

**SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO
FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY**



**LOWER MONTOYAS ARROYO WATER QUALITY PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REVISED DRAFT

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In Association with



LOWER MONTOYAS ARROYO WATER QUALITY PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

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LOWER MONTOYAS ARROYO WATER QUALITY PROJECT

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1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PROPOSAL

1.1 Project Description

The Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority (SSCAFCA) is proposing to construct water quality enhancement features within the arroyo channel at the inlet to the Harvey Jones Channel (a concrete-lined terminus to the Montoyas Arroyo, aka HJC) in the Village of Corrales (Village), Sandoval County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The project area includes two segments, upper and lower, as shown in Figure 1. The project area covers approximately 36.36 acres. The lower segment (Figure 2) begins at the entrance to the HJC and extends up the channel to the west for a distance of approximately 1,700 feet. This parcel covers approximately 17.59 acres. The upper segment (Figure 2) is located approximately 1,300 feet upstream of the lower segment, and the eastern edge of this segment is located approximately 3,000 feet upstream from the entrance to the HJC. This parcel covers approximately 18.77 acres. The lower segment occurs on SSSCAFCA owned lands. The upper segment occurs on a mixture of SSSCAFCA and Village of Corrales owned lands, with 14.77 acres owned by the Village of Corrales and 4 acres of SSSCAFCA property. The proposed water quality features will include grade control structures within the channel of arroyo in both segments and a settling pond at the mouth to the HJC inlet in the lower segment. The grade control structures will be concrete ribbons constructed at roughly 200 feet intervals perpendicular to the direction of flow in the channel. These concrete ribbons will be approximately eight feet in the vertical dimension with two feet above grade and will be for the purpose of slowing the water velocity within the channel by reducing the slope of the channel floor. Each of the grade control structures will be anchored into the banks of the arroyo approximately 10 feet to ensure that stormwater flows to not circumvent the grade control structures.

The water settling pond will be excavated into the existing channel bottom to provide a location for further slowing the velocity of the water as it is transported down the arroyo to the HJC inlet. The pond location will be set within the existing channel bottom and will not include tie-ins to the arroyo banks. The concrete structure of the HJC may be altered to provide a positive "daylight" drain for the pond to evacuate water.

Additionally, SSSCAFCA is proposing that trees, shrubs and grasses be added to both the arroyo channel bottom and the bottom of the finished pond. These plants will assist in further slowing the velocity of the water as well as provide a mechanism for the removal of floatable debris (e.g. trash) from the stormwater flows.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative A - No Action

The no action alternative would leave the site in its existing condition. However, this option continues to leave the Village susceptible to flooding as no means for removing sediment above the HJC has been installed and provides for none of the groundwater recharge benefits and habitat creation that will occur under the Preferred Alternative. The HJC, with its limited capacity to handle sediment deposition will continue to function as designed during the annual storm event and the existing arroyo alignment will continue to convey stormwater toward the inlet to the Harvey Jones Channel. SSCAFCA will continue its periodic maintenance activities of clearing sediment from the channel, as needed, in an attempt to maintain the capacity of the HJC to convey stormwater flows to the greatest degree possible by the limiting factors of the channel geometry.

For example, in 2006, a series of large storms created an emergency situation in the Village of Corrales as these storms swept significant amounts of sediment into the hard-lined Harvey Jones Channel, clogging this channel and causing stormwater to overtop the channel and flow into the Village. In order to minimize this flooding, the road had to be closed and the guard barriers had to be removed from the bridge to allow stormwater to flow over the road.

In 2010, a single large storm event swept large amounts of sediment into the Channel, once again clogging it. Had there been a subsequent storm that year, it is likely that significant flooding would have occurred in the Village.

In 2013, a series of storm events once again swept large amounts of sediment into the channel, plugging the existing concrete box culverts at the NM448/Harvey Jones Channel crossing. Further rainfall after the event occurred could have created a flooding situation in the Village of Corrales.

In the current configuration, there is no provision for the elimination of gross pollutants (trash) from stormwater flows as they pass thru the HJC, which is potentially in conflict with requirements of our MS4 Stormwater Permit (NMR040000).

If no action is taken, there remains a much larger potential for significant loss of property, livelihood, and life due to the potential for flooding in the Village of Corrales caused by sediment from the Montoyas Arroyo clogging the outlet structure of the HJC. In the event of significant flooding, SSCAFCA would be likely be subject to numerous lawsuits from effected property owners and individuals damaged by the flood event.

2.2 ***Alternative B - In-Channel Water Quality Facility – green infrastructure/sediment reduction balanced approach (Preferred Alternative)***

This alternative provides a balance of landscaping areas, naturalistic features and sediment removal capabilities. Sediment/infiltration basins are proposed in the upper area as well as the

lower area, providing 65,000 cubic yards of sediment removal. The upper sediment/infiltration basin will minimize the impact of sediment deposition in the landscape areas and provide ease of maintenance. Below is a description of the concepts for the upper and lower areas:

Upper site area– We propose a balance of sediment removal, natural channel treatment, naturalistic braided channel and landscape areas. It will take advantage of the natural oxbows for landscaping but also provides for sediment and debris removal. We propose to establish the equilibrium grade of the channel to provide reduced velocity and a lengthened stretch of channel where sediment will be deposited in the curves. This allows the sediment transported through this area to be captured upstream of the native vegetation areas. A dry well is proposed at the Dam #1 outfall into the Montoyas arroyo for this alternative to promote groundwater recharge.

Lower site area- the concept for this area consists of a braided channel on the upstream end of the property with a sediment/infiltration basin just west of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. Dry wells to promote groundwater recharge are proposed within the sediment/infiltration basin. The area is proposed to be separated from the Harvey Jones Channel by a naturalistic water quality structure utilizing inclined pipes for maximum sediment and debris removal capabilities.

2.3 Alternative C - In-Channel Water Quality Facility – emphasis on green infrastructure

This is the most naturalistic in-channel treatment alternative, utilizing the natural oxbows along the arroyo for landscape areas and providing 55,000 cubic yards of sediment removal. One small sediment/infiltration basin is located within the upper area and a larger sediment/infiltration basin is located in the lower area just upstream of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. Combined, the two sediment/infiltration basins provide the minimum sediment removal capacity as established for the project. This alternative has the most opportunity for landscaping compared to other alternatives but provides the least amount of sediment removal. Below is a description of the concepts for the upper and lower areas:

Upper site area– We propose a combination of natural channel treatment, a small sediment/infiltration basin and a braided channel. At the upstream end of the property, a drop structure is proposed, followed by a naturalistic channel with depressed landscape areas in natural oxbows. Stormwater would pass through a backwater structure and flow downstream to a small sediment/infiltration basin to remove sediment and debris. A braided channel is proposed at the downstream end of the upper property boundary. We propose to establish the equilibrium grade of the channel utilizing drop structures to provide reduced velocity and a lengthened stretch of channel where sediment will be deposited in the curves. This will allow the sediment transported through this area to be stabilized and provide opportunities for native vegetation establishment in the oxbow areas. In addition, we propose to collect stormwater runoff from adjacent surrounding areas and convey it to the landscape areas via grouted boulder/shotcrete rundowns to take advantage of stormwater for irrigation. Vegetation also provides pollutant removal functions by reducing flow velocities, increasing deposition and infiltration, and providing nutrient uptake and organic matter for pollutant transformation. The tiered profile grade allows the design to conform closer to existing topography and minimize the earth moving

required for the project. Dry wells are proposed within the landscape area located at the Dam #1 outlet to promote infiltration and groundwater recharge.

Lower site area- This alternative consists of a braided channel on the upstream end of the property with a sediment/infiltration basin just west of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. The braided channel provides an opportunity to add arid riparian areas with natural grasses and other native vegetation on islands separating the braided channel flow paths. The vegetation can provide additional water quality treatment and erosion control opportunities on the banks of the arroyo. A sediment/infiltration basin with dry wells to promote groundwater recharge is proposed at the throat of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. The area is proposed to be separated from the Harvey Jones Channel by a naturalistic water quality structure utilizing inclined pipes for maximum sediment and debris removal capabilities.

2.4 Alternative D - In-Channel Water Quality Facility – emphasis on sediment reduction

This in-stream treatment alternative provides for the most sediment removal capabilities, with a large sediment/infiltration basin in the upper area as well as the lower area, providing 75,000 cubic yards of sediment removal. Given the larger area required for sediment removal, this alternative has the least opportunity for landscaping compared to other alternatives but provides the maximum amount of sediment removal. Below is a description of the concepts for the upper and lower areas:

Upper site area– We propose a sediment/infiltration basin utilizing the largest area of the site for maximum sediment removal with a water quality structure at the downstream end. This basin would provide the most capacity for sediment pre-treatment and the ease of removal for maintenance purposes. The water quality structure would be designed to remove approximately 35,000 cubic yards of sediment and release the design flow of 4,163 cfs over the weir. The design would hold water in the basin for up to 96 hours to promote infiltration and ground water recharge. Two drop structures are proposed upstream of the basin separated by a braided channel with another drop structure at the downstream end of the upper area for grade control. This option would require the largest modification of the existing terrain.

Lower site area- Similar to Alternative B, this concept consists of a braided channel on the upstream end of the property with a sediment/infiltration basin just west of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. The primary difference would be a drop structure located at the upstream end of the property in order to establish the equilibrium grade between the upper and lower property boundaries of the project. A sediment/infiltration basin with 2 dry wells to promote groundwater recharge is proposed at the throat of the Harvey Jones Channel inlet. The area is proposed to be separated from the Harvey Jones Channel by a naturalistic water quality structure utilizing inclined pipes for maximum sediment and debris removal capabilities.

2.5 Alternative E - Traditional Dam Structure

The installation of a traditional dam-type structure would provide the desired effect of limiting impacts on the Village of Corrales during the 100-year storm event. These types of structures typically have a large footprint to accommodate the volume of water seen during the 100-year storm event. This type of structure would also provide for sediment removal by virtue of slowing down the stormwater flows and providing the opportunity for settling of sediment prior to being discharged to the HJC.

The proposal for Alternative E is to place an embankment across the lower project area that would serve as the primary dam structure. In addition to the embankment, a principal spillway and emergency spillway would need to be constructed. In a preliminary assessment of the alternatives on this project, the volume of sediment desired to be retained before stormwater enters the HJC was 55,000 cubic yards minimum, equating to 34.1 acre-feet of sediment. Considering the need to maintain dam pool capacity beyond the sediment storage, a dam with a flood pool in excess of 50 acre-feet is likely, making the facility a jurisdictional dam per New Mexico State Engineer requirements. A similar proposed structure in the SSCAFCA jurisdiction has a preliminary cost estimate of \$4.4 million, which exceeds the amount of funding available for this project.

In addition to the cost issues presented by a dam structure, the basic purpose of a dam is in conflict with the purpose of the proposed project. A dam is typically used to retard the runoff hydrograph, metering out water at a controlled rate to ensure downstream constrictions are not overwhelmed. The purpose of this project is not to meter out the hydrograph but rather to improve the quality of water entering the HJC by removing the sediment load and then immediately discharging the water to a concrete lined channel where sediment can no longer be re-suspended into the storm flow. This option would also require acquisition of additional ROW to accommodate the dam footprint, which is in conflict with the proposed design criteria, listed in the next Section.

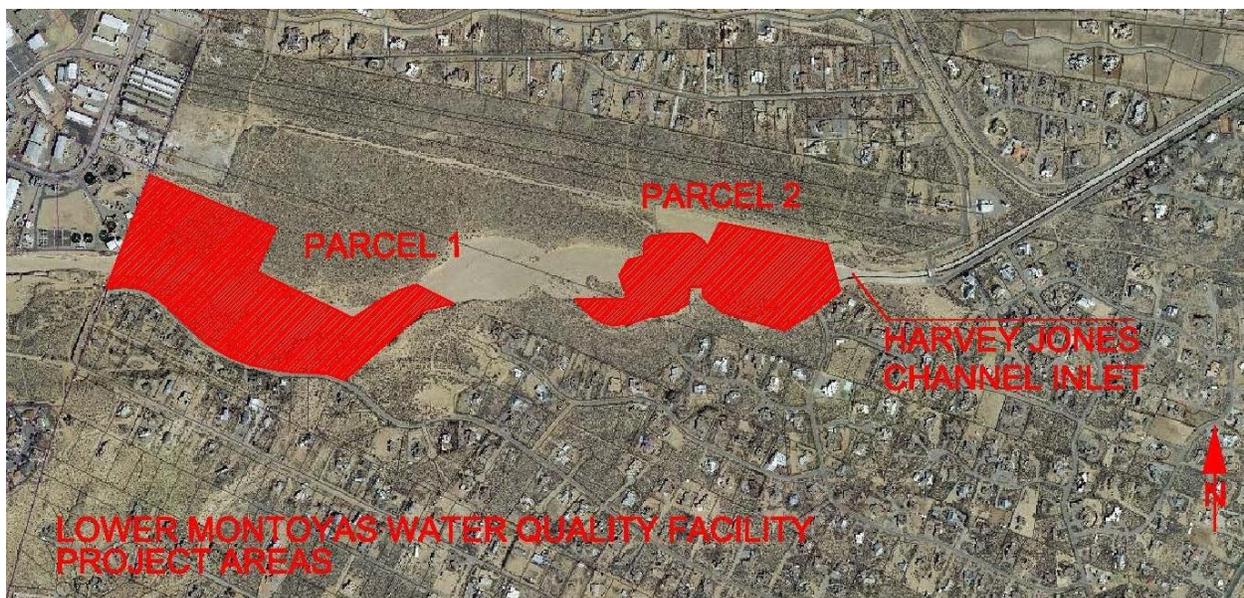


Figure 2: Project property – Upper and Lower sections

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENT CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Environmental Setting

The SSCAFCA project area lies within the Mexican Highland Section of the Basin and Range Physiographic Province. The area is part of the Albuquerque Basin of Central New Mexico. It is transected by the Arroyo de los Montoyas, one of several substantial arroyos draining to the Rio Grande. The project area has an arid, continental climate characterized by low rainfall, warm summers, and mild winters. The average elevation is approximately 1,586 m (5,205 ft) above mean sea level.

The project area occurs adjacent within a disturbed Plains Mesa Sand Scrub vegetation community. Much of the project area is denuded of vegetation. Within vegetated areas, the dominant plant species present are sand sage (*Artemisia filifolia*), four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), broom dalea (*Psoralea scoparius*), and snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*).

Formerly, the Rio Grande and its associated marshes (approximately 1.13 miles to the east of the project site) supported to a wide variety of fish and aquatic birds and mammals. The river valley is a central flyway for migratory birds such as ducks, geese, shorebirds, and wading birds. Raptors, such as hawks, owls, and eagles, hunt the valley. Various mammalian species, including cottontail, jackrabbit, prairie dog, beaver, muskrat, coyote, fox, raccoon, badger, and mule deer, occur in the area.

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 General Land Use

Corrales has a long history of agricultural land uses. After the designation of the Alameda Land Grant, three large ranches were established on the Corrales site. During the 1700s, 1800s, and early 1900s, irrigated agriculture and livestock pasturing were the dominant land uses. In the 1800s, vineyards and orchards became important agricultural activities. After World War II, Corrales' population increased, and residential development became more prevalent. By the 21st Century, Corrales had become a mixed residential and agricultural community.

The project area is located in an area of open space land use along the Arroyo de los Montoyas. Land uses bordering this open space are residential-single unit or agricultural with residential. This part of Corrales is zoned A-1 Agricultural and Rural Residential (Village of Corrales, 2012). The Corrales Comprehensive Land Use Plan includes the following objectives and policies for open space associated with arroyos:

- Objective 5.2.1: Preserve public natural resources such as: The Farmlands - open fields and orchards, The Arroyos - natural drainage, The Sand Dunes - unique

natural formations, The Escarpment - selected areas along the Thompson fence line, and The Bosque Preserve.

- Policy 5.3.2: The Village should develop methods for preserving the natural arroyos. A. Through land development, arroyos should be maintained in a natural state for conveyance of historical storm water. B. Motor vehicles of all types should be prohibited by ordinance from utilizing public arroyos. C. The minor arroyos should be managed by private owners (Village of Corrales, 2009, pp. 34-35).

In terms of residential land use, the Comprehensive Plan includes the following objectives:

- Objective 2.2.1: Encourage and preserve the residential and agricultural character of the Village.
- Objective 2.2.2: Establish residential development standards and regulations.
- Objective 2.2.3: Assess impact of new development on the Village and ensure that it will be compatible with the residential and agricultural character of the village.
- Objective 2.2.4: Protect the Village from environmental degradation; including, but not limited to groundwater contamination, pollution, and noise pollution (Village of Corrales, 2009, p. 25).

Improvements along Arroyo de los Montoyas will be compatible with land use patterns in Corrales. The land uses surrounding the project area would remain the same. Open space would remain along Arroyo de los Montoyas. Residential and agricultural land uses would continue in surrounding areas. Proposed improvements to the arroyo will help ensure the proper functioning of the downstream, concrete-lined HJC as a flood conveyance channel and protect surrounding residential and agricultural land uses from flooding associated with the 100-year storm event.

3.2.2 Growth and Population Trends

Corrales has experienced substantial population growth since 1970 (Table 1). In 1970, the village's population was 1,776. Within the next decade, Corrales added more than 1,000 people to attain a population of 2,791 in 1980. The following decade had another large increase of more than 2,600, reaching a population of 7,334. Much of this increase was due to large village annexations in the western and southern parts of the village. The population is expected to exceed 10,000 by the year 2030. Future population growth should not be as rapid as the past decades since the availability of vacant land for development is limited.

Table 1 : Corrales Population Trends 1970 - 2030

Year	Population
1970	1,776
1980	2,791
1990	5,453
1995	6,873
2000	7,334
2010	8,329
2030	10,126

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2013); Village of Corrales (2012)

3.2.3 Important Farmland

To obtain the impact of the project on Important Farmland, SSCAFCA consulted with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS responded to the consultation letter by stating that there is no prime or unique farmland in the project area and that the proposed project will not cause Prime or Unique Farmlands or hydric soil to be converted to non-agricultural or non-hydric uses and therefore the project is not subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act. A copy of the consultation letter sent to the NRCS and their response letter is located in Appendix D

3.2.4 Soils

There are two soil associations in the project area. One is the Sheppard loamy fine sand with 8 to 15 percent slopes, and the other is Sheppard loamy fine sand with 3 to 8 percent slopes. The Sheppard loamy fine sand with 8 to 15 percent slopes makes up approximately one percent of the project area. It occurs in dunal areas and consists of aeolian sands derived from sandstone. This soil is deep and somewhat excessively drained. The Sheppard loamy fine sand with 3 to 8 percent slopes makes up approximately 99 percent of the project area. This soil also occurs in dunal areas, consists of aeolian sands derived from sandstone, and is deep and somewhat excessively drained.

3.2.5 Formally Classified Lands

To obtain whether or not there were any formally classified lands within the project area, SSCAFCA investigated the land status of the project area and requested comment from the National Parks Service and all Native American entities expressing an interest in Sandoval County projects. SSCAFCA's investigation did not identify any National Parks, landmarks, historic sites, wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, grasslands, state parks, or Native American owned lands. Consultation letters sent to and received responses from the National Parks Service and Native American entities are located in Appendix D of this document.

3.3 Floodplains

As per the FEMA Map # 35043C1913D (included in Appendix A), most of the project area is located within Zone AE indicating areas within the 100-year floodplain in which base flood elevations have been determined.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project is not expected to cause adverse changes in the flood hazard potential in the project area nor have any adverse impact to floodplains. The SSCAFCA will ensure that proposed construction is compatible with the floodplain areas and does not encroach on the floodway such that flood heights are substantially elevated.

The local Flood Plain Administrator from the Village of Corrales was consulted on this project.

The Flood Plain Administrator did not have any comments on the proposed project and concurred with the SSCAFCA's initial determination. A copy of the consultation letter and response received from the Flood Plain Administrator is contained in Appendix D of this document.

3.4 Wetlands

Montoyas Arroyo is a jurisdictional waterway, and based on the presence of drift lines and cracked plated soil in the pool above the dam, there were wetland hydrology indicators present. Consequently, a wetland determination of the ponding area was completed. Although hydrology indicators were present, none of the dominant plants species around this pooled area were wetland indicator species (all were either not listed or FACU species). Additionally, the soils at the site ranged from a Matrix Value and Chroma of 7.5YR 3/3-7.55YR 4/3, and lacked any hydric soil indicators. Consequently this site fails to meet the vegetation or soil criteria for a wetland. There were no wetlands within the Lower Montoya's project area.

The Arroyo de los Montoyas channel is associated with the Rio Grande via the HJC outfall. Work within the channel, beneath the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), for both the proposed excavation of sediment and grade control structure work may require coverage under Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting for dredge or fill of waters of the United States.

As part of the consultation process, SSCAFCA consulted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the proposed project. The USACE stated that they could neither concur nor disagree with SSCAFCA's initial determination on the Categorical Exclusion, primarily because various resource assessments have yet to be completed and/or reviewed by the agency. The USACE requested that SSCAFCA continue to coordinate with their office concerning obtaining a Department of Army permit (Section 404) per the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Copies of the consultation letter and the USACE response are contained in Appendix D of this document.

3.5 Water Resources

3.5.1 Surface Water

The project area is located within the Middle Rio Grande underground water basin. The Arroyo de los Montoyas is an ephemeral waterway that flows from west to east through the project area and is tributary to the Rio Grande via the HJC. The river is approximately 1.13 miles downstream of the project area.

Project activities would include the excavation of a settling basin at the inlet to the HJC, and the installation of grade-control concrete structures constructed at roughly 200-foot intervals perpendicular to the direction of flow in the channel. These structures will slow water velocity within the channel by reducing the slope of the channel floor. The installation of these structures, combined with the construction of a settling pond and re-vegetation of the project area, should improve water quality discharged from the pond into the HJC.

During project construction, the release of sediments, petrochemicals such as fuel, hydraulic fluid, or lubricants could impact surface water quality at and downstream of the project area.

The proposed project would occur within the Arroyo de los Montoyas, an ephemeral waterway. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) coverage for storm water discharges from construction projects that will result in the disturbance of one or more acres of total land area. Because the proposed project will disturb more than one acre, appropriate NPDES permit coverage will be required prior to beginning construction. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be prepared for the site and appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be implemented and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants (primarily sediment, oil and grease, and construction materials) in storm water runoff from entering waters of the United States.

The SSCAFCA will obtain and comply, if required, with USACE applicable Clean Water Act Section 404/401 and USEPA NPDES Construction General permit prior to and during construction.

As part of the consultation process for this project, SSCAFCA sent consultation letters to the NMED Environmental Impact Review Coordinator (EIRC) and to NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB). In the NMED EIRC response letter, SWQB identifies that a state Water Quality Certification is required under Section 401 for activities regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For activities that fall outside of the scope of the 401/404 permit, a Construction General Permit may be required under the USEPA NPDES Construction General Permit. Copies of the NMED EIRC consultation letter and response are located in Appendix D of this document.

3.5.2 Ground Water

According to New Mexico Office of the State Engineer well log data, depth to groundwater within a radius of 500 meters from the project area ranges from 40 feet to over 170 feet from surface. The proposed project is not expected to impact groundwater. No groundwater discharges or disposal activity would occur at the project area.

3.6 Coastal Resources

There are no coastal resources or zones in New Mexico (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2013).

3.7 Air Quality

Corrales experiences a dry climate with low precipitation and low humidity. Based on 1971 - 2000 climate records, average annual precipitation is 9.93 inches. Precipitation occurs only on 61 days of the year on average. More than an inch of monthly precipitation is received during the

monsoon season from July through October. The average annual temperature is 53.4 °F. The temperatures range from an average monthly maximum of 90 °F in July to an average monthly minimum of 19.7 °F in January (National Climatic Data Center, 2002).

The USEPA has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants. The criteria pollutants include carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter greater than 10 microns in diameter, particulate matter greater than 2.5 microns in diameter, ozone, and sulfur dioxide. Corrales and Sandoval County are in attainment with the NAAQS for these criteria pollutants (USEPA, 2010a and 2010b).

The project will not affect the attainment status for Corrales or Sandoval County. No emissions will be generated at levels that would require a permit from New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Air Quality Bureau. Under Chapter 18 of the Corrales Village Code, a grading permit is required for work in arroyos. The grading permit includes the use of the following best management practice to minimize dust: “Techniques to prevent blowing of dust or sediment from the site, such as watering down exposed areas, are required for projects which disturb greater than 5,000 square feet (Village of Corrales, n.d., p. 100)”.

As part of SSCAFCA’s consultation process for this project, SSCAFCA sent a consultation letter to the NMED Environmental Impact Review Coordinator (EIRC). The response letter from the NMED EIRC contained a response from the NMED AQB stating that Sandoval County is currently considered to be in attainment with all New Mexico and National Ambient Air Quality Standards and that care should be taken to minimize fugitive dust and equipment emissions during construction activities. The response continues by saying that local and county regulations requiring noise or dust control must be followed for the duration of the project that even if no regulations are in effect, dust and noise control measures should be considered to minimize the release of particulates due to vehicular traffic, construction equipment, ground disturbances and dumping of rock and gravel. A copy of the consultation letter to the NMED EIRC and the response letter containing NMED AQB response is contained in Appendix D of this document.

3.8 Biological Resources

Marron and Associates (Marron) conducted biological surveys of the lower segment (17.59 acres) on January 11 and 25, 2013. Subsequently, Marron completed biological surveys of the upper segment on March 8, 2013. The purpose of these biological surveys was to identify biological resources that may be impacted by the project. Examples of such biological resources include Federal or State of New Mexico protected plant and wildlife species, migratory birds, and general vegetation or wildlife concerns. References and databases containing information on biological resources in the project area were reviewed prior to the survey, including lists of federal and state protected species. The biological evaluation report for both the upper and lower segments of the project site is included in Appendix B.

The conclusions and recommendations of the biological surveys are as follows: The project area covers approximately 36.36 acres. Approximately 75 percent of the lower segment is devoid of

vegetation. Approximately 40 percent of the upper segment is also devoid of vegetation. Both plant and wildlife diversity was very low. However, a probable colony of bank swallows was detected within the upper segment. There were no federal or state protected or monitored species within the project limits, but a large number of burrows suitable for use by western burrowing owl occur within the upper segment. Although no western burrowing owls were present at the time of the survey, these burrows could be utilized in the upcoming spring or summer. Suitable habitat for the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the Rio Grande sucker exists a little more than a mile downstream of the lower segment and could be indirectly affected if accidental spills of petrochemicals occurred during construction.

As part of the consultation process for this project, SSCAFCA sent consultation letters were sent to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF). The NMDGF response contained no comments and concurred with SSCAFCA initial determination of Categorical Exclusion. SSCAFCA did not receive a written response from the USFWS. In a phone call follow-up to the USFWS, Ms. Lori Robertson, Branch Chief, Middle Rio Grande Ecological Services, stated that due to cutbacks, they no longer have adequate personnel to respond to all consultation requests and only responded to such request that the USFWS deemed to have a potential impact on endangered species. Ms. Roberson referred SSCAFCA to a USFWS website (www.ecos.fws.gov/ipac) to guide SSCAFCA with regard to endangered species issues. Ms. Robertson said that the website is still under construction but that SSCAFCA should use those elements that are functional to help guide SSCAFCA. SSCAFCA used the website to identify endangered species in Sandoval County and the website's habitat mapping function to determine that no critical habitat exists within the project area. Therefore, SSCAFCA's impression is that the proposed project will not have an adverse effect on listed species. Copies of consultation letters sent to NMDGF and USFWS as well as responses and materials generated from the USFWS website are located in Appendix D of this document.

NCS and Marron recommend the following measures to reduce effects to biological resources:

- Require the contractor to develop and implement a sediment and erosion control plan to prevent surface water quality and turbidity impacts. Disturbed upland areas should be re-vegetated to reduce surface erosion.
- Require that equipment refueling, storage, and maintenance activities occur in designated areas outside of the Arroyo de los Montoyas floodplain.
- Clean all heavy equipment used in the project area prior to the start of the project and inspect all equipment daily for leaks. Leaking equipment must not be used in or near any watercourse.
- Report any spills immediately to the USACE, USFWS, NMDGF, and the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the NMED.
- Replant open disturbed areas with native vegetation.
- Avoid (if possible) the probable bank swallow colonial nest site in the project area upper segment.
- Construct (if possible) outside the nesting season for the Albuquerque area (March 1 to September 15). If construction is delayed beyond the next nesting season but may occur within future nesting seasons, additional migratory bird

- surveys to prevent impacts would be recommended.
- Inspect all suitable burrows for use by western burrowing owl in the project area prior to construction. This provision would extend into the winter months as a small number of western burrowing owls overwinter in the Central Rio Grande Valley.

3.9 Archeological, Cultural, and Historic Resources

Marron conducted cultural resource survey of the project area on January 23 and March 12, 2013. The work was conducted under New Mexico State Permit No. NM 13-160-S. Marron also searched existing inventory. The findings of the survey are as follows:

- Sites discovered and registered: 0
- Sites discovered and NOT registered: 0
- Previously recorded sites revisited: 0
- Previously recorded sites not relocated: 0
- Total Sites Visited: 0
- Total isolates recorded: 0
- Total structures recorded: 0
- The site file search indicated two previously recorded sites in the area. Also, ten previous surveys were completed within 500 m of the project area. The previously recorded sites are outside the project area and will not be affected.
- Three isolated occurrences were observed within the project area. The isolated occurrences are either flakes or a core, and all are made of chalcedony. No further treatment is recommended.

The detailed cultural resource survey findings are included in Appendix C.

As part of the consultation process for this project, SSCAFCA sent a consultation letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and all Native American tribes/pueblos requesting to be consulted on for projects in Sandoval County. The response letter from the SHPO concurred with SSCAFCA's initial determination of Categorical Exclusion and said that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. SSCAFCA received responses from the following Native American tribes/pueblos: Hopi, Isleta, Santa Ana, and Sandia. All tribal/pueblo comment letters received either concurred with SSCAFCA's initial determination or had no comment with the exception of Sandia Pueblo, which requested Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification during the 404/401 permit process. Follow-up letters were sent to all tribal and pueblo entities who had not submitted responses to the initial consultation request. One additional response from Santo Domingo Pueblo was received containing no comments. Copies of all consultation letters sent to the SHPO and tribal/pueblo entities and associated responses are contained in Appendix D of this document.

3.10 Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice

Socioeconomic data for New Mexico, Sandoval County, Corrales, and nearby Census Tract 106.01 was obtained (Table 2). The census tract provides geographic information for the eastern

part of Corrales. Based on the 2010 Census, New Mexico had a population of 2,059,179, and Sandoval County had a population of 131,561. At the local level, Corrales had a population of 8,329, and Census Tract 106.01 had a population of 4,331.

Corrales had a median age of 51.2 years, and Census Tract 106.01 had a median age of 50.7 years. Corrales has an older population than Sandoval County or New Mexico. The median age is 37.9 years in Sandoval County and 36.7 years in New Mexico. Hispanic/Latino is the largest minority group representing 35.1 percent of the population in Sandoval County, 27.0 percent of the population in Corrales, and 29.4 percent of the population in Census Tract 106.01. The home ownership percentages are 81.0 percent in Sandoval County, 86.9 percent in Corrales, and 83.2 percent in Census Tract 106.01.

Table 2 Regional Socioeconomic Characteristics from 2010 Census

Characteristic	New Mexico	Sandoval County	Corrales	Census Tract 106.01
2010 Population				
- Population	2,059,179	131,561	8,329	4,331
- Median Age	36.7 years	37.9 years	51.2 years	50.7 years
- Percent of Population Under 18 Years of Age	25.2%	26.7%	18.1%	18.6%
- Percent of Population Over 64 Years of Age	13.2%	12.1%	19.4%	19.5%
Percent Racial Composition				
- White	68.4%	68.0%	86.4%	86.8%
- Black or African American	2.1%	2.1%	1.1%	0.6%
- Native American	9.4%	12.9%	1.6%	1.0%
- Asian	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
- Some Other Race	15.0%	11.5%	6.6%	7.4%
- Two or More races	3.7%	3.9%	3.1%	3.0%
Other Group – Any Race				
- Percent Hispanic/Latino Representation	46.3%	35.1%	27.0%	29.4%
Occupied Housing				
- Owner-occupied housing	68.5%	81.0%	86.9%	83.2%
- Renter-occupied Housing	31.5%	19.0%	13.1%	16.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2013)

In terms of the regional economy, Corrales is mainly a residential area, and the local economy is tied to Albuquerque region. Most residents are employed elsewhere in the Albuquerque area or obtain income from other sources such as retirement income or investments.

In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, potential disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income communities were considered. Environmental justice is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as the fair and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The goal of fair treatment is not to shift risks among populations but to identify potential disproportionately high adverse impacts and to identify alternatives to mitigate those impacts. Table 2 shows minority and home ownership data for region. The percent Hispanic/Latino population in Corrales and Census Tract 106.01 are lower than in New Mexico (46.3 percent). For this reason,

Corrales and the area near the project area are not considered a community of concern. In addition, home ownership rates are higher in the Corrales than in New Mexico, which is an indicator of economic conditions, and further substantiates that areas near the project are not considered a community of concern for environmental justice.

The proposed project would be conducted in a manner to ensure that there would be no exclusion of persons or populations from participating in the project, no denying persons or populations the benefits of the project, and no subjecting persons or populations to discrimination because of their race, color, income level, or national origin, in accordance with EO 12898. No residents or businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. A short-term economic benefit would be the creation of construction jobs for the project, and in the long-term, the project would have no effect on demographics or the economy in the Corrales area.

Appendix E contains the site location map from EnviroMapper and associated index sheets for the surrounding population.

3.11 Other Resources

3.11.1 Public Health & Safety

This project will allow to remove sediment from stormwater before it enters the concrete lined HJC, thereby will provide adequate stormwater capacity in the HJC to pass the 100-year flood events thru the Village safely and without flooding hazard.

The water quality enhancement structures will slow water velocity within the channel by reducing the slope of the channel floor. These structures combined with the construction of a settling pond and re-vegetation of the project area should improve water quality discharged from the pond into the HJC (tributary to Rio Grande). Therefore, in a long term, this project will improve water quality of the Rio Grande, thereby beneficial for public health.

3.11.2 Energy

The construction of this project is not anticipated to consume large amounts of energy, and no mitigation measures are required. Minimal additional electrical power is anticipated for operations of the facility.

3.11.3 Transportation

Some minor disruption of traffic may occur during construction activities of the project, however, traffic flow will be redirected as necessary according to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Devices and applicable traffic control plans will be developed for the project. The changes in traffic patterns will be temporary. No mitigation measures other than traffic control during construction activities are required for the proposed project.

3.11.4 Visual Impacts

The construction of the proposed project will not alter the visual environment in the project area as the aesthetic features of the project will not cause any visual obstructions in the project area. Therefore no mitigation measures are required.

3.11.5 Noise

The proposed project will not alter the ambient noise level therefore no mitigation measures are required.

3.12 Cumulative Impacts

The construction of the proposed project is not anticipated to commit irreversible or irretrievable resources. The proposed project will have a positive impact on public health and safety, and water quality. Some temporary noise and dust may be generated during construction activities, however these effects will be limited. Some minor disruption to traffic patterns from project activities is expected, however traffic flow will be redirected as necessary during construction.

4.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

4.1 Physical Resources Measures

The primary physical resource of concern with regard to project construction is the release of sediment down the Harvey Jones Channel and into the Rio Grande. In order to ensure that this does not occur, SSCAFCA is proposing the following two mitigation measures:

1. Construction timeframe: The proposed construction of this project will occur outside of the normal monsoon season. The normal monsoon season for the middle Rio Grande valley is from May 15 to October 15. The objective for this project is to break ground after the end of the 2014 monsoon season and complete the project prior to the beginning of the 2015 monsoon season.
2. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan: The contractor selected for the construction of the project will be required to develop and adhere to a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP will require the development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on the construction site for the duration of the construction project. These BMPs will be designed to prevent sediment from being released from the construction site, prevent erosion associated with uncompleted construction projects, and prevent pollution due to fuel spills or other petrochemicals by designating a staging area outside of the construction project area for vehicle maintenance and fueling.

4.2 Biological Resources Measures

The majority of the proposed project area consists of sandy bottom arroyo with little biological or

habitat value. The proposed project area that is not sandy bottom arroyo contains scrub brush with limited habitat or biological value. Regardless, SSCAFCA intends to re-vegetate those areas disturbed during the construction process. Additionally, the proposed project will utilize vegetation as a functional element of the project, providing more habitat to indigenous wildlife.

The biological assessment has identified potential habitat for bank swallow colonies.

The upland areas of the site provides potential habitat for the Southwestern Burrowing Owl. The bulk of the construction work will be confined to the arroyo bottom and the edges of the arroyo. Additionally, the proposed construction timeframe (November to March) is outside of nesting season and should provide minimal disruption to the species.

Proposed mitigation measures to minimize any environmental impact are:

- Require the contractor to develop and implement a sediment and erosion control plan to prevent surface water quality and turbidity impacts. Disturbed upland areas should be re-vegetated to reduce surface erosion.
- Require that equipment refueling, storage, and maintenance activities occur in designated areas outside of the Arroyo de los Montoyas floodplain.
- Clean all heavy equipment used in the project area prior to the start of the project and inspect all equipment daily for leaks. Leaking equipment must not be used in or near any watercourse.
- Report any spills immediately to the USACE, USFWS, NMDGF, and the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the NMED.
- Replant open disturbed areas with native vegetation.
- Avoid (if possible) the probable bank swallow colonial nest site in the project area upper segment.
- Construct (if possible) outside the nesting season for the Albuquerque area (March 1 to September 15). If construction is delayed beyond the next nesting season but may occur within future nesting seasons, additional migratory bird surveys to prevent impacts would be recommended.
- Inspect all suitable burrows for use by western burrowing owl in the project area prior to construction. This provision would extend into the winter months as a small number of western burrowing owls overwinter in the Central Rio Grande Valley.

4.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Measures

While no habitat for Threatened or Endangered species was identified in the proposed project area, SSCAFCA is aware that the outlet to the project area (the Harvey Jones Channel) terminates in the Rio Grande, which provides potential habitat for the Silvery Minnow and the Southwest Willow Flycatcher. In order to ensure minimal impact on these potential habitats, SSCAFCA will, during the construction phase of this project:

- Require the contractor to develop and implement a sediment and erosion control plan to prevent surface water quality and turbidity impacts. Disturbed upland areas should be re-vegetated to reduce surface erosion.
- Require that equipment refueling, storage, and maintenance activities occur in designated areas outside of the Arroyo de los Montoyas floodplain.
- Clean all heavy equipment used in the project area prior to the start of the project and inspect all equipment daily for leaks. Leaking equipment must not be used in or near any watercourse.
- Report any spills immediately to the USACE, USFWS, NMDGF, and the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the NMED.
- Replant open disturbed areas with native vegetation.
- Avoid (if possible) the probable bank swallow colonial nest site in the project area upper segment.
- Construct (if possible) outside the nesting season for the Albuquerque area (March 1 to September 15). If construction is delayed beyond the next nesting season but may occur within future nesting seasons, additional migratory bird surveys to prevent impacts would be recommended.
- Inspect all suitable burrows for use by western burrowing owl in the project area prior to construction. This provision would extend into the winter months as a small number of western burrowing owls overwinter in the Central Rio Grande Valley.

4.4 Socioeconomic/Environmental Justice Measures

During the development of the plans for the project, SSCAFCA is planning a public hearing in the Village of Corrales to discuss with the public the options considered for implementation of the project and discuss with the public the recommended option for construction and the proposed timeline for the construction project. Advertisement for this public hearing will be in the Corrales Comment and the Albuquerque Journal Westside Edition. Additionally, hearing announcements will be posted at the Corrales Village hall and on the SSCAFCA website.

4.5 Archeological, Cultural, and Historic Resources Measures

No archeological, cultural or historical properties were identified during the field work by Marron and Associates and therefore no direct measures will be taken in this regard. However, SSCAFCA will ensure that the construction contractor be informed of the potential for discovery during the earth moving process. In the event of discovery, work in the vicinity of the discovery will be halted and appropriate resources will be brought on scene to ensure compliance with State and Federal laws with regard to Cultural Properties.

4.6 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

No environmentally sensitive areas were identified in the project area, however, the Rio Grande, approximately 1.5 miles downstream of the project area, contains sensitive areas that must be

protected from any potential impacts due to construction downstream. SSCAFCA believes that by implementing the protective measures identified in section 3.8 of this report, these areas will be protected from any impacts during the construction process.

The purpose of the construction project is to remove sediment and floatable debris from stormwater runoff in the Montoyas Arroyo watershed. Removal of these items from the stormwater stream will provide a positive benefit to water quality in this environmentally sensitive area.

4.7 Other Resources

The completion of this project will enhance the health and safety of Village of Corrales by enhancing the capabilities of the flood control system that protects the Village. Additionally, the addition of the green infrastructure component of the proposed project will provide additional habitat for area wildlife and additional vegetation along the alignment of the Montoyas Arroyo.

4.8 Cumulative Impact Measures

The cumulative impact of this project is primarily due to construction-related activities. Increased dust and noise as well as increased traffic from construction-related vehicles can be anticipated from this project. In order to minimize these cumulative impacts, SSCAFCA proposes to ensure that the construction contractor implement dust minimization measures such as ensuring construction areas are sufficiently moistened to minimize dust. SSCAFCA will also explore alternative construction equipment routes to minimize traffic impacts on local residents.

5.0 CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Agencies Consulted

This project has been discussed in agency meetings relating to the Harvey Jones Channel improvement project, a project occurring at the eastern terminus to the concrete lined channel downstream of the project site. The Montoyas Arroyo water quality project was discussed as one part of a three part fix to the overall storm water management system in a meeting held in November 2012. Agencies represented during this meeting were the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Village of Corrales (VOC), New Mexico Department of Transportation, Sandia Pueblo, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Interstate Stream Commission, City of Rio Rancho, Sandoval County, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. No objections to this project were raised at that meeting.

Subsequent to this meeting, in March 2014, consultation letters were mailed to the following entities. Follow-up requests and any received responses are noted in the following table.

Entity Name	Consult. Letter Date	Follow-up	Response
NM Historic Preservation	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/17/14. Concurs with CE determination. Also notes the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.
USDOJ - NPS	3/17/14		E-mail received 4/1/14. No comments
USDOJ - FWS	3/17/14	Phone call 5/9/14	Response letters no longer being generated by USFWS for projects not considered in having an ESA impact. Consult USFWS website for guidance.
NMDGF	3/17/14		Ltr. received 3/26/14. Concurs with CE determination
EMNRD-Forestry	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/2/14. No comments
USACE – ABQ Dist.	3/17/14		E-mail received 4/15/14. Will require environmental review under CWA permit process.
USDA - NRCS	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/16/14. States project will not impact any areas where USDA/NRCS has regulatory oversight.
NMED – Env. Impact review coordinator	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/15/14. AQB states area is not in a non-attainment zone and owner needs to follow local regulations on dust control and emissions during construction. No long term air quality impacts. SWQB states that a CWA Section 404/401 permit will be required as well as compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit for the construction phase of the project.
NMED – SWQB	3/17/14		Integrated into coordinated review by NMED
NMED - GWQB	3/17/14		No response received
FEMA Region VI	3/17/14		No response received
USEPA – Office of Planning and Coord.	3/17/14		No response received
VOC – Floodplain Admin.	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/15/14. Concurs with CE determination
Corrales Bosque Advisory Committee	3/17/14		E-mail received 3/27/14. Had comment desiring recreational access to facility. SSCAFCA replied that we agree and will seek funding to provide.

Capital Improvement advisory Committee for the NW Sector	3/17/14		No response received
VOC Fire Department	3/17/14	E-mail sent 4/24/14	Ltr. received 4/24/14. No comments
VOC – Councilor Garcia-Miera	3/17/14		No response received
VOC – Councilor Hart	3/17/14		Ltr. received 3/20/14. Concurs with CE determination
VOC – Councilor Fahey	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/2/14. No comments
VOC – Village Admin.	3/17/14		No response received
VOC – Public Works	3/17/14		No response received
Pueblo of Cochiti	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	
Pueblo of Isleta	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/3/14. No comments
Pueblo of Jemez	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of Laguna	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of San Felipe	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of Santa Ana	3/17/14		Ltr. received 3/20/14. No comments
Pueblo of Santo Domingo	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	Ltr. received 5/2/14. No comments
Pueblo of Sandia	3/17/14		Ltr. received 4/7/14. Wants CWA 401 certification during 404 permit process
Pueblo of Zia	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of San Ildefonso	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Ohkey Owingeh Pueblo	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of Santa Clara	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Pueblo of Tesuque	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Jicarilla Apache Nation	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Navajo Nation	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received
Hopi Tribe	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	Ltr. received 4/17/14. No comments
Comanche Nation	3/17/14	Ltr. sent 4/16/14	No response received

The following agencies were not consulted:

- NMED Drinking Water Bureau – Project does not involve any modifications or construction on a drinking water system. Consultation letter sent to NMED Environmental Impact Review Coordinator.
- NMED Solid Waste Bureau – project does not involve any type of landfilling or modifications to landfills. Consultation letter sent to NMED Environmental Impact Review Coordinator (EIRC).
- NMED Air Quality Bureau – project is not located within an air quality non-attainment zone for air quality and will not have any ongoing air emissions after construction. Consultation letter sent to NMED EIRC. AQB provided review in response from NMED EIRC.
- U.S. EPA Air Planning Section - project is not located within an air quality non-attainment zone for air quality and will not have any ongoing air emissions after construction.
- New Mexico State Engineer – project does not required any water rights and is not a dam safety bureau jurisdictional facility.
- New Mexico Department of Transportation – project is not located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of any NMDOT owned or operated facility.
- U.S. EPA Source Water Protection Branch – project is not located over a sole source aquifer.

5.2 Public Involvement

To this point, there has been no direct public involvement on this specific project. However, this project is one part of a three part fix for flooding issues along the Montoyas Arroyo/Harvey Jones Channel and has been discussed in concept at a well-attended public meeting for another project on the HJC in December 2012. During the public meeting in December 2012, the purpose and timeframe of this proposed project were discussed. SSCAFCA received positive feedback from the public on the need for this water quality feature project to compliment other improvements to the HJC.

SSCAFCA is proposing a public hearing on this project in the Village of Corrales in late May or early June 2014.

5.3 Responsiveness Summary

To be completed after public hearing.

6.0 REFERENCES

- National Climatic Data Center. 2002. *1971-2000 Monthly Normals*. Asheville, NC: National Climatic Data Center.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2013. *State Coastal Zone Boundaries*. Washington, DC: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Website visited on February 6, 2013: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/consistency/welcome.html>.
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- USEPA. 2013a. *National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)*. Washington, DC: USEPA: Air and Radiation. Website visited on February 6, 2013: <http://www.epa.gov/air/criteria.html>.
- USEPA. 2013b. *Currently Designated Nonattainment Areas for All Criteria Pollutants*. Washington, DC: USEPA. Web site visited on February 6, 2013: <http://www.epa.gov/oaqps001/greenbk/ancl.html>.
- Village of Corrales. 2009. *Village of Corrales Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Albuquerque, NM: Mid-Region Council of Governments. Downloaded from website on February 5, 2012: <http://www.corrales-nm.org/pnz.htm>.
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