



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Fort Worth District

Public Notice

Section 408 Request ID #: 408-SWF-2023-0027

Date issued: November 16, 2023

Close of comment period: December 16, 2023

USACE Point of Contact: Jason Story

**REQUEST TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED CIVIL WORKS PROJECT UNDER 33 USC 408
(SECTION 408)**

TITLE: Section 408 Request Number 408-SWF-2023-0027, City of Laredo 36-inch Water Transmission Main Replacement

SUBJECT: Request for a Section 408 permission to alter the Zacate Creek Channel Improvement Project, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project. Written comments are being solicited from anyone having an interest in this proposed alteration. Comments will become part of the USACE administrative record and will be considered in determining whether to approve the proposed alteration. Comments supporting, opposing, or identifying concerns that may be considered by the USACE in its decision process are welcome. Issuance of this notice does not imply USACE endorsement of the proposed alteration as described.

REQUESTER: Arturo Garcia Jr., City of Laredo Water Utilities Engineering Division

LOCATION: West Laredo, Webb County Texas, Zacate Creek Crossing, intersection of W. Kearney Street and McDonell Avenue

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: City of Laredo

LOCATION MAP(S)/DRAWING(S): Attached figure

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ALTERATION: The proposed alteration includes the installation of a new 36-inch water transmission main where it crosses Zacate Creek in the City of Laredo. The overall water main replacement project is approximately 8,500 linear feet, the majority of which is located outside of the Zacate Creek Channel Improvement Project. The overall water main replacement project will start at the Jefferson Water Treatment Plant and end just east of Zacate Creek at West Kearney Street. The water transmission main will be installed by open cut across Zacate Creek and buried approximately 7-feet below the channel.

The purpose of the project is to address low later pressure issues and to minimize the potential for public health and safety impacts, to protect the ability to deliver water, and to provide operational flexibility to improve aquatic conditions.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY: This request will be reviewed pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408). A requester has the responsibility to acquire other authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program. An approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to grant the request for the alteration under Section 408 is based on several factors which are outlined in Engineer Circular 1165-2-220. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed alteration must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the proposed alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1. *Impacts to the Usefulness of the USACE Project Determination.* The USACE technical review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the federally authorized project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes, or outputs.

2. *Injurious to the Public Interest Determination.* The USACE technical review team will determine the probable impacts of the proposed alteration, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation.

3. *Environmental Compliance.* The USACE technical review team will determine if the Section 408 request is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable federal environmental and cultural resources compliance requirements.

STATUS OF REVIEW: The USACE technical review team has determined the following based on the Section 408 request submittal.

1. *Impacts to the Usefulness of the USACE Project.* The USACE technical review team has reviewed the proposed alteration for impacts to the Zacate Creek Channel Improvement Project and initial review indicates there would be no adverse hydrologic and hydraulic impacts resulting from the proposed alteration. No levees are affected by the proposed alteration.

2. Threatened and Endangered species. The USACE technical review team has reviewed an official list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act and initial review indicates the proposed alteration would have no effect to species listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered within the action area for the Section 408 jurisdiction.

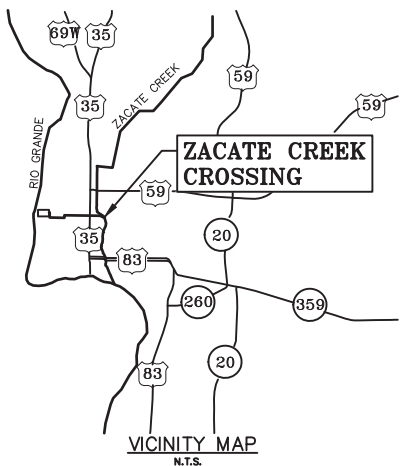
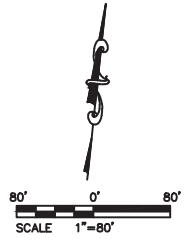
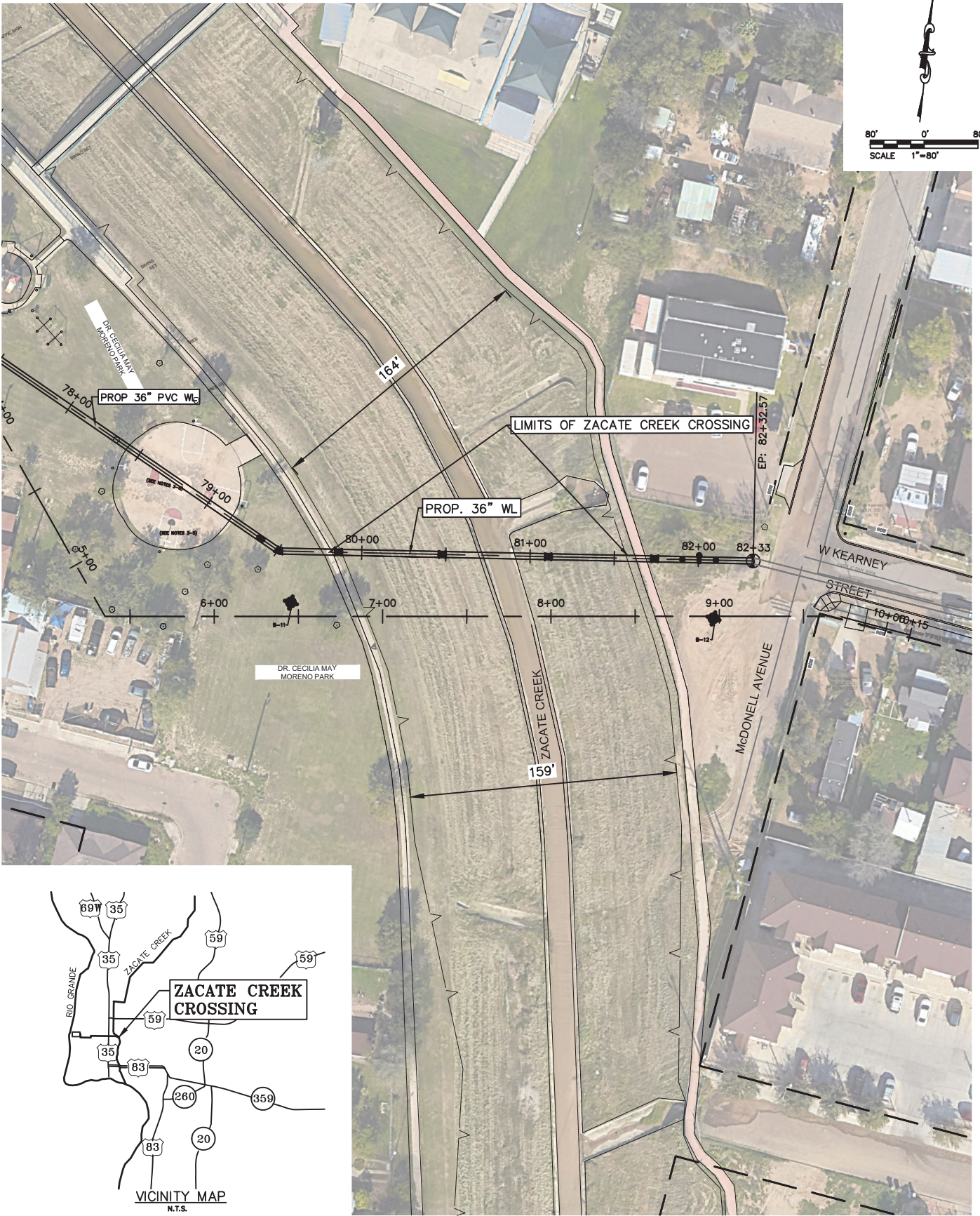
3. Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources. The USACE technical review team has reviewed the proposed alteration for impacts to cultural resources. Based on this review, the USACE determined that the undertaking shall have no effect to historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). The USACE is consulting on this determination with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; federally recognized tribes; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed alteration.

Materials submitted as part of the Section 408 request become part of the public record and are available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Counsel.

Comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permission for this proposed alteration. It is presumed that all parties receiving this notice will wish to respond to this public notice, therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed alteration as described herein.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: Written comments on the proposed alteration must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period. Comments must reference the Section 408 Request ID # and project name. Submit comments and requests for additional information to CESWF-408@usace.army.mil. Telephone inquiries may be directed to Mr. Jason Story, Section 408 Coordinator at (817) 886-1852. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available. For more information on Section 408, visit the Fort Worth District Section 408 webpage at <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408/>.



PROJECT # 2200003386.000.1
 DATE: 5/23/2023
 APPROVED:
 DATE:
 FILE NAME: 22-000-03-0001-ZACATE CREEK CROSSING-PLAN-1.dwg
 SCALE: HORIZ: 1"=20' VERT: N.A

Binkley & Barfield
DCCM

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CITY OF LAREDO
 36" WATER TRANSMISSION
 MAIN FROM JEFFERSON
 WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO
 EAST OF ZACATE CREEK

EXHIBIT
 ZACATE CREEK CROSSING
 CITY OF LAREDO 36"
 WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN

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