Project Area. Standard engineering controls will be utilized to minimize noise impacts during construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would not contribute to elevated noise levels or otherwise adversely affect noise-compatible land use within the Project Area.

4.7 Biological Resources – Vegetation & Terrestrial Wildlife

Figure 4 in Section 3.7 provides a list of federal and state-listed species with potential to occur in Hidalgo County. The wastewater activities will take place completely within previously developed land, primarily covered in asphalt. Therefore, the Project Area does not provide habitat for the T&E species provided in Figure 4 or other non-listed native flora and fauna species. As a result, construction of the Proposed Action will not adversely impact biological resources.

4.8 Cultural, Historic & Archeological Property

The Project Area is located within a developed, urban zone and no construction activities are expected to take place within undeveloped or undisturbed land. As a result, it is not expected that historic, architectural, archeological, or cultural resources would be located within the Project Area. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action would not impact historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural resources.

4.9 Socioeconomics

Construction activities will be contained within existing COMAPA wastewater alignments located in street right-of-way (ROW) and developed areas. During construction, traffic patterns may be temporarily altered, which could have minor, short-term impacts on local businesses. However, these impacts would be temporary and minimized through proper traffic control measures. The Proposed Action or

Alternative 1 would not significantly affect population movement and growth or fundamentally change local business or economic activity. In the long term, these alternatives are expected to support a healthier community and stronger local economy by improving wastewater infrastructure and reducing environmental risks.

4.10 Municipal Services - Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, & Pollution

Prevention

Solid wastes related to the construction of the Proposed Action will consist of excess pipe, gravel, paving material, and other construction-related wastes. Project wastes will be stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. No hazardous materials are associated with the construction activities, and it is considered unlikely that hazardous contamination will be excavated during the construction phase. Additionally, the rehabilitated wastewater infrastructure will not contribute to the production of solid waste and will serve to reduce the amount of raw waste that is discharged or exposed in the long term. All Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requirements will be followed in order to ensure that runoff will not be contaminated during the construction process. It is thereby determined that the Proposed Action would not cause environmental impacts due to hazardous materials, solid waste, or pollution.

4.11 Public Health & Safety

The Proposed Action would not adversely affect environmental health and safety. Instead, implementation is expected to reduce public health and environmental risks over the long term by improving wastewater collection and treatment. Under the No Action alternative, wastewater infrastructure would continue to deteriorate, increasing the risk of sanitary failures and creating significant public health and safety concerns.

4.12 Cumulative Effects

CEQ defines cumulative impacts as an “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable 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 a period of time (by various agencies or individuals)” (40 CFR 1508.7). Informed decision-making is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future.

The limited extent of the construction activities, and lack of associated environmental impacts, precludes cumulative impacts due to the wastewater collection system rehabilitation in the Proposed Action. There are no negative effects expected to occur as a result of the project.

4.13 Conclusion

This EA has been prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements. It evaluates the potential environmental impacts of proposed improvements to the wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, and treated wastewater discharge systems in the City of Río Bravo and Town of Nuevo Progreso,

Tamaulipas, and concludes that implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment in the United States or Mexico.

5.0 Environmental Letters of Concurrence

In July 2025, North American Development Bank (NADBank) sent letters to relevant agencies requesting acknowledgement, in writing, that they are in concurrence with the determination that the proposed rehabilitation efforts as described previously are eligible for the categorical exclusion as under 40 CFR §602.4(a)(1)(ii).

Letters of concurrence were sent to the following agencies:

- International Boundary and Water Commission
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas State Office
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Division
- Texas Historical Commission (State Historical Preservation Office)