



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

June 08, 2023

Chairman Bernard Barcena Jr.
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
P.O. Box 5218
McAllen, TX 78502

SUBJECT: Notification of Proposed Undertaking - U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Eagle Pass Joint Processing Center (JPC), Maverick County, Texas

Dear Chairman Barcena Jr.:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 C.F.R Part 800), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is transmitting this letter and enclosures to initiate consultation and identify historic properties for the above referenced Undertaking.

Description of Undertaking

DHS proposes to purchase 62.76 acres of land and to construct, operate, and maintain a JPC to support humanitarian efforts along the Southwest Border. The Undertaking is near Eagle Pass, Texas on land currently leased by CBP for the existing North Eagle Pass soft-sided processing facility.

The Undertaking is needed to provide additional processing facilities and aid in humanitarian efforts along the Southwest border by ensuring the security, placement, and successful transition of migrants and refugees. This multi-agency facility would be used by DHS, DHS Components, and potentially other Federal agencies as appropriate.

Area of Potential Effects

Pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act regulations, 36 C.F.R §§ 800.4(a)(1) and 800.16(d), CBP has defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both above-ground and below-ground historic or cultural resources as the entire 62.76-acre tract of the larger 153-acre parent tract owned by Maverick County. The proposed construction of a permanent JPC would be located at 223 Fire Fly Lane, Eagle Pass, Texas 78852 on the southern side of State Highway (SH) 131 and northeastern side of U.S. Highway (Hwy) 277 in Maverick County, Texas. Currently, CBP is using portions of the APE for a soft-sided processing facility.

The western and northwestern boundary of the APE is marked by previously developed areas consisting of the Maverick County Emergency Operations Center, a paved parking lot, and multiple permanent structures including residential structures. The eastern boundary of the APE is marked by an in-use water treatment facility. The APE is bounded to the northeast by an area

previously used as a large gravel borrow pit. A total of 25.7 acres of the proposed project area have been previously disturbed by the construction of the in-use soft-sided processing facility.

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Resources

Based on a Class I cultural resource records review, no previously conducted cultural resource surveys are within one-half mile of the APE. In addition, no previously recorded cultural resource sites have been identified within one-half mile of the APE. CBP contracted with Dawson Solutions, LLC. (DAWSON) to perform a Phase III (100% pedestrian) cultural resources survey of the APE.

As a result of the survey, four isolated occurrences/artifact (IO), one isolated feature (IF), and one newly recorded cultural resources site were identified. The identified IOs consist of four historic sanitary cans; the IF consists of the remains of a cattle corral. No additional features or artifacts were identified in association with the four IOs that were recorded. Similarly, no artifacts were identified in association with the identified cattle corral. Based on the lack of information potential and integrity of the remaining feature, neither the IOs nor the IF are considered archaeologically significant and are recommended ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Some or all of the Project Area is located within 1,100 acres of the former Eagle Pass Auxiliary Airport (Airfield) which is listed as a Formerly Used Defense Site. The land, ultimately transferred to Maverick County, was previously used by Laughlin Air Force Base as a training site on and off from the 1940s through 1995 when it was deemed excess. The original Trap and Skeet Range (or Skeet Range) consisted of 55 acres. Known or suspected munitions associated with the range include only small arms ammunition which are cartridges ranging in size from .22 caliber to 30 millimeters. Cartridges are intended for various types of handheld or mounted weapons including rifles, pistols, revolvers, machine guns, and shotguns.

In association with the above-described Skeet Range, one historic-age site (41MV422) was recorded during the investigation. The site consists of three semi-circular concrete pathways that make up individual skeet fields. Based on the historic records, the identified skeet fields pre-date 1947. The three skeet fields were previously part of a larger skeet range comprised of eight skeet fields. No artifacts were identified in association with the documented features. Furthermore, the identified skeet field has been heavily disturbed by previous land development. Based on the lack of information potential, and integrity of the remaining features, the site is not considered archaeologically significant and is recommended ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Finally, an assessment of impacts on a 0.5-mile visual APE was conducted; no cultural resources would be affected by visual impacts.

A copy of the report, *“Cultural Resources Survey of 62.76 Acres of County Lands Associated with the Proposed Eagle Pass Joint Processing Center Located in the Del Rio Sector, Maverick County, Texas”*, prepared by DAWSON, 2023, is available upon request. This report presents the survey efforts and subsequent results.

Request for Comment

Based on the Class I records review and Class III survey, CBP has determined that this Undertaking will have no effect on historic properties located in, or near, the APE. CBP requests your comments on this determination.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Undertaking, please contact Ms. Donna DeYoung at (214) 701-4313 or via email at donna.j.deyoung@cbp.dhs.gov. Please also provide an electronic copy of your response to Mr. John Petrilla (john.p.petrilla@cbp.dhs.gov) and Ms. DeYoung. Written correspondence may be submitted by mail to the following address: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 24000 Avila Road, Suite 5020, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, Attn: John Petrilla.

We appreciate your continued cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

**JOHN P
PETRILLA**  Digitally signed by JOHN
P PETRILLA
Date: 2023.06.08
12:46:00 -07'00'

John Petrilla
Execution Team | Energy and Environmental PMO
Office of Facilities and Asset Management
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure: Map of Project Area

Enclosure: Map of Project Area.

