

JBSA-BUL Wastewater Line Connection to SAWS

The 502d Civil Engineer Group (502 CEG) is developing a new wastewater line connection to the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS), at Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis (JBSA-BUL). This new wastewater line will connect the wastewater outflow from the JBSA-BUL cantonment area to an access point outside the installation, about one mile away from the cantonment to approximately 5-10 feet beyond the JBSA-BUL fenceline to the western perimeter of the Shavano Highlands Subdivision, outside the southern boundary of JBSA-BUL. Minimal sections of this new wastewater pipeline will cross the 100-year floodplain as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to include crossing the Salado Creek. Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management, seeks to avoid construction of facilities or structures within floodplains “to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains”.

The Air Force conducted an Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP) analysis in accordance with Department of War (DoW) Guidance. The analysis included an assessment of the impacts of the proposed action on flood risk to lives and property, and on the natural and beneficial values of floodplains, as described in the Water Resources Council’s implementation guidance to EO 11988. Although this pipeline will cross the Salado Creek, the proposed action will be entirely installed underground through trenching and boring. In addition, this project will incorporate mitigating measures during pipeline installation to minimize any impact to the Creek and floodplains. These mitigations eliminate the risk of adverse effects from this project to the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain and will not cause the height or velocity of floodwaters to create flood hazards. Due to this, this action is not considered as incompatible development in a floodplain, and it is the only practicable alternative. Therefore, the proposed action will result in no adverse effects to the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain.

In accordance with the requirements of EO 11988, the Air Force provided Early Public Notice (EPN) for the proposed action to occur in a 100-year floodplain. The EPN was posted on 24 June 2022 in San Antonio newspapers and was posted for 30 days. No public comments were received.