



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Bernard F Barcena Jr.
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
PO Box 5218
McAllen, TX 78502-5218
bbarcena@lipanapache.org

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL

SUBJECT: Rio Grande Valley Border Barrier System Project Request for Input

Dear Chairman Barcena Jr.:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking your input concerning the construction of a border barrier system in Rio Grande Valley (RGV), Texas. CBP proposes to design and construct up to 20 miles of new border barrier system in Starr County. The barrier will consist of 18-foot high, six-inch diameter bollards embedded into a movable concrete jersey barrier-style base and will include lighting, roads, detection technology and cameras. CBP is accepting comments until September 15, 2023.

Los materiales en español están disponibles en línea en:
<https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>

CBP is seeking input on potential impacts to the environment, culture, quality of life and commerce, including potential socioeconomic impacts. CBP will be conducting environmental site surveys and assessments and is also gathering data and input from state and local government agencies, federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and landowners that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in the construction project. As the project progresses, there will also be additional opportunities for public comment. Additionally, CBP will prepare environmental planning documents to evaluate potential environmental impacts and make those documents available to the public.

How to Provide Comments

Comments and information will be accepted until September 15, 2023. Comments should include data or information that could help inform CBP's analysis of potential impacts. Helpful and constructive comments are fact-based, include links to data or research, and provide specific information concerning potential impacts to the environment, culture, as well as quality of life and commerce, including potential socioeconomic impacts. If known, your response should include any state and local restrictions, as well as permitting and other requirements that CBP should consider during project siting, construction, and operation.

In 2022, CBP solicited comments on potential impacts for border barrier development in Rio Grande Valley. A summary of comments received at that time can be accessed via the following

link: <https://www.cbp.gov/document/environmental-assessments/border-barrier-environmental-planning-starr-county-hidalgo-county>. The comments previously submitted, as well as those received as part of this comment period, will be considered as part of the planning process.

Specifically, CBP is looking for information not previously submitted that answers the following questions:

- Are you aware of threatened or endangered plant or animal species within the areas of proposed construction? If so, where?
- Are you aware of recreational activities that take place near and around proposed construction?
- Are you aware of possible impacts to businesses by the proposed project? Where are those businesses located?
- Are you aware of historical sites or areas of cultural significance located within the area of proposed construction? If so, where?
- Do you foresee your day-to-day activities being impacted by the proposed project?
- Are you aware of any studies, data, or other information available that would aid in the analysis of potential environmental impacts in the proposed project area?
- Do you have any recommendations for practices the construction contractor should follow to avoid or minimize impacts?

Comments can be submitted via email to RGVComments@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include “RGV Border Barrier System Project” in the subject of your email. Comments received in response to this letter, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record. If you are providing a comment about a specific area, please specify that in your comment. Comments may also be submitted via the StoryMap at <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>.

More information about the projects is included in an attachment to this letter. Additional information about other projects in RGV, including maps and Spanish-language materials, are available at the following website: <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>.

You may also submit comments, questions, or concerns to the following address:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. 6.5E Mail Stop 1039
Washington, DC 20229-1100
ATTN: Paul Enriquez

We appreciate your feedback and assistance with evaluating the environmental impacts of this project.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bernard F Barcena Jr.
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Enriquez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "E".

Paul Enriquez
Director, Infrastructure Portfolio
U.S. Border Patrol

Enclosure: Rio Grande Valley Border Barrier System Description of the Proposed Project