



DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Raymondville Drain Project Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) for the Raymondville Drain Project dated **2 February 2026**, addresses the need for a technically feasible, implementable, cost-effective, and environmentally and socially acceptable solution to the current and future flood risk in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas. The final recommendation is contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated **26 March 2026**.

The Final IFR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would reduce flood risks and damages to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties in the study area; minimize floodwater disruption to local roadways; support farmland availability and quantity; and support community resilience and economic growth. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and includes:

- Approximately 13.8 miles of new diversion drain in Hidalgo County,
- Approximately 43 miles of drain improvements in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties,
- An approximately 270-acre detention basin in Hidalgo County, and
- Five control structures (three located at the junction of the Raymondville Drain with other existing drains, one at the proposed detention basin, and one at the Hidalgo-Willacy County line).

In addition to a “no action” plan, two final alternatives were evaluated. The final alternatives included Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Alternative 1 consists of a diversion drain that connects the existing North Main Drain System and the Raymondville Drain, improvements along the Raymondville Drain, a detention basin located in Hidalgo County, and five control structures to regulate the flow of water. Alternative 2 consists of a diversion drain that connects the existing North Main Drain System and the Raymondville Drain, improvements along the Raymondville Drain, a detention basin located in Hidalgo County, and four control structures to regulate the flow of water. The two final alternatives were developed in a three-stage alternatives analysis process. The first stage developed conceptual alternatives to determine how to best address regional flooding problems, the second stage developed preliminary alternatives to identify specific alternative plans to address the project goals in the study area, and the third stage refined the plan into a final array of alternatives. Non-structural alternatives (property acquisitions/buyouts) were considered during the first and second stages of the alternatives analysis but were not selected as they were not economically justified, not supported by local stakeholders, and would likely cause significant social concerns.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:



Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Essential Fish Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protected Lands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the IFR/EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. During construction activities, BMPs would be implemented to prevent significant effects to water quality; conservation measures recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department would be implemented to prevent significant effects to fish and wildlife habitat and threatened/endangered species, as well as to prevent the spread of invasive species. BMPs and conservation measures are described in Sections 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.6, 4.2.3, and 4.7 as well as in Appendix A-3 (Environmental and Public Involvement) of the IFR/EA.

The recommended plan could result in unavoidable adverse impacts to approximately 25 acres of potentially jurisdictional wetland areas. To mitigate for these unavoidable adverse impacts, up to 60 acres of new and/or restored freshwater wetlands will be established within the watershed of the Raymondville Drain.



Public review of the draft IFR/EA and FONSI is anticipated to be completed by **5 March 2026**. Any and all comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final IFR/EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a concurrence with the findings of a Biological Assessment, dated 16 December 2025, that determined that the recommended plan will not jeopardize the continued existence of the following federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat: the Northern Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis septentrionalis*), Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), Gulf Coast Jaguarundi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi cacomitli*), Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum catorum*), and Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). All terms and conditions, conservation measures, and reasonable and prudent alternatives and measures resulting from these consultations shall be implemented in order to minimize take of endangered species and avoid jeopardizing the species.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan has no effect on historic properties.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Section 4.1.1 and Appendix A-3 of the IFR/EA.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) prior to construction. In a letter dated **TBD 28 February 2026**, the TCEQ stated that the recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

A determination of consistency with the Texas Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 was obtained from the Texas General Land Office. All conditions of the consistency determination shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to the coastal zone.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Date

David W. Drake
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander