



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

APR 25 2018

Commissioner

The Honorable Filemon Vela
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Vela:

This is in response to your April 19, 2018 letter regarding stakeholder engagement and community consultation associated with the construction of border security infrastructure along the southern border.

I share your belief that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) should be actively engaging the local community. Toward that end, an important part of our strategy to successfully secure our Nation's borders includes developing and leveraging partnerships with state and local stakeholders to ensure that the unique operational needs of each community are successfully met. This dialogue also allows CBP to respond to questions or concerns raised by the community regarding the potential impacts of the border wall program to the environment, culture, commerce and quality of life.

In response to your request for the locations of planned border barrier funded through Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, please find the planned miles below.

Funded by FY 2017 appropriations:

- Replacement of approximately 14 miles of primary wall in San Diego Sector
- Replacement of approximately 2 miles of primary wall in El Centro Sector
- Replacement of approximately 20 miles of vehicle barrier in El Paso Sector
- Replacement of approximately 4 miles of primary wall in El Paso Sector
- Construction of 35 gates within existing gaps of levee wall in Rio Grande Valley Sector

Funded by FY 2018 appropriations:

- Replacement of approximately 14 miles of secondary wall in San Diego Sector
- Replacement of approximately 11 miles of primary pedestrian wall in El Centro Sector
- Replacement of approximately 28 miles of primary pedestrian wall in Yuma Sector
- Replacement of approximately 3 miles of primary pedestrian wall in San Diego Sector
- Replacement of approximately 1 mile of primary pedestrian wall in El Paso Sector
- Replacement of approximately 5 miles of primary pedestrian wall in Tucson Sector
- Construction of approximately 8 miles of new border wall system in Rio Grande Valley (Starr County)
- Construction of approximately 20-25 miles of new levee wall system in Rio Grande Valley (Hidalgo County)

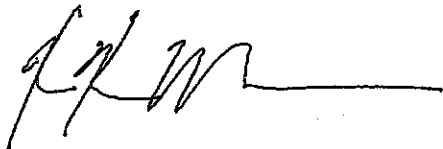
CBP is in the process of contacting landowners in Hidalgo and Starr counties in the Rio Grande Valley to request access to their properties for the purpose of conducting property surveys, environmental assessments, and appraisals. During this initial landowner engagement, CBP will answer questions, document concerns and requests, and provide each landowner with the details of the FY 2018 wall construction projects in Hidalgo and Starr counties. CBP is currently planning for additional landowner and community outreach, to include continued updates to landowners and local stakeholders through the design and environmental planning phases to capture their feedback and considerations. CBP will also continue to coordinate outreach efforts with landowners, local government officials, and other stakeholders throughout the construction process. These efforts may include, but will not be limited to, group and individual meetings, project scoping letters, webinars, press releases, and other outreach activities. CBP intends to complete acquisition of any land necessary for border wall construction in Hidalgo and Starr counties by September 2019 to enable construction to begin shortly thereafter.

CBP regularly engages directly with the National Butterfly Center in order to resolve any issues related to border security and community relations. Additionally, CBP has and will continue to coordinate closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address any questions and concerns with lands that will be affected by the planned FY 2018 border wall projects.

We take the critical role and responsibility that the Department of Homeland Security and CBP play in our Nation's border security seriously and remain committed to working with you and others as we move forward with executing this presidential priority.

If we may offer further assistance, please contact Mr. John P. Ladowicz, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Congressional Affairs, at 202-344-1760.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McAleenan', followed by a horizontal line.

Kevin K. McAleenan
Commissioner