



Documentation of Public Hearing

Project Location

Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center
107 N. Sunflower Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542

Project Limits

From Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to the Laguna Madre in Willacy County

Hearing Location

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center
107 N. Sunflower Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542

Hearing Date and Time

June 11, 2019, 5:30 P.M.

Presenters

Raul Sesin, General Manager, Hidalgo County Drainage District 1
Barbara Castille, Environmental Manager, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.

Elected Officials in Attendance

Anissa Guajardo, Representing Filemon Vela, U.S. Congress District 34
Nuriddin Kalum, Representing Vicente Gonzalez, U.S. Congress District 15
Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 4
Saul Garcia, Representing David Fuentes, Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 1

Total Number of Attendees (approx.)

23

Total Number of Commenters

0



Documentation of Public Hearing

Project Location

Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas

Willacy County Safe Room

10804 Business 77, Raymondville, Texas 78580

Project Limits

From Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to the Laguna Madre in Willacy County

Hearing Location

Willacy County Safe Room

10804 Business 77, Raymondville Texas 78580

Hearing Date and Time

June 12, 2019, 5:30 P.M.

Presenters

Raul Sesin, General Manager, Hidalgo County Drainage District 1

Barbara Castille, Environmental Manager, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.

Elected Officials in Attendance

Marisela Cortez, Representing Filemon Vela, U.S Congress District 34

Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 4

Saul Garcia, Representing David Fuentes, Hidalgo County Commissioner Precinct 1

Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy County Democratic Chair

Henry De La Paz, Willacy County Commissioner Precinct 3

Ben Vera, Willacy County Constable Precinct 3

Total Number of Attendees (approx.)

24

Total Number of Commenters

3

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Public Hearing Summary**
- B. Comment/Response Matrix**
- C. Notices**
- D. Sign-in Sheets**
- E. Transcript**
- F. Comments Received**
- G. Figures**

ATTACHMENT A

Public Hearing Summary

Hearing Dates

& Location:

Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center
107 North Sunflower Road, Edinburg, Texas
Tuesday, June 11, 2019
5:30 pm

Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77, Raymondville, Texas
Wednesday, June 12, 2019
5:30

Hearing Purpose:

The purpose of the Public Hearings was to present the preliminary findings of the environmental review and solicit public comments of the Raymondville Drain Project (RDP). The proposed RDP improvements include potential new storage channels, ditches and detention pond facilities and the widening of selected existing channels and ditches. The proposed project would increase the regional drainage capacity by implementing infrastructure improvements which are designed to reduce flooding and flood damage to residential, commercial, and agricultural areas after heavy rains, tropical storms and/or hurricanes. In addition, the proposed project would provide for economic development opportunities by reducing floodplain areas and increasing the availability of farmland and other developable land.

Hearing Format:

The Public Hearings began with a half-hour open house forum in which attendees could review the information handouts (English and Spanish), exhibit boards, design schematics and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed RDP. Attendees were encouraged to visit with the project team to discuss the project design and environmental considerations. Each attendee was provided with a copy of the comment form, proposed location map and informational handout on the proposed project. Representatives from The Hidalgo County Drainage District 1, Willacy and Hidalgo County elected officials, and the consulting team were available to discuss the proposed Raymondville Drain Project activities with the public and answer questions. Tables with seating were available for the public to complete comment forms at the Public Hearing. Attendees were encouraged to voice their comments during the public comment session of the hearing. The objective of the Public Hearings was to provide the public with an opportunity to express comments or concerns about the proposed project.

Attendance	Citizens	5
June 11, 2019:	Elected/Public Officials	5
	Media	0
	Project Staff	13

Attendance	Citizens	4
June 12, 2019:	Elected/Public Officials	10
	Media	0
	Project Staff	10

Notices: Public Notices were published in the *El Nuevo Heraldo*, *The Monitor*, and *The Valley Morning Star* on May 11, 2019 and *El Extra* (online) on May 10, 2019.

One notification e-mail which included the Public Notice was sent to Elected/ Public Officials. The notification e-mail provided information about the upcoming Public Hearing to Elected/Public Officials that represent the relevant project area.

Hearing Summary: The purpose of the public hearing was to present the preliminary findings of the environmental review of the RDP. The Public Hearing began with a half-hour open house forum in which attendees could review the information handouts (English and Spanish), exhibit boards, design schematics and draft SEIS for the proposed RDP. Attendees were encouraged to visit with the project team to discuss the project design and environmental considerations. Each attendee was provided with a copy of the comment form, proposed location map and informational handout on the proposed project. A formal presentation was presented at the Public Hearings. Attendees were invited to speak at the Public Hearing or submit written comments during the public comment period which ended on July 26, 2019.

A court reporter was present to document any verbal comments that were made by the public as well as a verbatim transcript of the Public Hearing. There were no members of the public that elected to speak during the Public Hearings.

Three public comments were received in total. One written comment was received at the Willacy County Public Hearing and two emailed comments were received prior to the end of

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

the comment period. The majority of the comments pertained to the effects of 1) freshwater intake and the salinity, sediment and turbidity to the Laguna Madre 2) pollutants entering the Laguna Madre from inflow of surface runoff and 3) freshwater intake on seagrasses and the Laguna Madre ecosystem.

The public comments have been considered and addressed within the SEIS. In addition, a comment response matrix was prepared to specifically address each comment (see Attachment B).

ATTACHMENT B

Comment/Response Matrix

Raymondville Drain Project Public Hearing Summary

Raymondville Drain Project Comment/Response Matrix								
No.	Name	Date Received	Source	Comment Topic	Response			
1	C. Rake-straw	06-12-19	Comment Form	<p>Need more information on EIS finding on impact to the Lower Laguna Madre, specifically where in the EIS is this addressed and any other related material.</p>				
2	J. Chapman	06-26-19	Email	<p>While I support improved drainage I cannot support this project because it does not look at potential impacts of storm water runoff on the Laguna Madre. Seagrasses are essential to the health of the bay system.</p> <p>What will be the impact on sudden large surges of freshwater runoff on a hypersaline bay?</p>				

Raymondville Drain Project Comment/Response Matrix					
No.	Name	Date Received	Source	Comment Topic	Response
2	J. Chapman	06-26-19	Email	Impacts of the runoff sediment & turbidity on the sea grasses? Impacts of fertilizer and pesticides in the runoff? None of this is analyzed.	<p>Section 3.3, Sediment Quality, of the EIS discusses studies for organic compounds, pesticides and PCBs in the lower Laguna Madre. The samples discussed were collected approximately 1.9 miles south of the intersection of the Brownsville ship channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) located at the southern end of the Laguna Madre. The samples collected did not show traces of organochlorine pesticides or PCBs.</p> <p>Atrazine and oxamyl are commonly used pesticides in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Atrazine-tolerant and oxamyl-tolerant bacteria are present in agricultural canals. The bacteria displayed resistance to both pesticides. This may increase the likelihood that excesses of these pesticides will be degraded in the environment (Online Journal of Biological Sciences, 2010).</p> <p>TCEQ's Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System storm water permits for runoff from construction, industrial activities, and municipal separate storm sewers consider pesticides when issuing, amending, terminating, monitoring, and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under the Clean Water Act §§307, 402, 318 and 405, the Texas Water Code, and the Texas Administrative Code regulations. Permit TXG87000 Pesticides General Permit authorizes the discharge of pesticides near a waters of the United States and an associated pesticide discharge management plan would be implemented.</p> <p>Insufficient data or research is known for pollutant loads or effects of fertilizers on water quality in the Laguna Madre. Fertilizers are being studied under the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (2017). One of the goals of the Watershed Protection Plan is to reduce lawn fertilizer use by homeowners by 10 percent through education and outreach, and reduce pollutants from cropland irrigation over the next 10 years. State and federal governments have been working to encourage voluntary adoption, by local landowners, of resource management systems implemented by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.</p> <p>The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model provides a simulation of processes such as evapotranspiration, surface runoff, percolation and the effects of applications of fertilizers and pesticides. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed, improvement in wastewater treatment, access of wastewater treatment to more colonia residents, strict effluent standards, and treatment of effluent using ponds and wetlands have improved the quality of water in the Arroyo Colorado (Texas Water Resource Institute, 2012).</p> <p>The RDP project team concluded that increased turbidity in the Raymondville Drain drainage canals are temporary and would occur only during construction; the proposed project is not expected to change or increase turbidity within the Laguna Madre. Short-term effects to water quality consist of increased turbidity during construction activities. Long-term effects on tidally influenced water quality are not anticipated since ambient conditions are expected to return to normal levels soon after dredging and dewatering activities associated with the Raymondville Drain Project are completed.</p>
2	J. Chapman	06-26-19	Email	There needs to be another large detention area somewhere east of La Sal Vieja. More detention and less runoff would be much better for the health of the Laguna Madre ecosystem.	A 500-acre detention pond will be added southwest of La Sal Vieja, and northeast of Faysville, located near the South Texas International Airport in Edinburg, Texas. The detention pond will retain floodwaters during storm events and decrease the volume of freshwater entering the Laguna Madre during high rainfall events. The detention pond will hold a required storage capacity of 3,028 acre-feet of water.
2	J. Chapman	06-26-19	Email	Additionally, what is described under wetlands mitigation is not mitigation at all. Hopefully the USACE will recognize that and require real mitigation.	<p>The National Wetland Inventory maps were used to determine the wetland types and potential wetland impacts within the project limits. Wetlands were predominately identified as palustrine emergent or riverine wetlands. Total NWI identified acreage within the limits of the preferred alternative is approximately 2,209 acres.</p> <p>Currently, on-site mitigation is proposed to create a total of 546 acres of wetlands and 1,226 acres of non-wetlands, as per mitigation rules of 2008 (33 CFR Part 332). On-site mitigation locations are available through the proposed detention and areas near the Laguna Madre, south of the existing Raymondville Drain (latitude 26.432696° N, longitude -97.483068° W) or north of the existing drain (latitude 26.470525° N, longitude -97.477029° W). The Raymondville project would create and/or enhance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 480 acres of saline wetlands; • 66 acres of freshwater wetlands; • 1,043 acres of brush (non-wetlands); and • 183 acres of grass (non-wetlands). <p>Regional initiatives that could be considered by the RDP project team include the proposed viewpoints implemented by the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Plan (2018). The program is currently developing a comprehensive plan for enhancement of the Lower Laguna Madre ecosystem (within Hydrologic Unit Code, HUC, 12110208). A watershed approach could be considered to compensate for the wetland losses as appropriate.</p>

Raymondville Drain Project Comment/Response Matrix					
No.	Name	Date Received	Source	Comment Topic	Response
2	J. Chapman	06-26-19	Email		<p>Off-site mitigation options would be available in the future with the Lower Texas Coastal Mitigation, LLC. The proposed Lower Texas Coastal Mitigation Bank (LTCMB) is a mixed habitat bank in Cameron County that encompasses 955 acres of mudflats, estuarine emergent wetlands, and mangroves. The approximate mid-point location of the bank is at 26.005382°N latitude and -97.191597°W longitude. The Raymondville Drain Project would be located within the primary service area of the LTCMB and HUC 12110208.</p> <p>The primary goal of mitigation is to restore the ecosystem and improve the physical, chemical and biological functions of the impacted wetlands. A 1:1 minimum ratio would be used for compensatory mitigation. A no net loss of wetlands is anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed project.</p>
3	C. Rake-straw	07-26-19	Email	<p>The Lower Laguna Madre Foundation (LLMF), a 501 (C) (3) organization, was founded over two decades ago to preserve and protect the national resources of the South Texas intercostal bay system. This includes the Lower Laguna Madre, South Bay and their surrounding environments, including barrier islands, beaches, tidal flats and there unique environmental features to South Texas.</p> <p>While many topics and concerns are addressed in this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the impacts to the Lower Laguna Madre, itself, are not, in our opinion, adequately addressed.</p> <p>From an article entitled "Laguna Madre" By Christopher P. Onuf, U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center: "The Laguna Madre is a place of superlatives. It is separated from the Gulf of Mexico by Padre Island (fig. 1), the longest barrier island in the world. Excluding its tributary Baffin Bay (not treated in this account), Laguna Madre makes up about 20% of Texas' protected coastal waters while contributing 40%–51% of the State's commercial fish catch historically (Hedgpeth, 1947). The lagoon is even more important in support of the redhead duck, <i>Aythya americana</i>. Over 75% of the world population of redhead ducks overwinters on the Laguna Madre of Texas and on its sister lagoon, the Laguna Madre de Tamaulipas, just south of the delta of the Rio Grande (Weller, 1964). While in residence, the redhead ducks feed almost exclusively on the rhizomes of one seagrass species, shoal grass (<i>Halodule wrightii</i>). The lagoon's rich endowment of seagrasses provides critical habitat for fish and waterfowl. Seagrass meadows cover 65% of the bottom of Laguna Madre, and Laguna Madre accounts for more than 75% of seagrass cover along the entire Texas coast. The lagoon is also unusual for being one of only five hypersaline coastal ecosystems in the world (Javor, 1989)". (Page 1)</p>	<p>Redhead Duck breeding areas cover vast prairies of the U.S. In the winter, the Redhead Ducks migrate to the Texas Gulf Coast. The ducks are attracted to the submerged aquatic vegetation, especially shoal grass. Redhead Ducks mostly graze on shoal grass in the Laguna Madre. The ducks also eat tubers, rhizomes, plant stems, and some invertebrates. The Laguna Madre was dominated by shoal grass which can withstand very high salinity levels. The construction of the Intracoastal Waterway in 1948 permanently connected the Laguna Madre estuary to the Gulf of Mexico. This lowered salinity levels in the Laguna has allowed less salinity tolerant sea grasses such as manatee grass and turtle grass to flourish. Between 1988 and 1994 shoal grass was still the most dominant seagrass found Covering 20,553 hectares in the upper Laguna Madre and 41,671 hectares in the Lower Laguna Madre (Altsman, Handly, Demay, 2007). "Multiple shoal grass patches were seen in the area in 2003 indicating partial recovery to that time" (Altsman, Handly, Demay, 2007). As of 2019, Redhead Ducks are not listed as endangered, threatened, candidate species, or species of greatest conservation need by the State of Texas through the TPWD or federally by the USFWS.</p>
3	C. Rake-straw	07-26-19	Email	<p>From "The Laguna Madre of Texas and Tamaulipas", Edited by John W. Tunnell, Jr. and Frank W. Judd, Texas A & M University press: "The Laguna Madre of Texas and Tamaulipas is the only hypersaline coastal lagoon on the North American continent and the only one of five worldwide." ".....the lagoon is renowned for its vast seagrass meadows, huge wintering bird population, and bountiful fishing grounds." "Recent concerns about increasing human activity have focused attention on the long term health of the Laguna Madre as growing population pressures, pollution problems, and dredging threaten this unique ecosystem." (My emphasis)</p>	<p>The University of Miami, Center for Marine and Environmental Analyses, has shown that freshwater runoff only affects biomass such as seagrasses in years with particularly high amounts of rainfall and prolonged exposure to low salinity (Irlandi <i>et al.</i>, 2001). According to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, essential fish habitat, subtidal vegetation, and seagrasses were not identified within the Project Area. Increased impacts from the proposed action to seagrasses are not expected.</p>

Raymondville Drain Project Comment/Response Matrix					
No.	Name	Date Received	Source	Comment Topic	Response
3	C. Rake-straw	07-26-19	Email	<p>3.2.1 of the EIS "Laguna Madre" discusses "impairment"; there is no statement as to the "uniqueness", the "vibrancy" and "fragile nature" of this body of water. Its importance should be stated at the outset. There seems to be a lack of attention given to the impact of massive amounts of water flowing into the Laguna Madre, both in the short term and the long term. This is a very important issue; it should have been given much more coverage than some of the other topics covered almost ad nauseam. The 2 quotes below puts this in a better perspective.</p> <p>From an article entitled "Laguna Madre" By Christopher P. Onuf, U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center: "In the lower Laguna Madre, nutrient input from the Arroyo Colorado is becoming a concern. Onuf (1996b) found algal biomass to be three times greater near the Arroyo Colorado as compared to other areas of the Laguna Madre. The Arroyo Colorado is the only major drainage into the lower Laguna Madre. This drainage receives much of the municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater generated in the lower Rio Grande valley. Consequently, the tidal segment of the arroyo does not meet the dissolved oxygen standard for aquatic life use, and nutrient concentrations exceed screening levels. Currently, to address the water-quality problems in the arroyo, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) assessment is being conducted by the TCEQ. Once the TMDL is completed and implemented, reduction in nutrient loading might benefit lower Laguna Madre." (Page 11)</p> <p>and</p> <p>By Mark Lingo, Lower Laguna Madre Ecosystem Leader: "As an ancient distributary of the Rio Grande, the Arroyo Colorado serves as drainage for crop irrigation, municipal wastewater returns, and as a floodway during periods of heavy precipitation in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Most freshwater systems require some level of phosphorus in the water to enable plants, including algae, to grow. However, major increases in the amount of phosphorus entering a watershed can cause rapid increases in algal growth rates that can lead to the formation of an algal bloom. Phosphorus is contained in many products such as fertilizer, detergents, and effluent, so the Arroyo Colorado is vulnerable to high phosphorus levels. These high phosphorus compounds enter the Arroyo water through storm water and irrigation returns (non-point source pollution), or are directly disposed of into the river from a specific site (point source pollution)."</p> <p>It has also been documented that damage occurs, and has occurred, when massive flows of 'fresh' water are dumped into the Laguna. 'Fresh water' alone can cause salinity problems; the problem is exacerbated by the addition of actual 'pollutants'. More attention needs to be given to these issues.</p>	<p>The RDP project team concluded that increased turbidity in the Raymondville Drain drainage canals are temporary and would occur only during construction; the proposed project is not expected to change or increase turbidity within the Laguna Madre. Short-term effects to water quality consist of increased turbidity during construction activities. Long-term effects on tidally influenced water quality are not anticipated since ambient conditions are expected to return to normal levels soon after dredging and dewatering activities associated with the Raymondville Drain Project are completed.</p> <p>Insufficient data or research exists on phosphorus load levels in the RDP; however, work is being conducted in the region, for example, with the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (2017) to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads in ditches and in canals from agricultural practices. The Watershed Protection Plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing BMPs established by the USDA on conservation practices for nutrient management, and • Creating or maintaining sinuosity in ditch or waterways to minimize phosphorus pollutant loads. <p>Insufficient data or research is known for pollutant loads or effects of fertilizers on water quality in the Laguna Madre. Fertilizers are being studied under the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan (2017). One of the goals of the Watershed Protection Plan is to reduce lawn fertilizer use by homeowners by 10 percent through education and outreach, and reduce pollutants from cropland irrigation over the next 10 years. State and federal governments have been working to encourage voluntary adoption, by local landowners, of resource management systems implemented by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.</p> <p>The TCEQ established one water quality monitoring station in 2018 along the Raymondville Drain to determine the current conditions. Impacts from pollutants are currently being studied under UTRGV activities (formerly as part of The Rio Grande Valley Storm Water Management Project). The on-going study will characterize the watershed and identify potential causes and sources of water quality impairments and the link the impairments and the sources of impairment. Existing and new data will be used in the future for estimating pollutant loads.</p> <p>Other regional initiatives that could be considered by the RDP project team include the proposed viewpoints implemented by the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Plan (2018). The program is currently developing of a comprehensive plan for enhancement of the Lower Laguna Madre ecosystem. Evaluating these initiatives could help to achieve management goals, evaluate cumulative effects and address critical issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping and establishing best practices for seagrasses; • reducing pollutants and improving water quality by studying the effect of phosphorus and other indicators; • studying the impacts of algal blooms and mitigation needs; and • addressing habitat needs for the red egret, redhead duck, piping plover, and other shorebirds.
3	C. Rake-straw	07-26-19	Email	<p>Mr. Lingo leads me to another problem in the EIS. I refer to the Lingo sentence, "As an ancient distributary of the Rio Grande, the Arroyo Colorado serves as drainage for crop irrigation, municipal wastewater returns, and as a floodway during periods of heavy precipitation in the lower Rio Grande Valley." In the EIS, 3.2 Water Quality, states: "Other than the Rio Grande, there are virtually no natural drainage features in the study area, and most surface water occurs in the numerous drainage/irrigation ditches."</p> <p>Have the writers of the EIS determined that the Arroyo Colorado is not a 'natural' body of water? Or that it is not 'a drainage feature'?</p>	<p>The Arroyo Colorado is a drainage feature in the general area of the Rio Grande Valley but is not within the designated Raymondville Drain study area. The project study area encompasses the areas within Hidalgo County and Willacy County ranging from areas located west of Edinburg Lake to areas moving east toward the Laguna Madre. The study area is subdivided into four main watersheds; Raymondville Drain, North Main Drain, Willacy and Delta Lake. The Arroyo Colorado is not located in Willacy County and is not one of the four main watersheds located within the study area.</p>

Raymondville Drain Project Comment/Response Matrix					
No.	Name	Date Received	Source	Comment Topic	Response
3	C. Rake-straw	07-26-19	Email	<p>In summary, not enough attention is being given to additional water flows into the Laguna Madre, both from a fresh water inflow point of view and from contaminant laden point of view, nor to the potential damage additional inflows can cause. The Raymondville Drain will join several other existing such entities, requiring "cumulative" impacts to be more adequately addressed as well.</p> <p>Issue stated for the Arroyo Colorado above also pertain to all other points of inflow to the Lower Laguna Madre.</p>	<p>Other regional initiatives that could be considered by the RDP project team include the initiatives implemented by the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Plan (2018). The program is currently developing of a comprehensive plan for enhancement of the Lower Laguna Madre ecosystem. Evaluating these initiatives could help to achieve management goals, evaluate cumulative effects and address critical issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping and establishing best practices for seagrasses; • reducing pollutants and improving water quality by studying the effect of phosphorus and other indicators; • studying the impacts of algal blooms and mitigation needs; and • addressing habitat needs for the red egret, redhead duck, piping plover, and other shorebirds.

ATTACHMENT C

Notices

Newspaper Notices

El Extra (on-line) – May 10, 2019

El Nuevo Herald – May 11, 2019

The Monitor – May 11, 2019

The Valley Morning Star – May 11, 2019

10025495 - S&B Infrastructure - 30127743



PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

State of Texas

County of Hidalgo

Laura Salazar being duly sworn on his/her oath states that he / she is a Sales Representative of the EL EXTRA and that the attached online digital legal notice appeared in the following date:

May 10, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Salazar".

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the

10th day of May A.D. 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norma I Barras".

Notary Public, Hidalgo County



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NOTICIA PÚBLICA

APRENDE MÁS

Borrador de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental Suplementario disponible para Revisión Pública y Audiencias Públicas para el Raymondville Drain Project, desde el lago Edinburg en el condado de Hidalgo hasta la Laguna Madre en el condado de Willacy

RECIBE NOTICIAS VIA E-MAIL

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TV y Todo



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Noticias



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BROWNSVILLE

The Herald

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CAMERON

I Jose Andres Carrizales, being duly sworn on his oath states that he is a representative of El Nuevo Herald and that the attached notice appeared in the following issues:

Date: 11 de MAYO del 2019

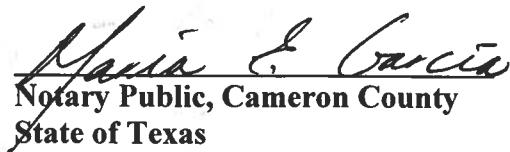
Acct: 10025495 S&B INFRASTRUCTURE / RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN
PROJECT SPANISH AD

Ticket: 30127683

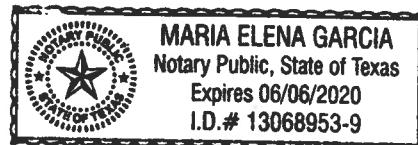


JOSE A. CARRIZALES III

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 14th day of mayo 2019



Maria E. Garcia
Notary Public, Cameron County
State of Texas



Noticia pública
Boletín de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental Suplementario disponible para Revisión Pública Y Audiencias Públicas para el Raymondville Drain Project, desde el lago Edinburg en el condado de Hidalgo hasta la Laguna Madre en el condado de Willacy

Este aviso informa al público que un borrador de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental Suplementario (SEIS) para el Raymondville Drain Project (RDP) está disponible para revisión pública. El proyecto RDP está siendo procesado bajo la guía federal de la Cuerpo de Ingenieros Militares de Estados Unidos (USACE) para actividades de obras civiles. El RDP califica como un proyecto de mejorar el control de inundaciones y drenaje de la Cuenca del Río Grande más bajo con arreglo al Título IV, Sección 401 de la Ley de Desarrollo de Recursos Hídricos (WRDA) de 1986, según su enmienda. La WRDA se ocupa de la conservación y el desarrollo del agua y de los recursos relacionados, y el mejoramiento y rehabilitación de la infraestructura de recursos hídricos de la Nación. Los límites del proyecto, para el RDP patrocinado por el gobierno federal, comienzan cerca del Lago Edinburg en el Condado de Hidalgo y terminan cerca de la Laguna Madre en el Condado de Willacy, Texas.

Se realizarán dos audiencias públicas para el proyecto propuesto. La primera audiencia pública se llevará a cabo el 11 de Junio de 2019 en el Condado de Hidalgo en el Centro de Dotación del Precinto 4 del Condado de Hidalgo, ubicado en 107 North Sunflower Road, Edinburg, TX 78542. La segunda audiencia pública se llevará a cabo el 12 de Junio de 2019 en Condado de Willacy en la Sala de Seguridad del Condado de Willacy, 10804 Business 77, Raymondville, TX 78580. La Sala de Seguridad del Condado de Willacy está ubicada en la esquina sureste de la intersección de Business 77 (South 7th Street) y Labor Camp Road. Para dispositivos móviles que usan aplicaciones de mapas, como Google Maps, etc., utilice Labor Camp Road, Raymondville, TX 78580, para obtener instrucciones generales para llegar a la sala de seguridad del condado de Willacy. Las pantallas del proyecto estarán disponibles para su revisión a partir de las 5:30 pm. La audiencia pública comenzará a las 6:00 pm. El propósito de las audiencias públicas es presentar al público las mejoras planificadas para el PDR y recibir comentarios públicos sobre el proyecto propuesto.

Las mejoras propuestas de RDP incluyen posibles nuevos canales de almacenamiento, zanjas e instalaciones de estanques y la ampliación de canales y zanjas existentes seleccionadas. El proyecto propuesto aumentaría la capacidad de drenaje regional mediante implementando mejoras de infraestructura diseñadas para reducir las inundaciones y los daños por inundaciones en áreas residenciales, comerciales y agrícolas después de fuertes lluvias, tormentas tropicales y / o huracanes. Además, el proyecto propuesto brindaría oportunidades de desarrollo económico al reducir las áreas de inundación y al aumentar la disponibilidad de tierras de cultivo y otras tierras de desarrollo.

El borrador de la SEIS y la información de diseño del proyecto estará archivada y estará disponible para su revisión con cita de lunes a viernes entre las 8:00 am y las 5:00 pm en la oficina del Condado de Hidalgo Distrito de Drenaje Precinto 1, ubicado en 902 N. Doolittle Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78542 (956-292-7080), y en El Condado de Hidalgo Precinto 4, ubicado en 1051 N. Doolittle Rd., Edinburg, TX, 78542 (956-383-3112), y la oficina de Juez del condado de Willacy, ubicado en 576 W. Main Ave. Room #152, Raymondville, TX (956-689-3393). La misma información ambiental y de ingeniería también estará disponible para su revisión en las Audiencias Públicas. Los comentarios verbales y escritos del público con respecto al proyecto de RDP propuesto pueden proporcionarse en las Audiencias Públicas o enviarse en persona o por correo a la Sra. Mirna Sanchez en S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, TX 78504 (956-926-5000), o msanchez2@sbinfra.com. Los comentarios deben recibirse no más tarde que el 26 de julio de 2019 para formar parte del registro oficial de la audiencia pública.

Las audiencias públicas se realizarán en inglés. Además, los representantes de habla hispana estarán disponibles en las audiencias públicas. Se recomienda a las personas que tienen necesidades especiales de comunicación o alojamiento que se comuniquen con Mirna Sanchez al 956-926-5000. Las solicitudes deben realizarse al menos cinco días antes de las audiencias públicas. Se harán todos los esfuerzos razonables para satisfacer las necesidades solicitadas.

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el proyecto propuesto o las Audiencias públicas, comuníquese con el Sr. Daniel Garces, PE, Gerente de Proyecto, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., en dgarces@sbinfra.com o al 956-926-5000.

05/11/2019

10025495 - S&B Infrastructure - 30127645

THE MONITOR

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

State of Texas

County of Hidalgo

David Garcia being duly
Sworn on his/her oath states that he/she is
a Sales Representative of THE MONITOR
in McAllen, TX and that the attached notice
appeared in the following issues:

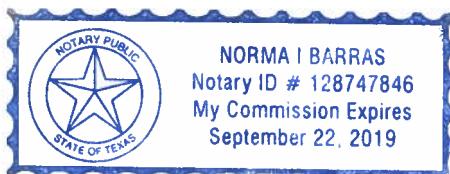
May 11, 2019

David T Garcia

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
the 14th day of May A.D. 2019.

Norma I. Barras

Notary Public, Hidalgo County



Public Notice

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Available for Public Review and Public Hearings for the Raymondville Drain Project, from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to the Laguna Madre in Willacy County

This notice advises the public that a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Raymondville Drain Project (RDP) is available for public review. The RDP project is being processed under the federal guidance of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for civil works activities. The RDP qualifies as a Lower Rio Grande Basin flood control and drainage improvement project under Title IV, Section 401 of Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The WRDA provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources and the improvement and rehabilitation of the Nation's water resources infrastructure. The project limits, for the federally sponsored RDP, begins near Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County and ends near the Laguna Madre in Willacy County, Texas.

Two Public Hearings will be held for the proposed project. The first Public Hearing will be held on **June 11, 2019** in Hidalgo County at the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center, located at 107 North Sunflower Road, Edinburg, TX 78542. The second Public Hearing will be held on **June 12, 2019** in Willacy County at the Willacy County Safe Room, 10804 Business 77, Raymondville, TX 78580. The Willacy County Safe Room is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Business 77 (South 7th Street) and Labor Camp Road. For mobile devices using mapping applications, such as Google Maps, etc., use Labor Camp Road, Raymondville, TX 78580, for general directions to the Willacy County Safe Room. Project displays will be available for review beginning at 5:30 pm. The Public Hearings will begin at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the Public Hearings is to present the planned RDP improvements to the public and to receive public comments on the proposed project.

The proposed RDP improvements include potential new storage channels, ditches and pond facilities and the widening of selected existing channels and ditches. The proposed project would increase the regional drainage capacity by implementing infrastructure improvements which are designed to reduce flooding and flood damage to residential, commercial, and agricultural areas after heavy rains, tropical storms and/or hurricanes. In addition, the proposed project would provide for economic development opportunities by reducing floodplain areas and increasing the availability of farmland and other developable land.

The draft SEIS and related project design information will be on file and available for review by appointment Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 Office at 902 N. Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX (956-292-7080), the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Office at 1051 N. Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX 78542 (956-383-3112), and the Willacy County Judge's Office at 576 W. Main Avenue, Room #152, Raymondville, TX 78580 (956-689-3393). The same environmental and engineering information will also be available for review at the Public Hearings. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding the proposed RDP project may be provided at the Public Hearings, or submitted in person or by mail to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, TX 78504 (956-926-5000), or msanchez2@sbinfra.com. Comments must be received on or before July 26, 2019 to be part of the official Public Hearing record.

The Public Hearings will be conducted in English. Additionally, Spanish speaking representatives will be available at the Public Hearings. Persons who have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Ms. Mirna Sanchez at 956-926-5000. Requests should be made at least five days prior to the Public Hearings. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the requested needs.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project or the Public Hearings, please contact Mr. Daniel Garcés, PE, Project Manager, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., at dgarcés@sbinfra.com or 956-926-5000.



PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

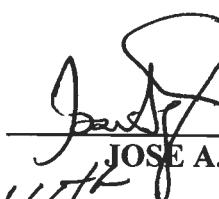
STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF CAMERON

I Jose Andres Carrizales, being duly sworn on his oath states that he is a representative of The Valley Morning Star and that the attached notice appeared in the following issues:

Date: MAY 11, 2019

Acct: 10025495 S&B INFRASTRUCTURE / RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN
PROJECT

Ticket: 30127682

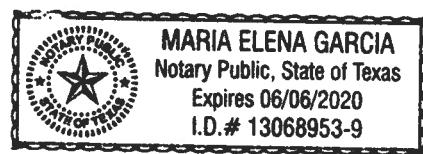


JOSE A. CARRIZALES III
14th

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 14th day of May 2019.



Maria E Garcia
Notary Public, Cameron County
State of Texas



101 Legal Notices

508 Schools & Instructions

Public Notice

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Noticia pública

Borrador de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental Suplementario disponible para Revisión Pública Y Audiencias Públicas para el Raymondville Drain Project, desde el lago Edinburg en el condado de Hidalgo hasta la Laguna Madre en el condado de Willacy

Este aviso informa al público que un borrador de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental Suplementario (SEIS) para el Raymondville Drain Project (RDP) está

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Experiencia en pa
El Nuevo Herald e
horarios determina

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ATTACHMENT C

NOTICES

Public Notice

Public Notice
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Noticia pública

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Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el proyecto propuesto o las Audiencias públicas, comuníquese con el Sr. Daniel Garces, PE, Gerente de Proyecto, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., en dgarcés@sbinfra.com o al 956-926-5000.

ATTACHMENT C

NOTICES

Email Notices to Elected Officials

Raymondville Drain Public Hearing – Elected Official Letter List

Hidalgo County Drainage District 1



Honorable Judge Richard Cortez
David Fuentes, Commissioner Pct. 1
Eduardo Cantu, Commissioner Pct. 2
Joe Flores, Commissioner Pct. 3
Ellie Torres, Commissioner Pct. 4

House of Representatives



Terry Canales, Texas State Representative, District 40
Oscar Longoria, Texas State Representative, District 35
Ryan Guillen, Texas State Representative, District 31

Willacy County



Honorable Judge Aurelio Guerra
Eliberto "Beto" Guerra, County Commissioner Pct. 1
Oscar Deluna, County Commissioner Pct. 2
Henry De La Paz, County Commissioner Pct. 3
Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzales, County Commissioner Pct. 4

Texas State Senators



Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Texas State Senator, District 20
Eddie Lucio, Texas State Senator, District 27

United States Senators



Ted Cruz, United States Senator
John Cornyn, United States Senator

United States Congressmen



Vicente Gonzalez, US Congressman, Texas District 15
Filemon Vela, US Congressman, Texas District 34

City of Raymondville

City of
Raymondville, TX

Gilbert Gonzales, Mayor



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Eduardo "Eddy" Gonzales
Willacy County Pct. 4
578 W. Main Ave. Room #145
Raymondville, Texas 78580

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Gonzales,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

June 11, 2019

Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4
Endowment Center
107 N. Sunflower Rd
Edinburg, Texas 78542
5:30 p.m. – Open House
6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing

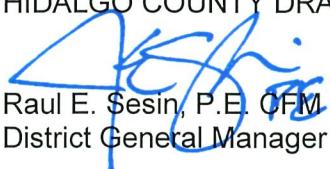
June 12, 2019

Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77 (South 7th Street)
and Labor Camp Road
Raymondville TX 78580
5:30 p.m. – Open House
6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing

We are available to meet with you before or after the Public Hearings to review the proposed project and to answer any questions that you may have. A Public Notice was published in *The Valley Morning Star*, *El Nuevo Heraldo* and *The Monitor* on May 08, 2019. The Public Notice is attached for your review.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me at raul.sesin@hcdd1.org or [956-292-7080](tel:956-292-7080) and/or Daniel Garces, P.E., Project Manager, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., at dgarces@sbinfra.com or [956-926-5000](tel:956-926-5000).

Sincerely,
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Sesin, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
Board Member

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
Chairman of the Board

JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Hidalgo County Precinct 2
300 West Hall Acres, Suite G
Pharr, TX 78577

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Cantu,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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Sincerely,

HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.

902 N. Doolittle Road • Edinburg, Texas 78542 | Office 956 292.7080 • Fax 956 292.7089

www.hcdd1.org



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID L. FUENTES
Board Member

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
Board Member

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
Chairman of the Board

JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Eliberto "Beto" Guerra
Willacy County Pct. 1
576 W. Main Ave. Room #145
Raymondville, Texas 78580

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Guerra,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

June 11, 2019

Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4
Endowment Center
107 N. Sunflower Rd
Edinburg, Texas 78542
5:30 p.m. – Open House
6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing

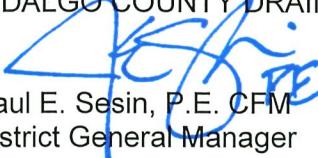
June 12, 2019

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District General Manager

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ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Oscar De Luna
Willacy County Pct. 2
576 W. Main Ave. Room #145
Raymondville, Texas 78580

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner De Luna,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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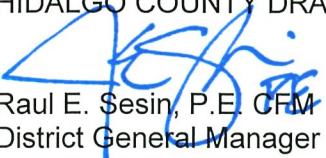
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Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



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Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Joe Flores
Hidalgo County Precinct 3
724 North Breyfogle, P.O Box 607
Mission, TX 78574

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Flores,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Ellie Torres
Hidalgo County Precinct 4
1051 N. Doolittle Road
Edinburg, TX 78542

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Torres,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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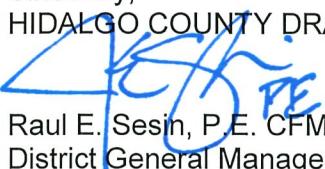
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Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



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District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner David L. Fuentes
Hidalgo County Precinct 1
1902 Joe Stephens Ave., Ste 101
Weslaco, TX 78596

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner Fuentes,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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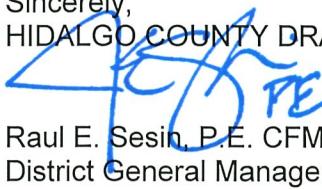
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District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



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Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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Board Member

June 06, 2019

Commissioner Henry De La Paz
Cameron County Precinct No. 3
576 W. Main Ave. Room #145
Raymondville, Texas 78580

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Commissioner De La Paz,

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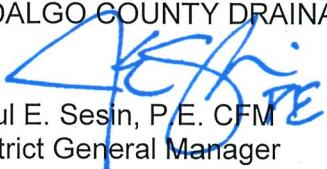
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District General Manager

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RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

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Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Judge Aurelio Guerra
576 W. Main Avenue, Room No. 152
Raymondville, TX 78580

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Honorable Judge Guerra,

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Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Ryan Guillen
Texas State Representative District 31
100 N. FM 3167, Suite 212
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Mr. Guillen,

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ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Terry Canales
Texas State Representative District 40
101 North 10 Ave. Suite B
Edinburg TX 78541

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Mr. Canales,

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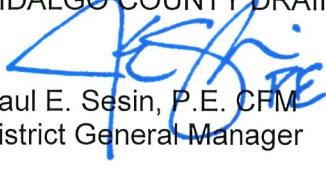
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ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Oscar Longoria
Texas State Representative District 35
1320 S. Main St.
Penitas, TX 78576

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Mr. Longoria,

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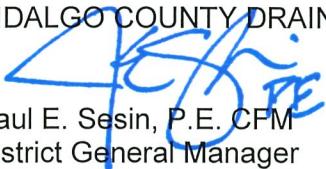
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Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Lucio
Texas State Senator District 27
1210 W Interstate 2, Suite 10
Pharr, TX 78577

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Senator Lucio,

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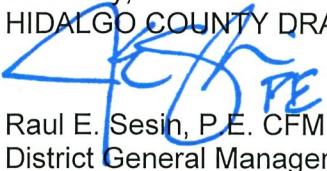
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5:30 p.m. – Open House
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We are available to meet with you before or after the Public Hearings to review the proposed project and to answer any questions that you may have. A Public Notice was published in *The Valley Morning Star*, *El Nuevo Heraldo* and *The Monitor* on May 08, 2019. The Public Notice is attached for your review.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me at raul.sesin@hcdd1.org or [956-292-7080](tel:956-292-7080) and/or Daniel Garces, P.E., Project Manager, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., at dgarces@sbinfra.com or [956-926-5000](tel:956-926-5000).

Sincerely,

HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.

902 N. Doolittle Road • Edinburg, Texas 78542 | Office 956 292.7080 • Fax 956 292.7089

www.hcdd1.org



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DAVID L. FUENTES
Board Member

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
Board Member

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
Chairman of the Board

JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
Texas State Senator, District 20
1508 S. Lone Star Way, Suite 6A
Edinburg, TX 78539

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Senator Hinojosa,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

June 11, 2019

Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4
Endowment Center
107 N. Sunflower Rd
Edinburg, Texas 78542
5:30 p.m. – Open House
6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing

June 12, 2019

Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77 (South 7th Street)
and Labor Camp Road
Raymondville TX 78580
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Sincerely,

HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



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RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

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Chairman of the Board

JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Ted Cruz
State Senator
200 S. 10th St. Suite 1603
McAllen TX 78501

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Senator Cruz,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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Sincerely,
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

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JOE M. FLORES
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ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable John Cornyn
State Senator
222 E. Van Buren Ave., Suite 404
Harlingen, TX 78550

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Senator Cornyn,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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Sincerely,
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No.1


Raul E. Seson, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.



HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1

RAUL E. SESIN, PE, CFM

District General Manager

Hidalgo County Floodplain Administrator

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Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Filemon Vela
U.S Congressman Texas District 34
301 W Railroad
Weslaco, TX 78596

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Mr. Vela,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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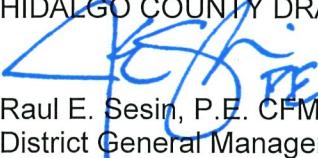
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District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.

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Chairman of the Board

JOE M. FLORES
Board Member

ELLIE TORRES
Board Member

June 06, 2019

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez,
U.S Congressman Texas District 15
1305 W. Hackberry Ave.
McAllen, TX 78501

RE: Raymondville Drain Public Hearing Notice

Dear Congressman Gonzalez,

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Texas. To keep you apprised of the events in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, this correspondence is to inform you of two upcoming Public Hearings to present the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Raymondville Drain Project from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre in Willacy County. The Public Hearings are being held to present the proposed environmental and design considerations for the project and to seek comments from elected/local officials and the public. You and/or your representative are cordially invited to attend one of the following Public Hearings:

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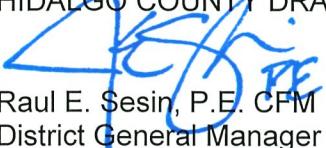
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HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No.1


Raul E. Sesin, P.E. CFM
District General Manager

CC: Daniel Garces, PE, Project Manager, S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.

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ATTACHMENT D

SIGN-IN SHEETS

Public Hearing Sign-in Sheets

June 11, 2019

Public

Elected Officials

Staff

**PUBLIC HEARING STAFF
SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)**

Raymondville Drain Project
Public Hearing / Audencia Pública
Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm
Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center
107 North Sunflower Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542

NO.	NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Nombre (Letra de Molde)	REPRESENTING Representando	MAILING ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP Dirección Postal/ Ciudad / Estado / Código Postal	EMAIL ADDRESS Dirección de Correo Electrónico
1	Joseph Cortez	S&B Infrastructure	Houston TX	JJCortez@SBInfra.com
2	Daniel Garces	S&B Infn.	McAllen Tx	dgarces@sb.infra.com
3	Skylar LeVrier	S&B Infra.	McAllen Tx	slevrier@sb.infra.com
4	Sylvia Hernandez	S&B Infra.	McAllen Tx	shernandez@sbinfra.com
5	Jonathan Prukop	S&B Infrastructure	McAllen, TX	JPrukop@sbinfra.com
6	Barbara Castille	S&B Infrastructure, Ltd	Houston, TX	bcastille@sbinfra.com
7	RAUL SESIN	HCDD#1	EDINBURG, TX	RAUL.SESIN@HCDD1.ORG
8	LORA Briones	HCDD #1	902 N. Doolittle, Edinburg	lora-briones@HCDD1.ORG
9	JAIME SALAZAR	HCDD#1	Edinburg, Tx	JAIME.SALAZAR@hcdd1.org
10	Guillermo Ybarra	S&B / Consultant	Down, Tx	Guillermo.Ybarra@ybarra.com

**PUBLIC HEARING STAFF
SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)**

**Raymondville Drain Project
Public Hearing / Audencia Pública
Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm
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1	Omar Cano	HCDD No 1	omar.cano@hcdd1.org	→
2	Jorge Gonzalez	HCDD 1		jorge.gonzalez@hcdd1.org
3	Noe Salinas	HC DD#1	noe.salinas@hcdd1.org	
4	George Guzman	HC Pct # 4		
5	Sonj Caven	Hidalgo County Pct 1		
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PUBLIC (PÚBLICO)
SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)

Raymondville Drain Project
Public Hearing / Audencia Pública
Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm
Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center
107 North Sunflower Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542

NO.	NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Nombre (Letra de Molde)	MAILING ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP Dirección Postal/ Ciudad / Estado / Código Postal	EMAIL ADDRESS Dirección de Correo Electrónico
1	TONY FORINA	3201 MYNNE AVE McAllen, TX 78504	TONY.FORINA@Co.Hidalgo.TX.US
2	Lydia Maldonado	6257 E 109 Edinburg TX 78542	Lydiamaldonado6464@yahoo.com
3	Vianney martinez	729 s shan. edinburg Tx 78542	
4	Juanita Davila	9111 E Monte Cristo Rd Edinburg Tx 78542	
5	Marcelle Perez	1444 S 83 Y2 ST Edinburg Tx 78542	
6			
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ELECTED OFFICIALS (FUNCIONARIOS ELECTOS)

SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)

Raymondville Drain Project
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1	Anissa Guajardo	Congressman Filemon Vela	301 W. Railroad St. Neslaco, Tx. 78596	Anissa.guajardo @ mail.house.gov.	
2	Nuridah Kalam	Congressman Vicente Gonzalez	1305 W. Hackberry Ave. McAllen, Texas 78501	nuridah.kalam @mail. house.gov	
3	Ellie Torres	Precinct 4 Commissioner		ellie.torres @ co. hidalgo.tx.us	
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ATTACHMENT D

SIGN-IN SHEETS

Public Hearing Sign-in Sheets

June 12, 2019

Public

Elected Officials

Staff

**PUBLIC HEARING STAFF
SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)**

**Raymondville Drain Project
Public Hearing / Audencia Pública
Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm
Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77, Raymondville, Texas 78580**

NO.	NAME (PLEASE PRINT) Nombre (Letra de Molde)	REPRESENTING Representando	MAILING ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP Dirección Postal/ Ciudad / Estado / Código Postal	EMAIL ADDRESS Dirección de Correo Electrónico
1	Daniel Garces	S&B Infrastructure	5408 N 10th st McAllen Texas 78504	dgarces@sbinfra.com
2	Sinclair Levrne	S&B	5408 N 10th st McAllen Tx 78504	sinlevrne@sbinfra.com
3	Rodolfo Valdez	Sf BI	5408 N 10 th st McAllen Texas 78504	rvaldez@sbinfra.com
4	Jonathan Prukop	S&B Infrastructure	5408 N 10 th Street McAllen, TX 78504	Jtprukop@sbinfra.com
5	Saul Garcia	Hidalgo County Pct 1	1902 Joe Stephens Ave Weslaco TX 78596	Saul.Garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us
6	Alex Livas	Hidalgo Co. Pct 1	1902 Joe Stephens Ave, Weslaco TX 78596	Alejandro.Livas@co.hidalgo.tx.us
7	PAUL SESIN	HCDD1	EDINBURG, TX	PAUL.SESIN@HCDD1.ORG
8	Jaimie Salazar	HCDD1	EDINBURG, TX	Jaimie.Salazar@hcdd1.org
9	Joseph Carter	S&B Infrastructure	Houston Tx	JSCarter@SBInfra.Com
10	George Guerra	Hc Pct # 4	Edinburg Tx	_____

**PUBLIC HEARING STAFF
SIGN-IN SHEET (HOJA DE REGISTRO)**

**Raymondville Drain Project
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1	Jorge Gonzalez	HCDD1		jorge.gonzalez@hcdd1.org
2	Omar Cano	HCDD1	902 N. Doolittle Rd Edinburg TX 78542	omar.cano@hcdd1.org
3	Noe Salazar	HCDD1	"	noe.salazar@hcdd1.org
4	Gymn Thurn	BBG/HCDD1 Consultant		
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PUBLIC (PÚBLICO)
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1	TONY FORINA	1124 N. M RD EDINBURG TX 78539	Tony.Forina@G.I.D.C60.TX.US
2	Lower Laguna Madre Foundation CHRISTINE RAKESTRAW	24555 BASS BLVD, HRL, TX 78550	RanchoRake@aol.com
3	Letty De la Paz	13389 FM 1921 Lyford, TX 78569	Lettydelapaz@hotmail.com
4	Leslie Salinas	P.O. Box 530540 Hunningin, TX 78553	lSalinas@fulcrum-cs.com
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ELECTED OFFICIALS (FUNCIONARIOS ELECTOS)

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1	Saul Barcon Pct 1	Hidalgo County Hidalgo Pct 1			
2	Marisela Cortez	Congressman Vela	800 N Expressway 1051 N. Dolette Rd. Edinburg TX 78541	Marisela.Cortez@mail.house.gov	
3	Ellie Torres	Hidalgo C. Pct 4	384 N. 5th St. Raymondville TX 78580	ellie.torres@co.hidalgo.tx.us	
4	Ernesto Cárdenas	Willacy Democratic Chair	133 E 1st St Laredo TX 78041	stcletty54@yahoo.com	
5	Henry Delator	Willacy County Pct 3			
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1	Ben VERA	Willacy Co. Constable Pct.3	Po. Box 105 Laredo, TX 78569	benjamin.vera@co.willacy.tx.us	N/A
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ATTACHMENT E

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

Public Hearing, June 11, 2019

Public Hearing, June 12, 2019

ACE COURT REPORTING SERVICE
& Digital Videography

Statewide & Nationwide Scheduling
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Public Hearing For Drainage and Flood Control
June 11, 2019

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Fax: 866.380.1135
www.acecourtreporting.com
E-mail: info@acecourtreporting.com

Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 RAUL SESIN, General Manager of the Hidalgo Drainage
District No. 1

3

4 BARBARA CASTILLE, Environmental Manager with S&BI

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 Whereupon,

3 6:00 P.M.

4

5 MR. SESIN: Okay. Good evening, my
6 name is Raul Sesin. I'm the general manager for
7 Hidalgo County Drainage District. Before we begin
8 tonight presentations I'd like for everyone to
9 please turn their cell phones off, turn off devices
10 or put them on mute.

11 Today is Tuesday, June 11, 2019 and
12 the time is exactly 6:00 p.m. On behalf of Hidalgo
13 County Drainage District Number 1, Willacy County,
14 the core of engineers, I would like to thank you for
15 your interest in participation in this public
16 hearing.

17 We welcome you to the public hearing
18 for the proposed Raymondville drain project located
19 from Edinburg Lake to Hidalgo County to Laguna
20 Madre. The public hearing is being transcribed by a
21 court reporter for the formal public record.

22 As you entered tonight you were asked
23 to sign in at the table. If you have not already
24 done so, please time before you leave tonight so we
25 can have a record of your participation of the

Page 4

1 public hearing.

2 If you'd like to make verbal comments
3 in tonight's hearings, please fill out speaker
4 registration card, which is also located in the back
5 table as you walk into your left.

6 Please free to view the exhibits in
7 the location. We have a several exhibits along the
8 back wall and up here in the front. They will also
9 be available with the presentation and until we
10 adjourn tonight. The open house began at 5:390 and
11 the public hearing is beginning now.

12 The purpose of the public hearing is
13 to present the preliminary findings of the
14 environmental review for the proposed Raymondville
15 Drain Project and to receive your comments, excuse
16 me, on the proposed.

17 The public comment section will begin
18 following the presentation. We will not answer
19 questions during the presentation or public comment
20 session. This official public hearing will adjourn
21 after all oral comments have been heard.

22 We would like to welcome and
23 recognize elected officials who are in attendance
24 tonight. The elected officials that we have in
25 attendance, we have from Congressman Filemon Vela's

Page 5

1 office, Ms. Anissa Guajardo. From Congressman
2 Vicente Gonzalez, you have to help me brother,
3 Colbath Bentsen.

4 MR. BENTSEN: Yes.

5 MR. SESIN: Yes, okay. And for
6 Commissioner Ellie Torres, board member and
7 Commissioner Precinct 1.

8 If there are any other elected
9 officials present tonight, please raise your hands
10 so you can be recognized. Okay. There being none.

11 The RDP is being processed under the
12 federal guidelines of US Army Corps of Engineers for
13 civil awards activities. The RDP qualifies under
14 the lower Rio Grande Valley basin flood control and
15 drainage improvement project under Title IV, Section
16 401 of Water Resource Development Act of 1986 as
17 amended.

18 We are using the Section 203 process
19 with the assistant secretary to the office, which
20 will help to streamline the environmental and
21 engineering feasibility studies for approval.

22 The notice of the public hearings
23 were advertised in newspapers noted on the slide, so
24 we have advertised in El Extra, El Nuevo Heraldo,
25 The Monitor and The Valley Morning Star.

Page 6

1 If you would like to review
2 information after tonight's public hearing, the
3 information will be available at the locations
4 listed on the slide until July 26th, 2019, which
5 represents the end of the comment period. We have
6 our, the locations located as Hidalgo County
7 Drainage District Number 1 Administration Office.
8 We have Hidalgo County Precinct 1 office and then
9 Willacy County Judge's Office.

10 The project presented tonight
11 proposes to improve drainage and flood conditions
12 along the Edinburg drain, main water channel, the
13 Hargill drain and the Raymondville drain drainage
14 areas.

15 The purpose of the public hearing is
16 to present the preliminary findings in the
17 environmental review for the purpose, proposed
18 Raymondville Drain Project and to receive your
19 comments on the proposed project.

20 The existent Raymondville Drain is an
21 urban line channel consisting of approximately
22 51 miles of man-made ditches and several lateral
23 ditches to collect run offs of surrounding areas of
24 Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

25 The system provides drainage to

1 surrounding cities such as Hargill, La Sara,
2 Raymondville and San Perlita. The Edinburg north
3 main drain and main front water channel south of the
4 Raymondville Drain provides drainage for 590 square
5 miles of urban area in Hidalgo County in cultivated
6 land for agriculture use in Willacy County.

7 Inner purpose. The existing outfall
8 drainage system for the Raymondville Drainage System
9 were designed in the late 1960s. These related
10 systems are not conducive to the recent and
11 extraordinarily growth of Hidalgo and Willacy County
12 and is inadequate to handle increased storm runoff.

13 The purpose of the project is to
14 provide additional drainage capacity to increase
15 flood protection, reduce flooding and flood damage
16 to residential and commercial and agriculture areas,
17 provide economic developmental opportunities by
18 reducing floodplain areas and increasing the
19 availability of farmland and other developable land,
20 add potential new storage channels, ditches and pond
21 facilities and widen selected existing channels and
22 ditches.

23 Project schedule. Construction is
24 expected to last approximately ten years. The
25 current estimate of construction cost is

Page 8

1 approximately \$418 million-dollars.

2 The proposed RDP improvements include
3 potential new storage channels, ditches, pond
4 facilities and the widening of selected existing
5 channels and ditches. The proposed project would
6 increase the regional drainage capacity by
7 implementing infrastructure improvements which are
8 designed to produce flooding and flood damage to
9 residential, commercial and agriculture areas after
10 heavy rains, tropical storms or hurricanes.

11 Right of way project and utility
12 adjustments. The proposed right of away is
13 350 feet. No anticipated residential or commercial
14 displacement will result from the implementation on
15 the proposed project.

16 Utility coordination is ongoing.
17 Public utility adjustments may include gas, lights,
18 power lines, fiber optic lines, water and irrigation
19 lines.

20 I would now like to introduce
21 Ms. Barbara Castille, the environmental manager with
22 SPI to walk you through the environmental reviews of
23 the project.

24 MS. CASTILLE: Thank you. This
25 environmental considerations evaluated as part of

Page 9

1 the environmental review for this project are shown
2 on this slide. A draft supplemental environmental
3 impact statement is available for review in the back
4 of the room.

5 Based on the existing data and field
6 investigations, a supplemental environmental impact
7 statement for the project was prepared. A larger
8 copy of this map is available to the side of the
9 screen here and also in the back of the room.

10 As part of the alternative solutions
11 evaluated to meet the development needs, the no
12 build alternative and several build alternatives
13 were reviewed. The no build alternative would
14 retain the current configuration of the drainage
15 system within Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

16 The alternative would not meet the
17 needs of the project as the existing conditions
18 within the project limits would not change. The
19 build alternatives would increase the regional
20 drainage capacity by implementing various
21 infrastructure improvements which are designed to
22 reduce flooding and flood damage to residential,
23 commercial and agriculture areas after heavy rains,
24 tropical storms or hurricanes.

25 In addition, the proposed project

Page 10

1 would provide for economic development, economic
2 development opportunities by reducing floodplain
3 areas and increasing the availability of farmland
4 and other developable lands within the area.

5 After this public hearing, all
6 comments received tonight as well as written
7 comments receive during the comment period will be
8 included in the public hearing and will be addressed
9 with the final environmental document review.

10 The final environmental packet
11 statement to be approved at the end of the year.

12 The EIS review will be conducted by a corps of
13 engineers and then it will be submitted to congress,
14 and then a record of decision is issued and funding
15 would be released to construct the project.

16 As we mentioned, the supplemental EIS
17 is available for review in the back of the room,
18 also in the Hidalgo County Drainage District
19 Number 1, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 and the Willacy
20 County office.

21 Now at this time, I'd like to hand it
22 back to Mr. Sesin for his comments.

23 MR. SESIN: Thank you, Barbara. Now
24 we'll begin the public comment section of the
25 hearing. There are several ways to comment on the

Page 11

1 proposed RDP. Either verbal comments, when I open
2 the floor for public comment or you may submit your
3 comments in writing.

4 If you'd like to make verbal comments
5 at tonight's hearings, but you did not complete a
6 speaker registration card, please raise your hand
7 and we will give you a card to complete.

8 Does anyone wish to make a comment
9 who did not get a card? If you submit your comments
10 in writing, it's not necessary to repeat your
11 comments verbally. Written verbal comments will be
12 considered equally.

13 For the elected officials, I'd like
14 to begin the public comment session by introducing
15 elected official. Do you wish to comment,
16 Commission Torres?

17 MS. TORRES: Sure. My comment is
18 that I look forward to this drainage being funded
19 and going through the process that it's going
20 through to getting congress to give us some funding
21 to construct this drain that is very much needed.

22 Our Valley is not shrinking, it's not
23 getting any smaller and on the contrary, it's
24 growing by leaps and bounds. Lots of rooftops going
25 up every single day, especially on the northern part

1 of our precinct.

2 So I see that and I see the need for
3 this, so hopefully, you know, as we go through this
4 process, we'll get some attention and get some
5 funding for this drainage.

6 We're ready to rock and roll. Our
7 drainage district is ready to go with this and so is
8 our precinct. And I'm just excited and be praying
9 that this come through. So that's my public comment
10 that we definitely need this funding. Thank you
11 everybody for being here. And just, that's it.

12 MR. SESIN: Thank you, commissioner.
13 Now, I would like to provide an opportunity for
14 those who have registered to speak on the proposed
15 project. You will have three minutes to make your
16 comments.

17 When I announce your name, please
18 come to the microphone, clearly state your name and
19 who you may represent. A timer will be located on
20 the screen will indicate the beginning of your
21 three minutes. After three minutes you will be
22 asked to be seated so the next presenter or speaker
23 can make his or her comments.

24 If you have additional comments,
25 please complete the written comment form provided to

Page 13

1 you. Any verbal comments, anyone that would like
2 verbal comments to be registered as part of the
3 record in this public hearing?

4 Okay. There being none, we'll
5 proceed for anyone who would like to submit written
6 comments. There are comment forms at the sign-in
7 table, as mentioned before. They're provided in a
8 comment box if you choose to leave your comment
9 completed form tonight or you mail it to the address
10 provided on the form.

11 Written comments must be postmarked
12 by July 26th, 2019. Your comments can also be sent
13 electronically to the e-mail address shown on the
14 slide, excuse me, and provided to you in the
15 handout. E-mails must be received before midnight
16 July 26th, 2019.

17 We would like to thank you for your
18 comments. And we now close this hearing. It's
19 exactly 6:14 p.m. and the hearing is now adjourned.

20
21 (Proceedings concluded at 6:14 p.m.)
22
23
24
25

1 THE STATE OF TEXAS §

2 COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

3 COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATE

4 I, MARIA E. AMADOR, Certified

5 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do
6 hereby certify that the facts as stated by me in the
7 caption hereto are true; that there came before me
8 the aforementioned named person, who was by me duly
9 sworn to testify the truth concerning the matters in
10 controversy in this cause; and that the examination
11 was reduced to writing by computer transcription
12 under my supervision; that the deposition is a true
13 record of the testimony given by the witness.

14 I further certify that I am neither
15 attorney or counsel for, related to or employed by,
16 any of the parties to the action in which this
17 deposition is taken, and, further, that I am not a
18 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
19 employed by the parties hereto, or financially or
20 otherwise interested in the action.

21 Pursuant to Rule 30(e)1:

22 Reading and Signing was requested.

23 Reading and Signing was waived.

24 XX Reading and signing was not
25 requested.

Given under my hand and seal of
office on this 20th day of July, 2019.

Maria E. Amador, CSR
TX CSR#8118, Exp: 12/31/19

6 BUSINESS ADDRESS:

7 ACE COURT REPORTING SERVICE
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8 220 E. University
Edinburg, TX 78539
9 Telephone: 956.380.1100
Fax: 866.380.1135
10 E-mail: info@acecourtreporting.com

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Public Hearing For Drainage and Flood Control
June 12, 2019

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Page 1

1 REPORTER'S RECORD

2 VOLUME 1 OF 1 VOLUMES

3

4 IN RE: §
5 PUBLIC HEARING FOR DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL §

6

7

8 *****

9 PUBLIC HEARING
10 JUNE 12, 2019, A.D.
11 *****

12 On the 12th day of June, 2019, the
13 following proceedings came on to be heard in the
14 above-entitled and numbered cause before Raul Sesin,
15 General Manager of the Hidalgo County Drainage
16 District No. 1, held in Raymondville, Willacy
17 County, Texas.

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Page 2

1 APPEARANCES:

2 RAUL SESIN, General Manager of the Hidalgo Drainage
District No. 1

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4 BARBARA CASTILLE, Environmental Manager with S&BI

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Page 3

1 Whereupon,

2 6:00 p.m.

3 PROCEEDINGS

4 MR. SESIN: Good evening. My name is
5 Raul Sesin and I am the General Manager of the
6 Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1. Before we
7 begin tonight's presentation, I ask that everybody
8 please turn off all cell phones and electronic
9 devices. Today is Wednesday, June 12th, 2019, and
10 the time is 6:00 p.m. On behalf of the Hidalgo
11 County Drainage District 1, Willacy County, the Army
12 Corps of Engineers and S&B Infrastructure, Ltd, I
13 would like to thank you for your interest and
14 participation in this public hearing.

15 We welcome you to this public hearing
16 for the proposed Raymondville Drain Project located
17 from Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County to Laguna Madre
18 in Willacy County. This public hearing is being
19 transcribed by a certified court reporter for the
20 formal public record.

21 As you entered tonight, you were
22 asked to register at the sign-in table. If you have
23 not already done so, please register before you
24 leave tonight so that we have a record of your
25 participation at this public hearing. If you would

Page 4

1 like to make verbal comments at tonight's hearing,
2 please fill out a speaker registration card located
3 on the table in the back of the room.

4 Please feel free to view the exhibits
5 in the surrounding area in the back. They will be
6 available during the presentation and until we
7 adjourn tonight.

8 The open house began at 5:30 p.m.,
9 and the public hearing is beginning right now.

10 The purpose of this public hearing is
11 to present the preliminary findings of the
12 environmental review and to receive your comments on
13 the proposed Raymondville Drain Project.

14 The public comment session will begin
15 following the presentation or public comment
16 session. During the presentation we will not answer
17 questions. This official public hearing will
18 adjourn after all oral comments have been heard.

19 We would like to welcome and
20 recognize the elected officials who are in
21 attendance tonight.

22 From Precinct 1 we have here board of
23 direct David Fuentes. We have county judge Richard
24 Cortez and then we have Commisioner Ellie Torres
25 representing Precinct 1.

Page 5

1 If there are any other elected
2 officials present tonight, please raise your hand to
3 be recognized. Each of you will be given the
4 opportunity to speak prior to the public comment
5 period. Thank you.

6 The RDP is being processed under the
7 federal guidance of the US Army Corps of Engineers
8 for civil works activities. The Raymondville Drain
9 Project qualifies as a Lower Rio Grande Basin flood
10 control and drainage improvement project under Title
11 IV, Section 401 of Water Resource Development Act of
12 1986, as amended. We are using the Section 203
13 process through the Assistant Secretary to the
14 Army's Office which helps to streamline the
15 Environmental and engineering feasibility studies
16 for approval.

17 The notices of this public hearing
18 were advertised in the newspapers noted on this
19 slide.

20 (Pause.)

21 If you would like to review
22 information after tonight's public hearing, the
23 information will be available at the locations
24 listed on this slide until July 2, 2019 which
25 represents the end of the comment period.

Page 6

1 The project presented tonight
2 proposes to improve drainage and flood conditions
3 along the Edinburg North Main Drain, Main Floodwater
4 Channel, Hargill Drain, and the Raymondville Drain
5 drainage areas.

6 As stated before, the purpose of this
7 public hearing is to present the preliminary
8 findings of the environmental review and to receive
9 your comments on the proposed Raymondville Drain
10 Project.

11 The existing Raymondville Drain
12 system is an earthen lined channel, consisting of
13 approximately 51 miles of man-made drainage ditches
14 and several lateral ditches to collect runoff from
15 surroundings areas in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.
16 The system provides drainage to surrounding cities
17 such as Hargill, Lasara, Raymondville and San
18 Perlita. The Edinburg North Main Drain and Main
19 Floodwater channel, south the Raymondville Drain
20 provides drainage for 590 square miles of urban area
21 in Hidalgo County, and for agricultural land in
22 Willacy County.

23 The existing outfall/drainage systems
24 of the Raymondville Drain system were designed in
25 the late 1960's. These related systems are not

1 conducive to the recent and extraordinary urban
2 growth of Hidalgo County, and is inadequate to
3 handle increased storm water runoff.

4 The purpose of this project is to:
5 Provide additional drainage capacity to increase
6 flood protection.

7 Reduce flooding and flood damage to residential,
8 commercial, and agricultural areas.

9 Provide economic development opportunities by
10 reducing floodplain areas and increasing the
11 availability of farmland and other land for
12 development.

13 Add potential new storage channels, ditches and pond
14 facilities and widen selected existing channels and
15 ditches.

16 Construction is expected to last
17 approximately 10 years. The current estimated
18 construction cost is approximately \$418 million
19 dollars.

20 The proposed Raymondville Drain
21 Project improvements include potential new storage
22 channels, ditches, pond facilities and the widening
23 of selected existing channels and ditches.

24 Additionally the project would increase the regional
25 drainage capacity by implementing infrastructure

Page 8

1 improvements which are designed to reduce flooding
2 and flood damage to residential, commercial, and
3 agricultural areas after heavy rains, tropical
4 storms or hurricanes.

5 The proposed ROW is 350 feet. No
6 anticipated residential or commerical displacements
7 will result from the implementation of the proposed
8 Raymondville Drain Project.

9 Utility coordination is on-going.
10 Public utility adjustments may include gas lines,
11 power lines, fiber optic cable, water and irrigation
12 lines.

13 I would now like to introduce Ms.
14 Barbara Castille, the Environmental Manager with
15 S&BI to walk you through the environmental reviews
16 of the project.

17 MS. CASTILLE: The environmental
18 considerations evaluated as part of the
19 environmental review are shown on this slide.

20 (Pause.)

21 A draft Supplemental Environmental
22 Impact Statement is available for review in the back
23 of the room.

24 Based on the existing data and field
25 investigations, a supplemental environmental impact

Page 9

1 statement for the project was prepared. A larger
2 copy of this map is available in the back of the
3 room for your review.

4 As part of the alternative solutions
5 evaluated to meet the development needs, the No
6 Build Alternative and several Build Alternatives
7 were reviewed.

8 The no build alternative would retain
9 the current configuration of the drainage system
10 within Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. This
11 alternative would not meet the needs of the project
12 as the existing conditions within the project limits
13 would not change.

14 The Build Alternatives would increase
15 the regional drainage capacity by implementing
16 various infrastructure improvements which are
17 designed to reduce flooding and flood damage to
18 residential, commercial, and agricultural areas
19 after heavy rains, tropical storms or hurricanes.
20 In addition, the proposed project would provide for
21 economic development opportunities by reducing
22 floodplain areas and increasing the availability of
23 farmland and other land available for development.

24 After this public hearing, all
25 comments received tonight as well as written

Page 10

1 comments received during the comment period, will be
2 included in the official public hearing record and
3 will be addressed in the final environmental
4 document review.

5 We anticipate the final environmental
6 impact statement to be approved at the end of the
7 year. the EIS review will be conducted by the Corps
8 of Engineers and then it would be submitted to
9 congress and then once a Record of Decision is
10 issued, the funding would be released to construct
11 the project.

12 As we mentioned, the Supplemental EIS
13 is available for review in the Hidalgo County
14 Drainage District 1, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 or
15 the Willacy County office.

16 MR. SESIN: Thank you, Barbara. Now
17 we will begin the Public Comment Session of the
18 hearing.

19 There are several ways to comment on
20 the proposed Raymondville Drain Project. You can
21 give your verbal comments when I open the floor for
22 public comment or you may submit your comments in
23 writing.

24 If you would like to make verbal
25 comments at tonight's hearing but you did not

Page 11

1 complete a speaker registration card, please raise
2 your hand and you will be given a speaker card to
3 complete.

4 If you submit your comments in
5 writing, it is not necessary to repeat your comments
6 verbally. Written and verbal comments will be
7 considered equally.

8 At this time I would like to begin
9 the public comment session by introducing our
10 elected officials who wish to comment.

11 First we will hear from Commisioner
12 Puentes.

13 MR. PUENTES: Good evening. We're
14 working together on this as a group. We feel that
15 this is important for our evergrowing population and
16 we thank you for your patience.

17 MS. TORRES: Good evening. It's
18 really great to be here tonight and see your
19 participation and interest in this big undertaking.
20 I would like to thank County Judge Richard Cortez
21 and all the members of the Drainage District. Thank
22 you and good evening.

23 MR. SESIN: Now I would like to
24 provide an opportunity for those who have registered
25 to speak on the proposed project.

Page 12

1 You will have three minutes to make
2 your comments. When I announce your name, please
3 come to the microphone and clearly state your name
4 and whom you represent.

5 A timer, located on the screen, will
6 indicate the beginning of your three minutes. After
7 three minutes, you will be asked to be seated so the
8 next speaker can make his or her comments. If you
9 have additional comments, please complete the
10 written comment form provided to you.

11 Now I will call speakers listed on
12 the speaker registration cards in the order they
13 were received. No one signed up?

14 For anyone who would like to submit
15 written comments, there are comment forms at the
16 sign-in table. We have provided a comment box if
17 you choose to leave your completed form tonight or
18 may mail them to the address provided on the form.
19 Written comments must be postmarked by July 26,
20 2019.

21 Your comments may also be sent
22 electronically to the email address shown on the
23 slide and provided to you in your handout. Emails
24 must be received before midnight on July 26, 2019.

25 I would like to thank you for your

Page 13

1 comments. We will now close the hearing. It is
2 exactly 6:21 p.m. and the hearing is adjourned.)

3 (Whereupon proceedings were concluded
4 at 6:21 p.m.)

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Page 14

1 THE STATE OF TEXAS S

2 COUNTY OF HIDALGO S

3 COURT REPORTER CERTIFICATE

4 I, MARIA E. AMADOR, Certified

5 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do
6 hereby certify that the facts as stated by me in the
7 caption hereto are true; that there came before me
8 the aforementioned named person, who was by me duly
9 sworn to testify the truth concerning the matters in
10 controversy in this cause; and that the examination
11 was reduced to writing by computer transcription
12 under my supervision; that the deposition is a true
13 record of the testimony given by the witness.

14 I further certify that I am neither
15 attorney or counsel for, related to or employed by,
16 any of the parties to the action in which this
17 deposition is taken, and, further, that I am not a
18 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
19 employed by the parties hereto, or financially or
20 otherwise interested in the action.

21 Pursuant to Rule 30(e)1:

22 Reading and Signing was requested.

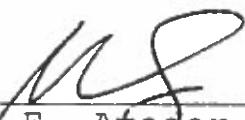
23 Reading and Signing was waived.

24 XX Reading and signing was not
25 requested.

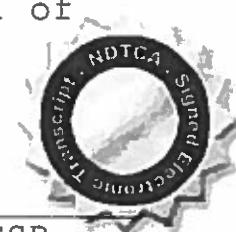
Page 15

1 Given under my hand and seal of
2 office on this 20th day of July, 2019.

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24
25



Maria E. Amador, CSR
TX CSR#8118, Exp: 12/31/19



6 BUSINESS ADDRESS:

7 ACE COURT REPORTING SERVICE
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8 220 E. University
Edinburg, TX 78539
9 Telephone: 956.380.1100
Fax: 866.380.1135
10 E-mail: info@acecourtreporting.com

ATTACHMENT F

Comments Received

Comment Forms

Emailed Comments

COMMENT FORM

(FORMA DE COMENTARIOS)

Public Hearing – Raymondville Drain Project

Public Comment Period: May 12 to July 26, 2019
Periodo de Comentario Público: 12 de mayo al 26 de julio de 2019

I am an Elected Official (Soy Funcionario/a electo) Position (Posición): _____

Name and Mailing Address (Optional) (Nombre y Dirección [Opcional]):

Name (Nombre): C. RAKESTRAW

Address (Dirección): 24555 BASS BLVD, HARLINGEN, TX 78552

Telephone (Teléfono): 956-245-7880

E-mail: RanchoRake@ad.com

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW (Favor de marcar la que le aplique):

I am primarily interested in the project from the standpoint of a (Me interesa el proyecto desde el punto de vista de):

Residential property owner or renter
(Propietario o inquilino residencial) **Business property owner or lessee**
(Propietario o inquilino del negocio)

Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]): Chair - lower hagona Madre Foundation

How did you learn about this hearing? (¿Como se enteró de esta audiencia?)

Newspaper (Periódico) **Federal Register (Registro Federal)**

— Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]): _____

Do you support the proposed project? (¿Apoya el proyecto propuesto?) Yes (Sí) No (No) Undecided (Indeciso)

COMMENTS (COMENTARIOS):

Please:

- need more information on EIS findings on impact to the lower Laguna Madre.
- specifically, where in the EIS is this addressed & any other related material.

Thank You.

Please make additional comments on the back. (Favor de hacer comentarios adicionales al dorso de esta forma.)

Instructions on Submitting Comments:

Written comments may be submitted via email to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at msanchez2@sbinfra.com, hand delivered to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at S & B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504, as well as by US mail addressed to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at S & B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504. Comments must be received no later than July 26, 2019 to be part of the Public Hearing record. Verbal comments may be provided at the June 11th and June 12th Public Hearings.

Instrucciones para enviar comentarios:

Los comentarios escritos pueden ser enviados por correo electrónico a Sra. Mirna Sanchez bajo de msanchez2@sbinfra.com, pueden entregar sus comentarios en persona a Sra. Mirna Sanchez a la oficia de S & B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504, o por correo dirigido a Sra. Mirna Sanchez de S & B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504. Los comentarios deben de estar entregado a más tardar el 26 de julio de 2019 a que puedan estar incluidos al registro de audiencia pública. Los comentarios verbales pueden proporcionarse en las audiencias públicas del 11 y 12 de junio.

COMMENT FORM
(FORMA DE COMENTARIOS)

Public Comment – Raymondville Drain Project

Comentario Público – Raymondville Drain Project

Public Comment Period: May 12th to June 26th 2019

Período de Comentario Público: Mayo 12 a Junio 26 2019

I am an Elected Official (Soy Funcionario/a electo)

Position (Posición): _____

Name and Mailing Address (Optional) Nombre y Dirección [Opcional]):

Name (Nombre) Jim Chapman

Address (Dirección) 200 East 11th St., Weslaco TX 78596

Telephone (Teléfono) 956 571-0545

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW (Favor de marcar la que la aplique):

I am primarily interested in the project from the standpoint of a (Me interesa el Proyecto desde el punto de vista de:)

Residential property owner or renter

Business property owner or lessee

(Propietario o inquilino residencial)

(Propietario o inquilino del negocio)

Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]) environmentalist

How did you learn about this hearing? (¿Como se enteró de esta audiencia?)

Newspaper (Periodicó) **Federal Register** (Registro Federal)

Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]) from a participant in the public meeting

Do you support the proposed project? (¿Apoya el proyecto propuesto?) **Yes (Si)** **No (No)** **Undecided (Indeciso)**

COMMENTS (COMENTARIOS): While I support improved drainage I cannot support this project because it does not look at potential impacts of stormwater runoff on the Laguna Madre. Seagrasses are essential to the health of the bay system. What will be the impact of sudden large surges of freshwater runoff on a hypersaline bay? Impacts of the runoff sediment & turbidity on the sea grasses? Impacts of fertilizer and pesticides in the runoff? None of this is analyzed. There needs to be another large detention area somewhere east of La Sal Vieja. More detention and less runoff would be much better for the health of the Laguna Madre ecosystem. Additionally, what is described under wetlands mitigation is not mitigation at all. Hopefully the USACE will recognize that and require real mitigation.

Jim Chapman

Please make additional comments on the back. (Favor de hacer comentarios adicionales al dorso de esta forma.)

Instruction on Submitting Comments:

Written comment can be submitted via email to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at msanchez2@sbinfra.com, hand delivered to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504, as well as by mail addressed to Ms. Mirna Sanchez at S&B Infrastructure, LTD., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504. Comments must be received no later than July 26, 2019 to be a part of the Public Hearing record. Verbal comments may be provided on the June 11th and June 12th at the Public hearings.

Instrucciones para enviar comentarios:

Los comentarios escritos pueden ser enviados por correo electrónico de Sra. Mirna Sanchez bajo de msanchez2@sbinfra.com, pueden entregar sus comentarios en persona a Sra. Mirna Sanchez a la oficina de S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504, o por correo dirigido a Sra. Mirna Sanchez de S&B Infrastructure, Ltd., 5408 North 10th Street, McAllen, Texas, 78504. Los comentarios deben de estar entregado a más tardar el 26 de julio de 2019 a que puedan estar incluidos al registro de audiencia pública. Comentarios verbales pueden estar entregados a la audiencia pública que va tocar en junio 11 y junio 12 de 2019.

LOWER LAGUNA MADRE FOUNDATION

709 N 77 Sunshine Strip PM Box 136

Harlingen, Texas 78550

956-245-7880 RanchoRake@aol.com

Ms. Mirna Sanchez
S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.
5408 North 10th Street
McAllen, TX 78504

Date: July 26, 2019
Submitted Via email: msanchez2@sbinfra.com
From: RanchoRake@aol.com
956-245-7880

Re: Public Comment: Raymondville Drain Project: Draft Supplemental EIS

The Lower Laguna Madre Foundation (LLMF), a 501 (C) (3) organization, was founded over two decades ago to preserve and protect the national resources of the South Texas intercostal bay system. This includes the Lower Laguna Madre, South Bay and their surrounding environments, including barrier islands, beaches, tidal flats and there unique environmental features to South Texas.

While many topics and concerns are addressed in this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the impacts to the Lower Laguna Madre, itself, are not, in our opinion, adequately addressed.

From an article entitled “Laguna Madre” By Christopher P. Onuf, U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center:

“The Laguna Madre is a place of superlatives. It is separated from the Gulf of Mexico by Padre Island (fig. 1), the longest barrier island in the world. Excluding its tributary Baffin Bay (not treated in this account), Laguna Madre makes up about 20% of Texas’ protected coastal waters while contributing 40%–51% of the State’s commercial fish catch historically (Hedgpeth, 1947). The lagoon is even more important in support of the redhead duck, *Aythya americana*. Over 75% of the world population of redhead ducks overwinters on the Laguna Madre of Texas and on its sister lagoon, the Laguna Madre de Tamaulipas, just south of the delta of the Rio Grande (Weller, 1964). While in residence, the redhead ducks feed almost exclusively on the rhizomes of one seagrass species, shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*). The lagoon’s rich endowment of seagrasses provides critical habitat for fish and waterfowl. Seagrass meadows cover 65% of the bottom of Laguna Madre, and Laguna Madre accounts for more than 75% of seagrass cover along the entire Texas coast. The lagoon is also unusual for being one of only five hypersaline coastal ecosystems in the world (Javor, 1989)”. (Page 1)

and

From “The Laguna Madre of Texas and Tamaulipas”, Edited by John W. Tunnell, Jr. and Frank W. Judd, Texas A & M University press:

“The Laguna Madre of Texas and Tamaulipas is the only hypersaline coastal lagoon on the North American continent and the only one of five worldwide.” “.....the lagoon is renowned for its vast seagrass meadows, huge wintering bird population, and bountiful fishing grounds.” “Recent concerns about increasing human activity have focused attention on the long term health of the Laguna Madre as growing population pressures, pollution problems, and dredging threaten this unique ecosystem.” (my emphasis)

3.2.1 of the EIS “Laguna Madre” discusses “impairment”; there is no statement as to the “uniqueness”, the “vibrancy” and “fragile nature” of this body of water. It’s importance should be stated at the outset. There seems to be a lack of attention given to the impact of massive amounts of water flowing into the Laguna Madre, both in the short term and the long term. This is a very important issue; it should have been given much more coverage than some of the other topics covered almost ad nauseam. The 2 quotes below puts this in a better perspective.

LOWER LAGUNA MADRE FOUNDATION

Public Comment: Raymondville Drain

page 2 of 2

From an article entitled "Laguna Madre" By Christopher P. Onuf, U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center:

"In the lower Laguna Madre, nutrient input from the Arroyo Colorado is becoming a concern. Onuf (1996b) found algal biomass to be three times greater near the Arroyo Colorado as compared to other areas of the Laguna Madre. The Arroyo Colorado is the only major drainage into the lower Laguna Madre. This drainage receives much of the municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater generated in the lower Rio Grande valley. Consequently, the tidal segment of the arroyo does not meet the dissolved oxygen standard for aquatic life use, and nutrient concentrations exceed screening levels. Currently, to address the water-quality problems in the arroyo, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) assessment is being conducted by the TCEQ. Once the TMDL is completed and implemented, reduction in nutrient loading might benefit lower Laguna Madre." (page 11)

and

By Mark Lingo, Lower Laguna Madre Ecosystem Leader

"As an ancient distributary of the Rio Grande, the Arroyo Colorado serves as drainage for crop irrigation, municipal wastewater returns, and as a floodway during periods of heavy precipitation in the lower Rio Grande Valley.

Most freshwater systems require some level of phosphorus in the water to enable plants, including algae, to grow. However, major increases in the amount of phosphorus entering a watershed can cause rapid increases in algal growth rates that can lead to the formation of an algal bloom. Phosphorus is contained in many products such as fertilizer, detergents, and effluent, so the Arroyo Colorado is vulnerable to high phosphorus levels. These high phosphorus compounds enter the Arroyo water through stormwater and irrigation returns (non-point source pollution), or are directly disposed of into the river from a specific site (point source pollution)."

It has also been documented that damage occurs, and has occurred, when massive flows of 'fresh' water are dumped into the Laguna. 'Fresh water' alone can cause salinity problems; the problem is exacerbated by the addition of actual 'pollutants'. More attention needs to be given to these issues.

Mr. Lingo leads me to another problem in the EIS. I refer to the Lingo sentence, "As an ancient distributary of the Rio Grande, the Arroyo Colorado serves as drainage for crop irrigation, municipal wastewater returns, and as a floodway during periods of heavy precipitation in the lower Rio Grande Valley." In the EIS, 3.2 Water Quality, states: "Other than the Rio Grande, there are virtually no natural drainage features in the study area, and most surface water occurs in the numerous drainage/irrigation ditches." Have the writers of the EIS determined that the Arroyo Colorado is not a 'natural' body of water? Or that it is not 'a drainage feature'?

In summary, not enough attention is being given to additional water flows into the Laguna Madre, both from a fresh water inflow point of view and from contaminant laden point of view, nor to the potential damage additional inflows can cause. The Raymondville Drain will join several other existing such entities, requiring "cumulative" impacts to be more adequately addressed as well. Issues stated for the Arroyo Colorado above also pertain to all other points of inflow to the Lower Laguna Madre.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Rakestraw

Christine Rakestraw, Chair,
Board of Trustees
Lower Laguna Madre Foundation

ATTACHMENT G

Figures

Exhibit Boards

Comment Forms

Public Handouts

Presentation

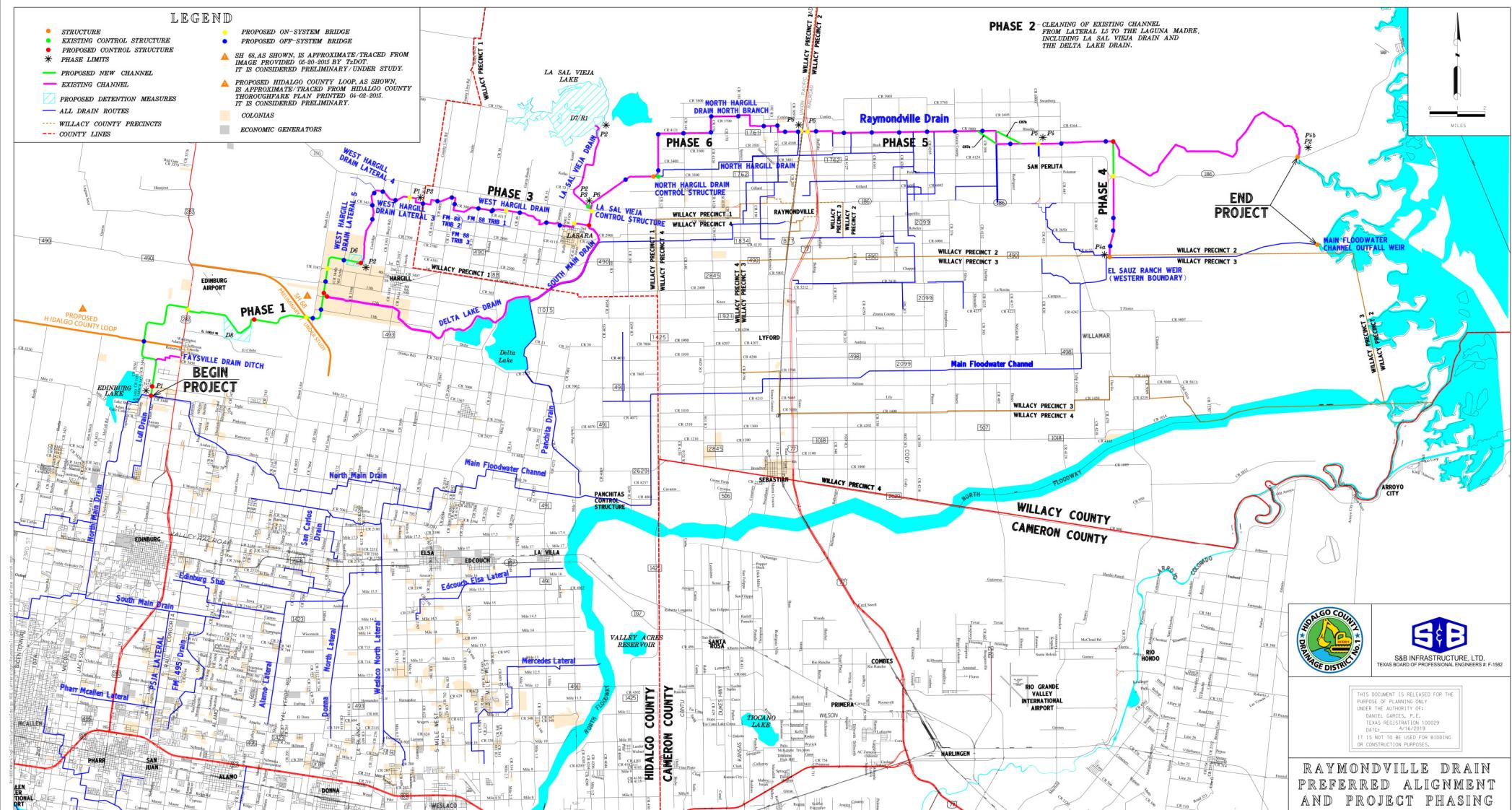
Photographs

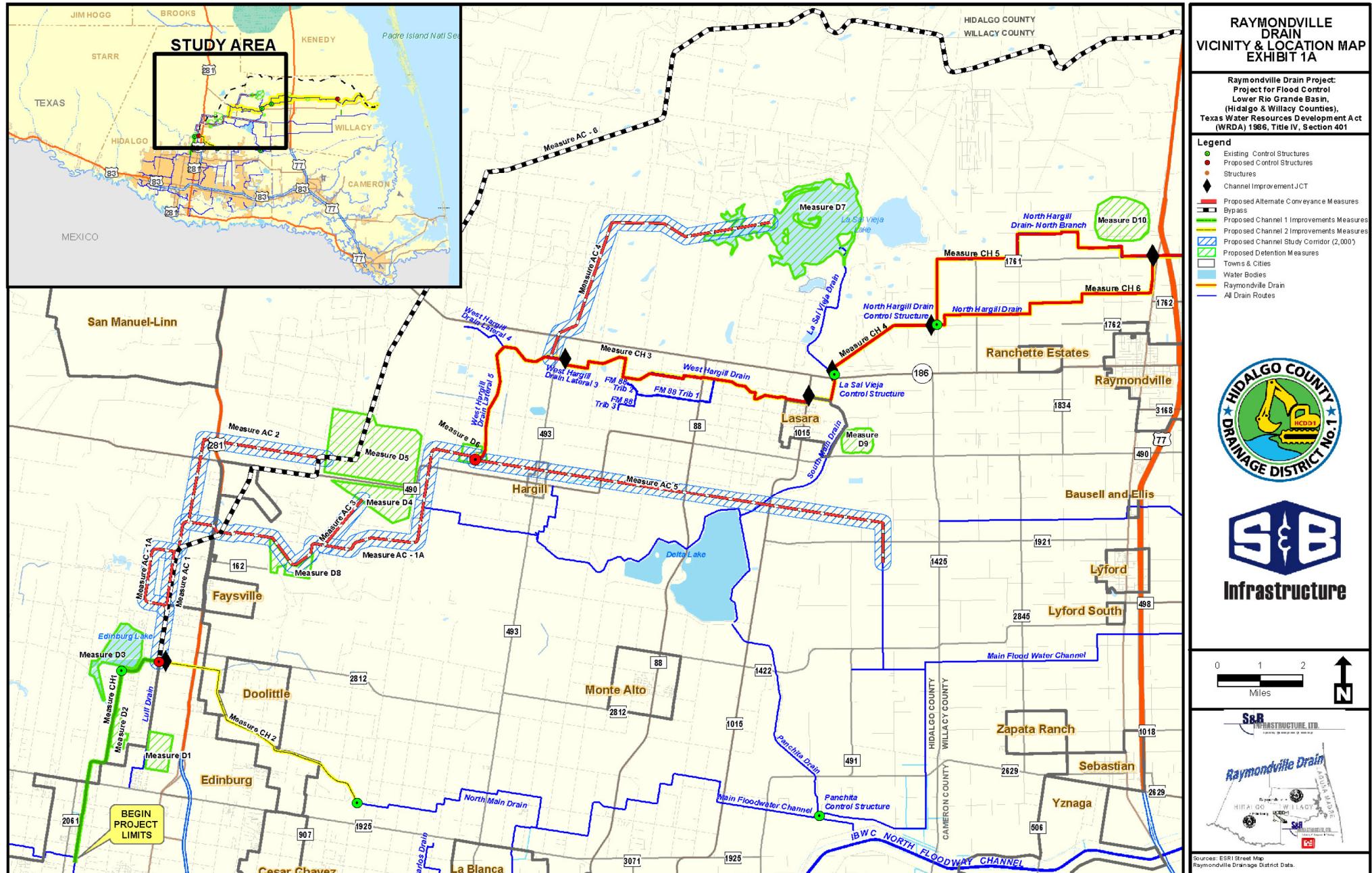


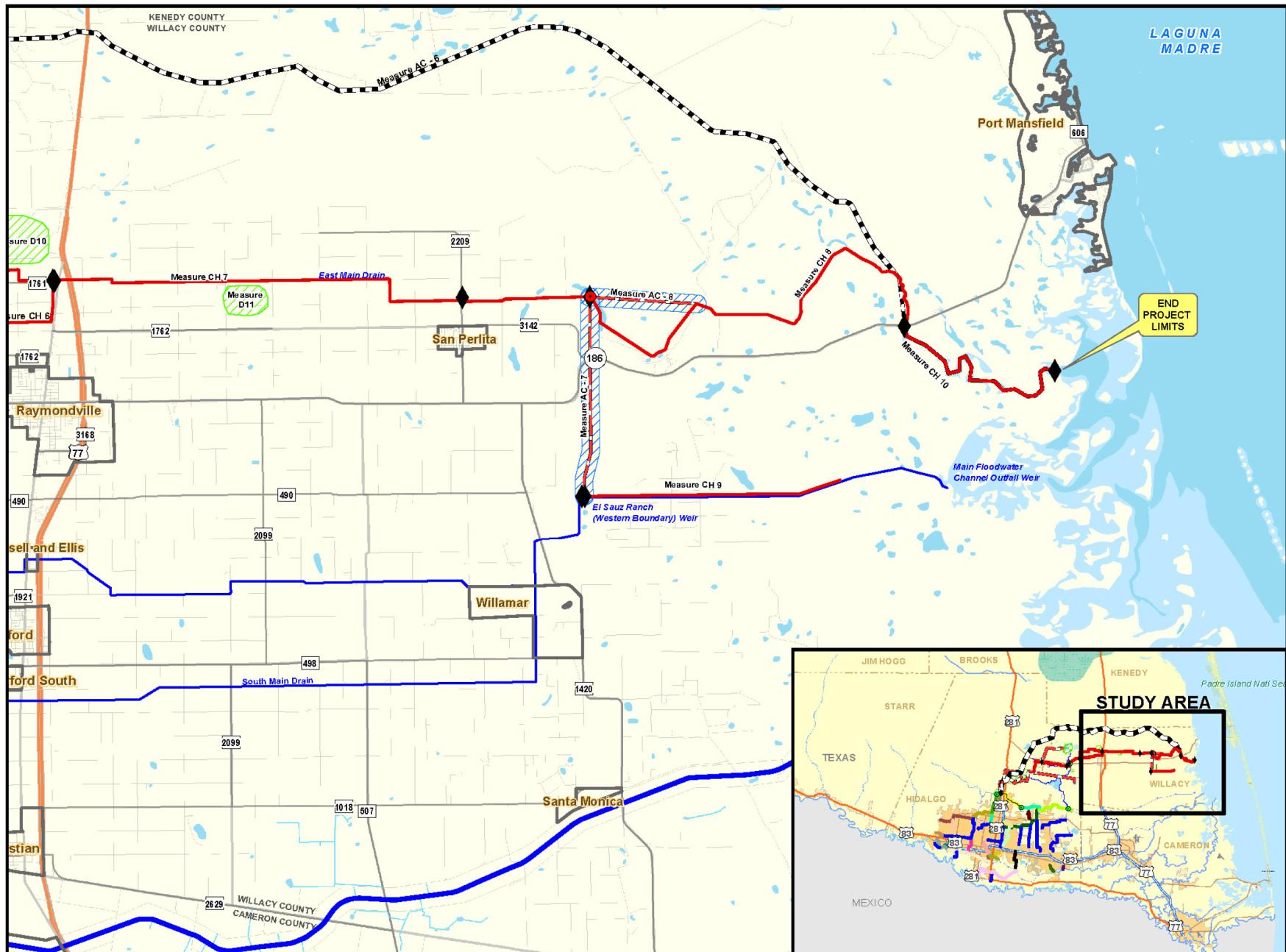
Welcome to the Raymondville Drain Project Public Hearing

June 11 & June 12, 2019









**RAYMONDVILLE
DRAIN
VICINITY & LOCATION MAP
EXHIBIT 1B**

Raymondville Drain Project:
Project for Flood Control
Lower Rio Grande Basin,
(Hidalgo & Willacy Counties),
Texas Water Resources Development Act
(WRDA) 1986, Title IV, Section 401

Legend

- Existing Control Structures
- Proposed Control Structures
- Structures
- ◆ Channel Improvement JCT
- Bypass
- Measure AC 7
- Proposed Detention Measures
- Towns & Cities

Raymondville Dra

North Hargill Drain- North Branch
All Drain Routes



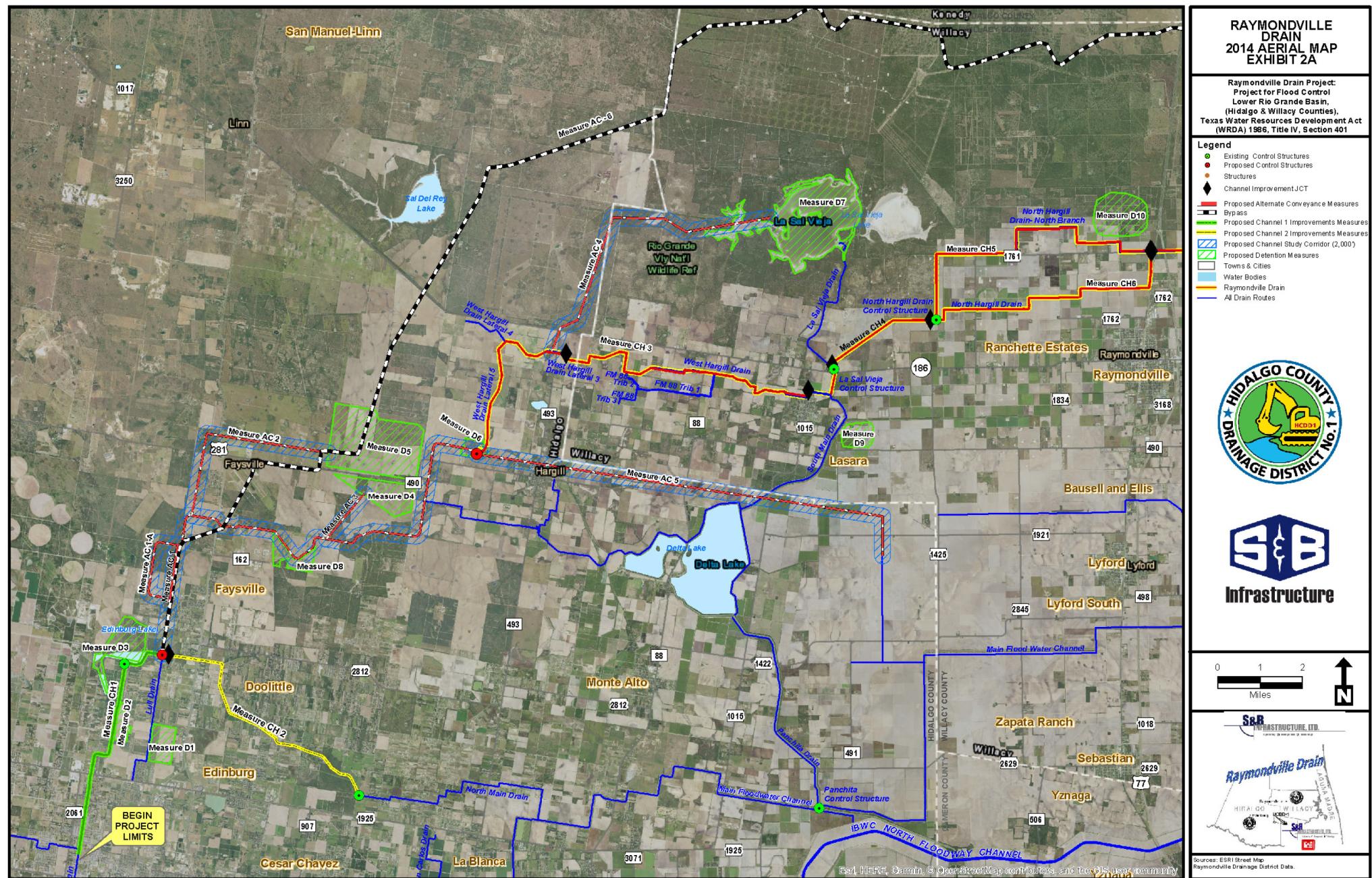
Infrastructure

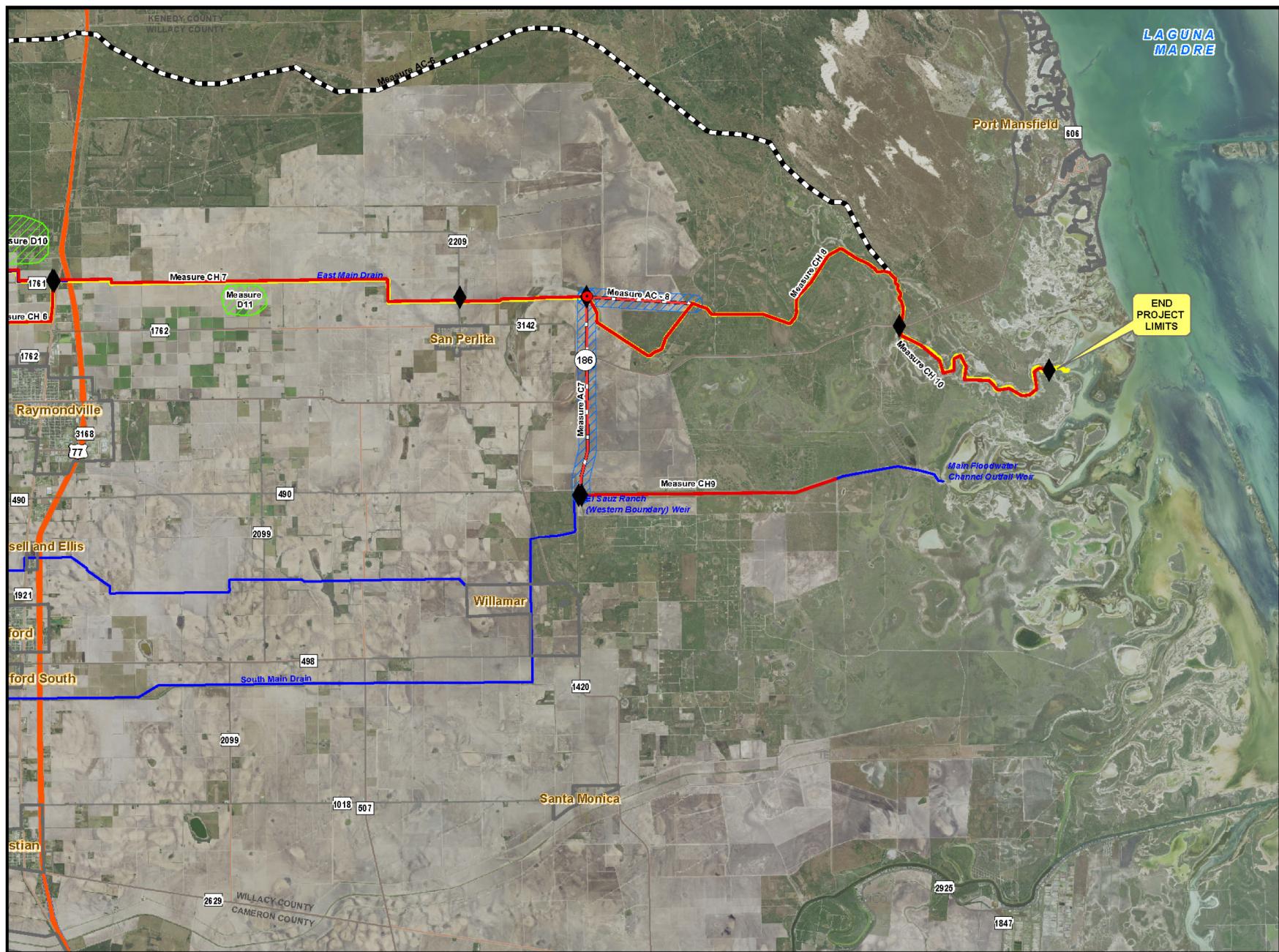
A horizontal scale bar with tick marks at 0, 1, and 2. Below the bar, the word "Miles" is written.

S&B
STRUCTURE, LTD.

A map showing the Raymondville Drain area, which spans across Hidalgo and Willacy counties in Texas. The map includes county lines, roads, and a river system. A specific location is marked with a circle and labeled 'SEB' (likely referring to the San Esteban Branch). The text 'Raymondville Drain' is written diagonally across the map area.

Sources: ESRI Street Map





RAYMONDVILLE
DRAIN
2014 AERIAL MAP
EXHIBIT 2B

Raymondville Drain Project:
Project for Flood Control
Lower Rio Grande Basin,
(Hidalgo & Willacy Counties),
Texas Water Resources Development Act
(WRDA) 1986, Title IV, Section 401

Legend

- Existing Control Structures
- Proposed Control Structures
- Structures
- ◆ Channel Improvement JCT

 Bypass

 Proposed Alternate Conveyance Measures

 Proposed Detention Measures

 Towns & Cities

 Water Bodies

Raymondville Drain

— North Hargill Drain- North Branch
— All Drain Routes



Miles



Sources: ESRI Street Map
Raymondville Drainage District Data

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS MAP

Raymondville Drain Project:
Project for Flood Control
Lower Rio Grande Basin
(Hidalgo & Willacy Counties),
Texas Water Resources Development Act
(WRDA) 1986, Title IV, Section 401

Legend

- Existing Control Structures
- Proposed Control Structures
- Permitted Location
- Oil Well
- Gas Well
- Oil/Gas Well
- Plugged Oil Well
- Plugged Oil/Gas Well
- Plugged Oil/Gas Well
- Injection/Disposal From Oil/Gas
- Injection/Disposal From Gas
- Injection/Disposal From Oil/Gas
- Quarry
- Historical Markers
- Water Wells
- School
- Cemetery
- Landmarks
- Religious Institutions
- Proposed Storage Tank Site
- Underground Storage Tank Site
- Proposed Alternate Conveyance Measures
- Bypass
- Bypass Flow
- Proposed Channel 1 Improvements Measures
- Proposed Channel 2 Improvements Measures
- North Hargill Drain - North Branch
- North Hargill Drain
- West Hargill Drain Lateral 3
- West Hargill Drain Lateral 5
- Oil/Gas Pipelines
- Gas Transmission Lines
- Railroads
- Utility Lines
- Proposed Channel Study Corridor (2,000')
- Proposed Detention Measures
- Proposed Cities
- County Parks
- Edinburg International Airport
- Developed Areas
- Refuge and Wildlife Management Areas
- Water Features including NHI Wetlands
- PEMA Flood Zone A: 100-year Flood



S & B
Infrastructure



Source: ESRI Street Map, Raymondville Drainage District Data, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Hidalgo County Appraisal District, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, EPA, Texas Water Development Board.

THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASED FOR LAND USE PURPOSES ONLY
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
SHARLOTTE LYNN TEAGUE, P.E.
DATE: 10/10/2017
IT IS FOR THE USE OF BOUNDING
CONSTRUCTION OR PERMIT PURPOSES.



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DATE: 10/10/2017
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COMMENT FORM

(FORMA DE COMENTARIOS)

Public Hearing – Raymondville Drain Project

Public Comment Period: May 12 to July 26, 2019

Periodo de Comentario Público: 12 de mayo al 26 de julio de 2019

I am an Elected Official (Soy Funcionario/a electo) **Position (Posición):** _____

Name and Mailing Address (Optional) (Nombre y Dirección [Opcional]):

Name (Nombre): _____

Address (Dirección):

Telephone (Teléfono): _____

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW (Favor de marcar la que le aplique):

I am primarily interested in the project from the standpoint of a (Me interesa el proyecto desde el punto de vista de):

Residential property owner or renter
(Propietario o inquilino residencial) **Business property owner or lessee**
(Propietario o inquilino del negocio)

Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]): _____

How did you learn about this hearing? (¿Como se enteró de esta audiencia?)

Newspaper (Periódico) Federal Register (Registro Federal)

Other (Please explain) (Otro [Favor de explicar]):

Do you support the proposed project? (¿Apoya el proyecto propuesto?) Yes (Sí) No (No) Undecided (Indeciso)

COMMENTS (COMENTARIOS):

Please make additional comments on the back. (Favor de hacer comentarios adicionales al dorso de esta forma.)

Instructions on Submitting Comments:

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COMMENTS (COMENTARIOS):

Fold Here



5408 North 10th Street
McAllen, TX 78504

Stamp

**Ms. Mirna Sanchez
S & B Infrastructure, Ltd.
5408 North 10th Street
McAllen, TX 78504**

Attn: Raymondville Drain Project, Public Hearing Comments

PUBLIC HEARING

Raymondville Drain Project (from Edinburg Lake to the Laguna Madre) Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas

Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Open House 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Public Hearing 6:00 pm
Hidalgo County Precinct 4
Endowment Center
107 North Sunflower Road
Edinburg, Texas 78542

Wednesday, June 12, 2019
Open House 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Public Hearing 6:00 pm
Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77
Raymondville, Texas 78580

Proposed Project

The Raymondville Drain Project (RDP) project is being processed under the federal guidance of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for civil works activities. The RDP qualifies as a Lower Rio Grande Basin flood control and drainage improvement project under Title IV, Section 401 of Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The WRDA provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources and the improvement and rehabilitation of the Nation's water resources infrastructure. The project limits, for the federally sponsored RDP, begins near Edinburg Lake in Hidalgo County and ends near the Laguna Madre in Willacy County, Texas.

The proposed RDP improvements include potential new storage channels, ditches and pond facilities and the widening of selected existing channels and ditches. The proposed project would increase the regional drainage capacity by implementing infrastructure improvements which are designed to reduce flooding and flood damage to residential, commercial, and agricultural areas after heavy rains, tropical storms and/or hurricanes. In addition, the proposed project would provide for economic development opportunities by reducing floodplain areas and increasing the availability of farmland and other developable land.

Need of Project

The existing drainage system is outdated and inadequate to handle increased development and urban runoff in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Purpose of Project

- Provide additional drainage capacity to increase flood protection.
- Reduce flooding and flood damage to residential, commercial and agricultural areas.
- Provide economic development opportunities by reducing floodplain areas and increasing the availability of farmland and other developable land.
- Add potential new storage channels, ditches and pond facilities and widen selected existing channels and ditches.

How to Comment

- Write comments on the form in your packet and place in the Comments box at this hearing.
- Mail written comments to the address provided on the Comment Form, postmarked by July 26, 2019.
- Email comments by July 26, 2019 to: msanchez2@sbinfra.com
- Sign up to speak during tonight's comment session. Sign-up at the sign-in table. These speaker guidelines will be used:
 - Speakers will be called in the order registered.
 - Comments are limited to 3 minutes; unused time may not be given to another speaker.
 - Comments should be relevant to the proposed RDP.

AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

Proyecto de Desagüe Raymondville (desde el lago Edinburg hasta la Laguna Madre) Condados de Hidalgo y Willacy, Texas

martes 11 de junio de 2019
Casa Abierta 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Audencia Pública 6:00 pm
Precinto 4 del Condado de Hidalgo
Centro de Dotación
107 North Sunflower Road
Edinburg, Texas 78542

miércoles 12 de junio de 2019
Casa Abierta 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm
Audencia Pública 6:00 pm
Sala segura del condado de Willacy
10804 Business 77
Raymondville, Texas 78580

Proyecto Propuesto

El Proyecto de Desagüe de Raymondville (RDP) está siendo procesado bajo la guía federal de la Cuerpo de Ingenieros Militares de Estados Unidos (USACE) para actividades de obras civiles. El RDP califica como un proyecto de mejorar el control de inundaciones y drenaje de la Cuenca del Río Grande más bajo con arreglo al Título IV, Sección 401 de la Ley de Desarrollo de Recursos Hídricos (WRDA) de 1986, según su enmienda. La WRDA se ocupa de la conservación y el desarrollo del agua y de los recursos relacionados, y el mejoramiento y rehabilitación de la infraestructura de recursos hídricos de la Nación. Los límites del proyecto, para el RDP patrocinado por el gobierno federal, comienzan cerca del Lago Edinburg en el Condado de Hidalgo y terminan cerca de la Laguna Madre en el Condado de Willacy, Texas.

Las mejoras propuestas de RDP incluyen posibles nuevos canales de almacenamiento, zanjas e instalaciones de estanques y la ampliación de canales y zanjas existentes seleccionadas. El proyecto propuesto aumentaría la capacidad de drenaje regional mediante implementando mejoras de infraestructura diseñadas para reducir las inundaciones y los daños por inundaciones en áreas residenciales, comerciales y agrícolas después de fuertes lluvias, tormentas tropicales y / o huracanes. Además, el proyecto propuesto brindaría oportunidades de desarrollo económico al reducir las áreas de inundación y al aumentar la disponibilidad de tierras de cultivo y otras tierras de desarrollo.

Necesidad de Proyecto

El sistema de drenaje existente es obsoleto e inadecuado para manejar un mayor desarrollo y escorrentía urbana en los condados de Hidalgo y Willacy.

Propósito del Proyecto

- Proporcionar capacidad de drenaje adicional para aumentar la protección contra inundaciones.
- Reducir las inundaciones y los daños causados por inundaciones en áreas residenciales, comerciales y agrícolas.
- Proporcionar oportunidades de desarrollo económico en la forma de reducimiento de áreas de inundación y incrementar la disponibilidad de tierras de cultivo y otras tierras desarrollables.
- Añadir nuevos canales, zanjas, y estanques potenciales y ampliar selectos canales y zanjas existentes

Como Comentar

- Escriba sus comentarios en el formulario en su paquete y colóquelos en la caja de comentarios en esta audiencia.
- Envíe por correo sus comentarios escritos a la dirección que figura en el formulario de comentarios, con matasellos con fecha del 26 de Julio de 2019.
- Envíe sus comentarios por correo electrónico antes del 26 de Julio de 2019 a: msanchez2@sbinfra.com
- Regístrese para hablar durante la sesión de comentarios de esta noche. Regístrese en la mesa de inicio de sesión. Estas pautas serán utilizadas:
 - Se llamará a los ponentes en el orden registrado.
 - Los comentarios están limitados a 3 minutos; el tiempo no utilizado no puede darse a otro orador.
 - Los comentarios deben ser relevantes para el PDR propuesto.



PUBLIC HEARING

Raymondville Drain Project

Hidalgo County Precinct 4
Endowment Center
107 North Sunflower Road
Edinburg, TX 78542

June 11, 2019
Open House, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m.

Willacy County Safe Room
10804 Business 77
Raymondville, TX 78580

June 12, 2019
Open House, 5:30 – 6:00 pm
Public Hearing, 6:00 p.m. ₁



Raymondville Drain Project

Public Hearing Agenda

- Recognition of Elected Officials
- Review and Approval of Environmental Document
- Legal Notices and Review Information
- Project Description, Existing Conditions, Schedule, Need and Purpose, Proposed Typical Sections, Right-of-Way Requirements and Utility Adjustments
- Environmental Review
- Next Steps
- Public Comment Session



Raymondville Drain Project

Elected Officials



Raymondville Drain Project

Review and Approval of Environmental Document

Title IV, Section 401 of
Water Resources Development Act

Public involvement and NEPA evaluations
are based on CEQ guidelines.

The USACE is the Federal Sponsor.
The Hidalgo County Drainage District is the
non-federal sponsor.



Raymondville Drain Project

Public Hearing Legal Notices

El Extra (on-line): May 10, 2019

El Nueva Heraldo: May 11, 2019

The Monitor: May 11, 2019

The Valley Morning Star: May 11, 2019



Raymondville Drain Project

Available Environmental Document Review Locations

Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1
902 N. Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX 78542

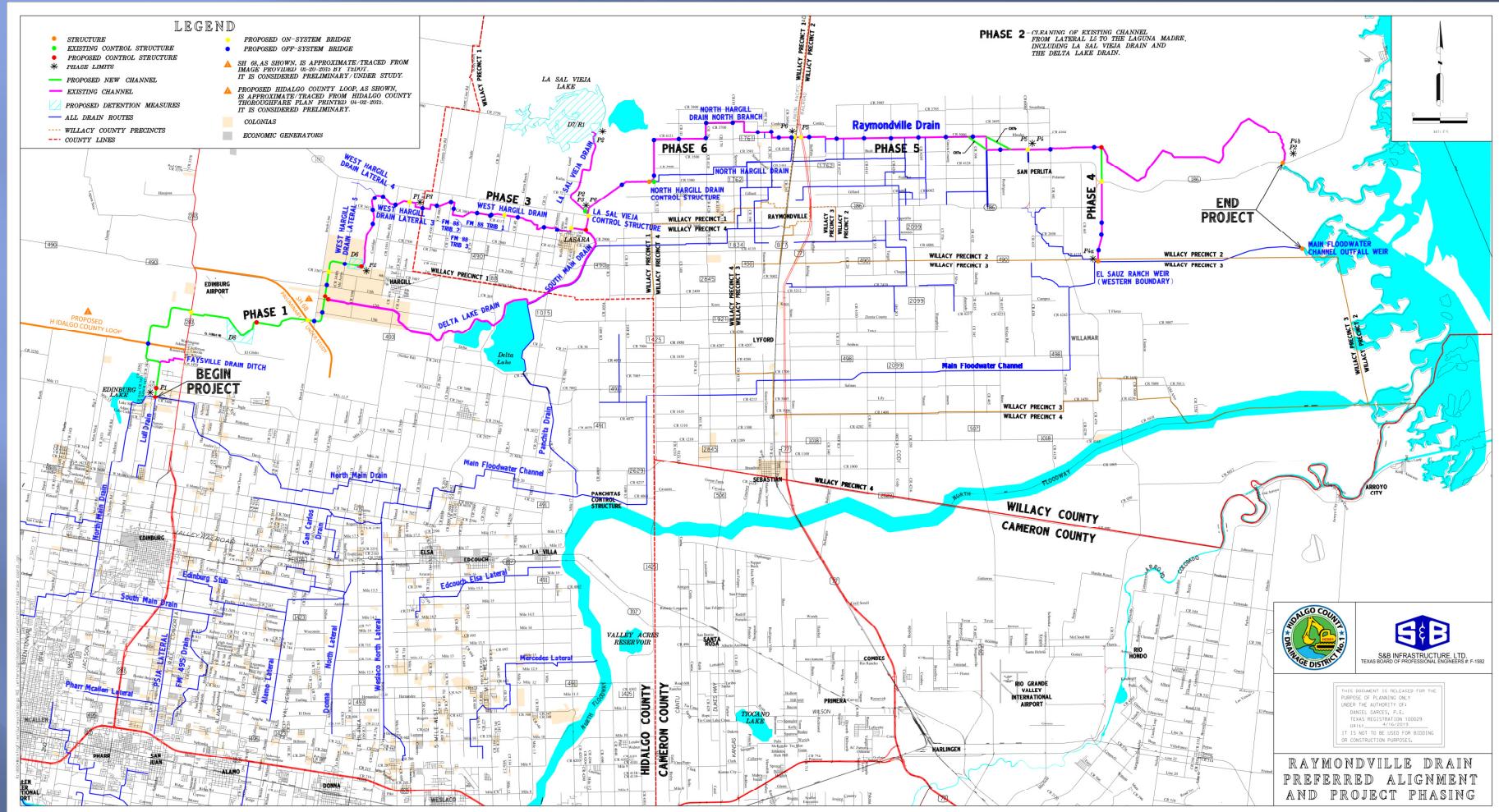
Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4
1051 N. Doolittle Road, Edinburg, TX 78542

Willacy County Judge's Office
576 W. Main Avenue, Room No. 152
Raymondville, TX 78580





Raymondville Drain Project





Raymondville Drain Project



Increased Flooding Following Rainfall and Storm Events



Raymondville Drain Project

Need and Purpose

Project Need

- The existing drainage system is outdated and inadequate to handle increased storm water runoff due to increased development in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Project Purpose

- Provide additional drainage capacity to increase flood protection.
- Reduce flooding and flood damage to residential, commercial and agricultural areas.
- Provide economic development opportunities by reducing floodplain areas and increasing the availability of farmland and other developable land.
- Add potential new storage channels, ditches and pond facilities and widen selected existing channels and ditches.



Raymondville Drain Project

Project Schedule

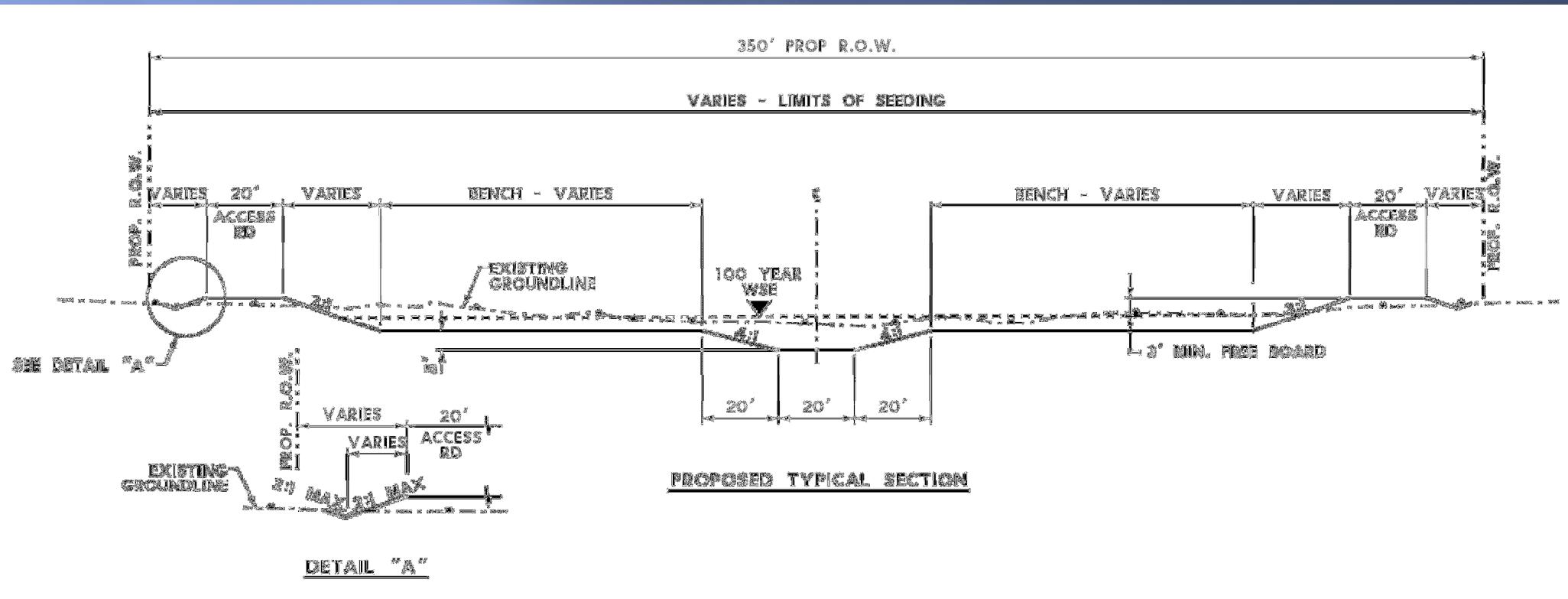
Construction Duration:
10 years

Current Estimated Construction Cost:
\$417, 674,028



Raymondville Drain Project

Proposed Typical Section





Raymondville Drain Project

Right-of-Way Requirements and Utility Adjustments

Right-of-Way (ROW):

- The proposed channel will require a ROW width of approximately 350 feet.
- No anticipated residential or non-residential displacements will occur.

Utility Adjustments Include:

- Gas lines, power lines, fiber optic cable, water and irrigation lines, etc.



Raymondville Drain Project

Environmental Review

Land Use

Socio-Economics

- Environmental Justice, Community Cohesion, Demographics

Water Resources

- Waters of the U.S./Wetlands, Floodplains/Floodways, Water Quality

Biological Resources

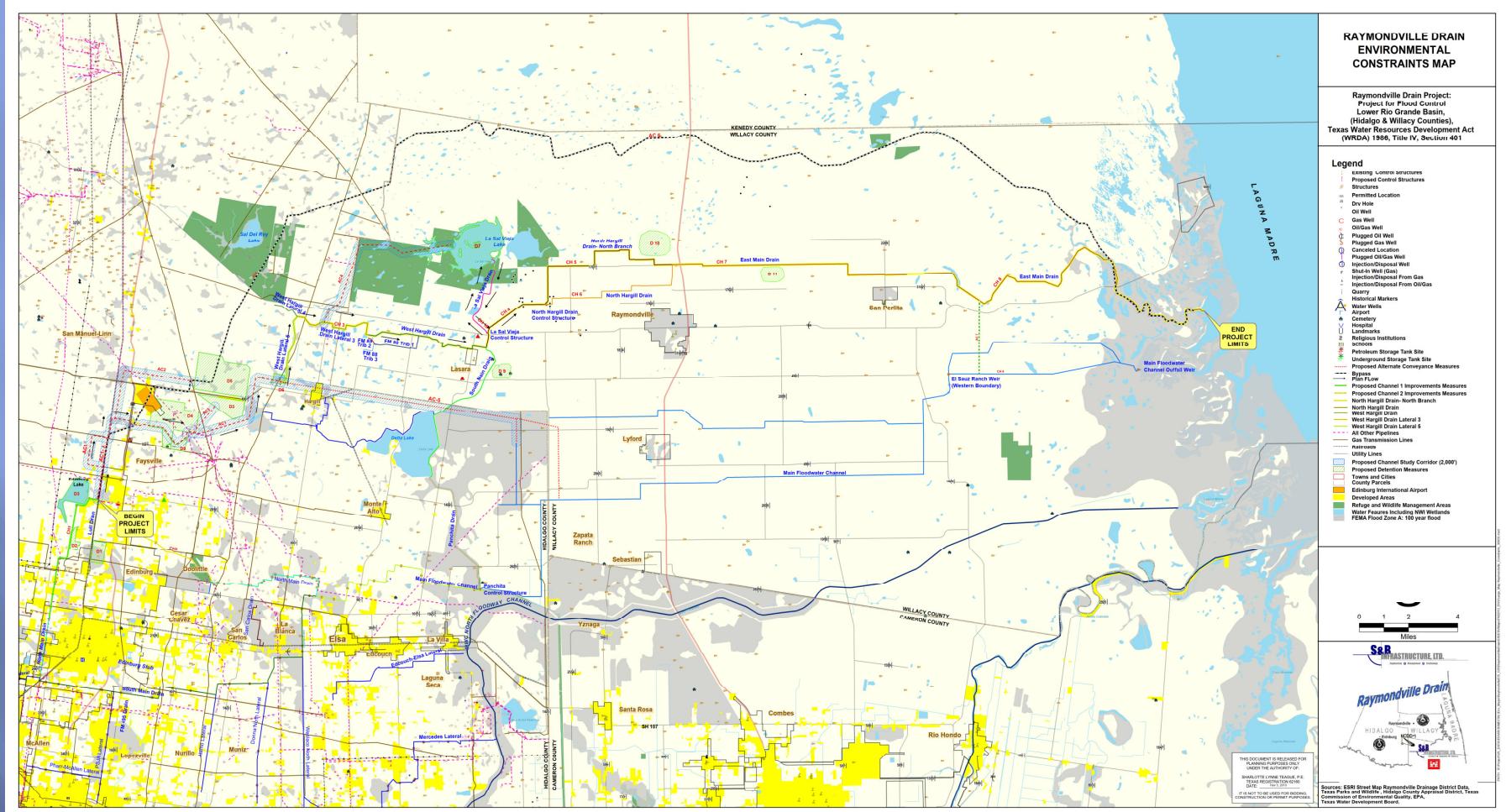
- Vegetation, Habitat, Threatened/Endangered Species

Additional Environmental Concerns

- Hazardous Materials, Prime Farmlands, Indirect and Cumulative Impacts



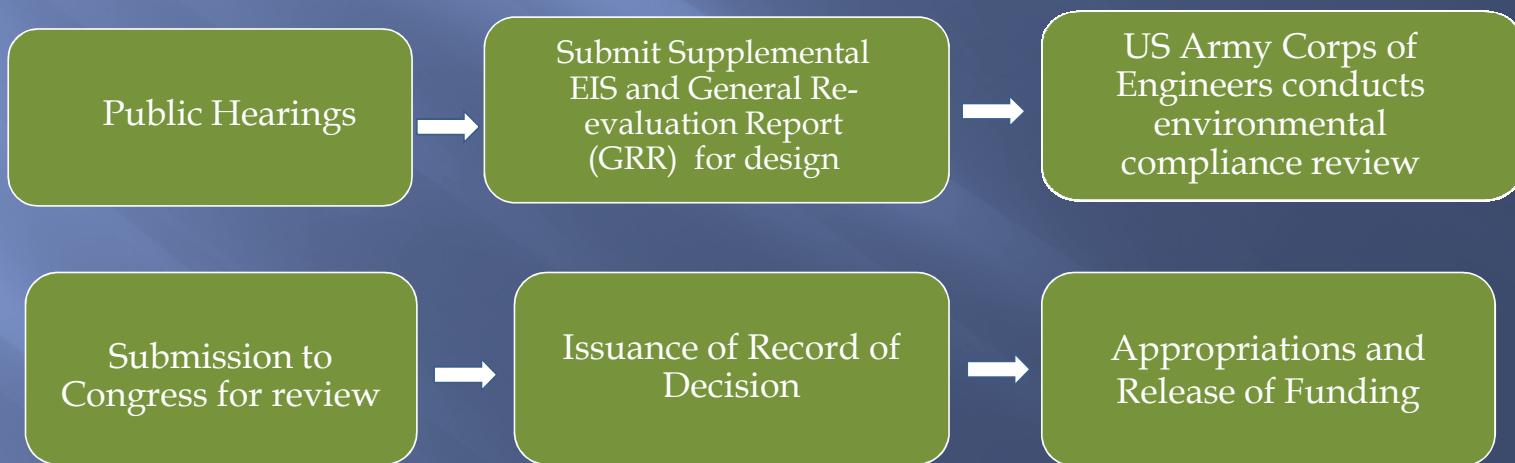
Raymondville Drain Project





Raymondville Drain Project

Next Steps





Raymondville Drain Project

Public Comment Session



Raymondville Drain Project

Elected Officials



Raymondville Drain Project

General Public Verbal Comment Period

- Submit Speaker Registration Card
- Use microphone and face court reporter
- State your name and whom you represent (if applicable)
- Please comment on issues relevant to the Raymondville Drain Project
- Verbal comments are limited to 3 minutes
- Unused time may not be given to another speaker



Raymondville Drain Project

Verbal Comments

Q: **[REDACTED]**



Raymondville Drain Project

Written Comments

Forms are available at the sign-in table.

Forms may be left in the comment box, mailed to the address provided on the form, or emailed to: msanchez2@sbinfra.com

Comments must be received or postmarked by July 26, 2019.



Raymondville Drain Project

Thank You

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

The following photographs were taken during the Public Hearing held for the Raymondville Drain Project which was located at the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Center on June 11, 2019.



Photograph 1 – View looking east at a directional sign located along State Highway 107, directing the public to the location of the Public Hearing.



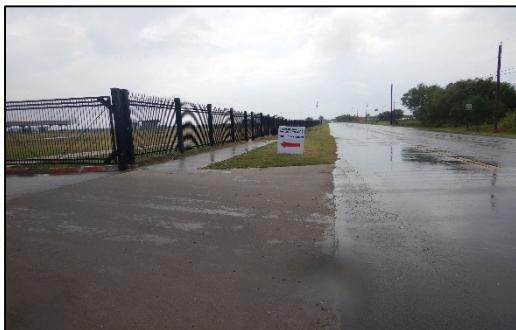
Photograph 4 – View looking at a welcome board at the entrance of the Hidalgo County Endowment Center.



Photograph 2 – View looking west at a directional sign located at the intersection of State Highway 107 and Sunflower Road, directing the public to the location of the Public Hearing.



Photograph 5 – View looking at the welcome board located outside the room where the Public Hearing was held.



Photograph 3 – View looking north at a directional sign located at the entrance to the Public Hearing venue.



Photograph 6 – View looking at the podium area and projection screen used to display the presentation for the Public Hearing.

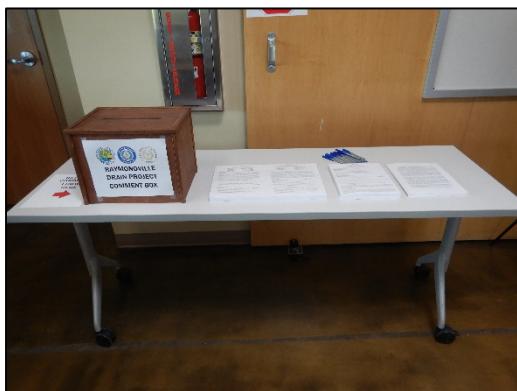
RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



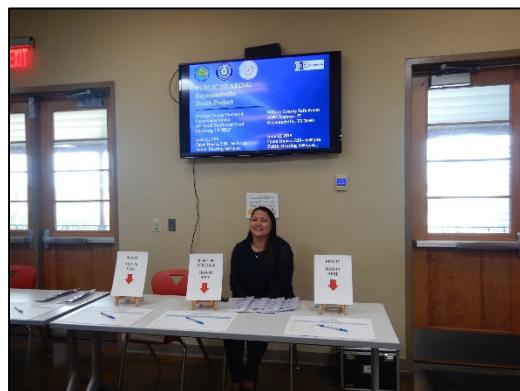
Photograph 7 – View looking at one of the various television screens located throughout the room displaying the Public Hearing Presentation.



Photograph 10 – View looking at exhibit boards and table containing the environmental documents for public display.



Photograph 8 – View looking at a table located near the entrance containing the comment box, copies of the Public Notice and informational handouts for the public.



Photograph 11 – View of an S&B staff member at the sign-in table located at the entrance of the Public Hearing venue.



Photograph 9 – View looking at the exhibit boards located in the back of the room for public display.



Photograph 12 – View looking at the environmental document table.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



Photograph 13 – View looking at refreshments provided for the public and attendees of the Public Hearing.



Photograph 16 – View of staff and members of the public signing-in at the Public Hearing.



Photograph 14 – View of presenters, Barbara Castille and Raul Sesin, along with other staff, discussing the upcoming Public Hearing.



Photograph 17 – View of attendees of the meeting examining the exhibit boards displayed at the back of the room.



Photograph 15 – View of attendees of the Public Hearing reviewing the Public Hearing handouts.



Photograph 18 – View looking at a member of the public reviewing the Public Hearing handouts available at the back of the room.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



Photograph 19 – View of a member of the public reviewing the exhibit boards displayed at the back of the room.



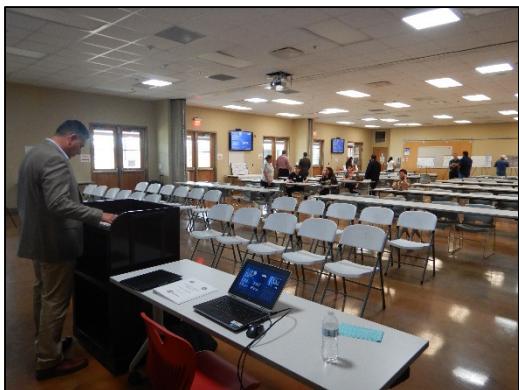
Photograph 22 – View of elected officials, staff, and members of the public awaiting the start of the presentation.



Photograph 20 – View looking from the projector screen to the back of the room. Attendees of the meeting are awaiting the start of the presentation.



Photograph 23 – View looking towards the front of the room at the beginning of the presentation for the Raymondville Drain Project.



Photograph 21 – View of presenter Raul Sesin as he prepares to begin the presentation.



Photograph 24 – View of presenter Raul Sesin discussing right-of-way requirements of the proposed project.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



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Photograph 25 – View of presenter Barbara Castille discussing the environmental elements of the proposed project.



Photograph 26 – View looking at attendees of the Public Hearing and members of the public observing the presentation for the Raymondville Drain Project.



Photograph 27 – View of Elected Official, Ellie Torres, commenting on the proposed Raymondville Drain Project.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

The following photographs were taken during the Public Hearing held for the Raymondville Drain Project that took place at the Willacy County Safe Room on June 12, 2019.



Photograph 1 – View looking north at the directional sign at the intersection of Labor Camp Road and Business 77, directing traffic to the Public Hearing.



Photograph 4 – View looking at the room layout and presentation set-up for the Public Hearing.



Photograph 2 – View looking south at the Willacy County Safe Room and directional sign directing traffic to the Public Hearing.



Photograph 5 – View looking at the presentation set-up for the Public Hearing.



Photograph 3 – View looking east at a directional sign directing the public to the parking lot of the Willacy County Safe Room.



Photograph 6 – View from the podium facing the audience for the Public Hearing.

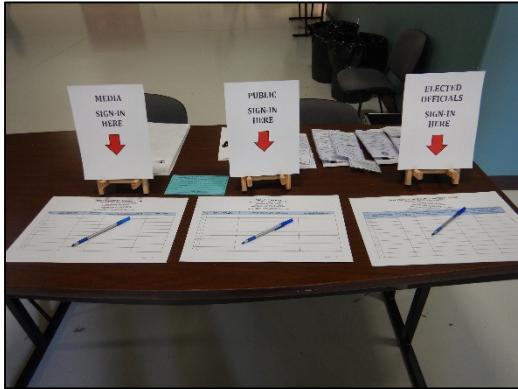
RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



Photograph 7 – View looking at the welcome board and sign-in table located at the entrance of the Public Hearing.



Photograph 10 – View looking at the table displaying the comment box, comment forms, public handouts, and Public Notices depicted in the previous photograph.



Photograph 8 – View looking at the sign-in table depicted in the previous photograph.



Photograph 11 – View looking at refreshments provided for the public and attendees of the Public Hearing.



Photograph 9 – View looking at the comment box, public handouts table, and exhibit boards displayed along the side of the hearing room.



Photograph 12 – View looking at the exhibit boards for public display located along the side of the room.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



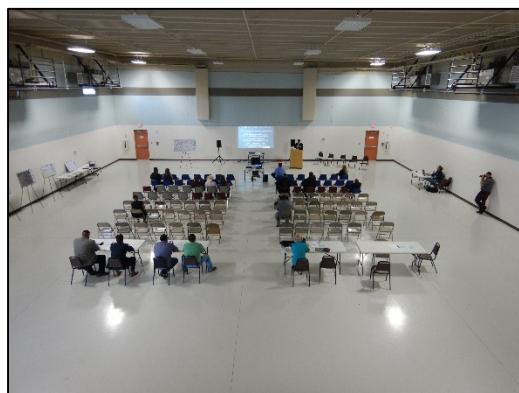
Photograph 13 – View looking at the table displaying the environmental documents available for public review.



Photograph 16 – View of presenter Raul Sesin during the beginning of the presentation at the Public Hearing.



Photograph 14 – View looking at members of the staff and attendees signing-in at the Public Hearing.



Photograph 17 – View from above of the attendees of the Public Hearing observing the presentation in progress.



Photograph 15 – View looking at a member of the public reviewing the environmental documents on display at the Public Hearing.



Photograph 18 – View of presenter Barbara Castille discussing the environmental elements of the proposed project.

RAYMONDVILLE DRAIN PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



Photograph 19 – View of attendees of the Public Hearing observing the presentation on the proposed project.



Photograph 22 – View of Elected Officials at the conclusion of the Public Hearing.



Photograph 20 – View of Elected Official, Henry De La Paz commenting during the presentation on the Raymondville Drain Project.



Photograph 21 – View of the portion of the presentation that is open to the public for verbal comments.

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