

From: [Range, Brent K](#)
To: [Reagan, Steve](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Border wall construction water use at San Bernardino refuge
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 7:37:34 AM
Attachments: [151019_SBNWR_Drawdown \(1\).pdf](#)
[Re Water Issues - Copy - Copy \(1\).pdf](#)

FYI

Brent K. Range
Program Manager - Inter-agency Borderland Coordinator and Field Communications
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
[1849 C Street NW - Room 5128](#)
[Washington D.C.](#)
20240
Cell: [202-897-7206](#)
Office: [202-208-7431](#)
Privileged and Confidential

From: Ullenberg, Beth <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 6:40 PM
To: Elder, Mary M <mary_elder@fws.gov>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>; Range, Brent K <brent_range@ios.doi.gov>; Whaley, Kathy <kathy_whaley@fws.gov>; Parramore, Laury <laury_parramore@fws.gov>
Cc: Armstrong, Karen <karen_armstrong@fws.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Border wall construction water use at San Bernardino refuge

All,

Our response to the reporter. All previously used and DOI OCO approved language and coordinated with CBP.

Best,

Beth Ullenberg, External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Ave SW/ PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
505-248-6638 Office
505-414-3815 Mobile

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

From: Ullenberg, Beth <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:37 PM

To: rfrazin@thehill.com <rfrazin@thehill.com>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) <(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)>; Kauffman, Vanessa <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Border wall construction water use at San Bernardino refuge

Hi Rachel,

Thank you for your inquiry. San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge ponds remain intact and the refuge continues to manage for endangered fish and wildlife. The Refuge identified that larger capacity pumps were needed in order to maintain pond levels and appropriate pond outflows. The border wall construction contractor purchased and installed the higher capacity pumps.

Please contact Customs and Border Protection at cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov for specific details on hydrology reports, water and well usage, and environmental reports.

Best Regards,

Beth Ullenberg, External Affairs
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Ave SW/ PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
505-248-6638 Office
505-414-3815 Mobile

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

From: Kauffman, Vanessa <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 2:44 PM

To: Parramore, Laury <laury_parramore@fws.gov>; Ullenberg, Beth <beth_ullenberg@fws.gov>; Elder, Mary M <mary_elder@fws.gov>

Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Border wall construction water use at San Bernardino refuge

Please see inquiry below.

Regards, Vanessa

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rachel Frazin <rfrazin@thehill.com>

Date: December 3, 2020 at 2:13:12 PM EST

To: "Kauffman, Vanessa" <vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Border wall construction water use at San Bernardino refuge

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Hi Vanessa

Rachel with The Hill here. I hope you're doing well.

Through a Freedom of Information Act request, I received this 2019 drawdown report examining the impact of pumping water from the SBWR and I have a few questions about it.

1. Had DHS/CBP or government contractors been pumping water already for border wall construction when this report was conducted?
2. How many gallons per day were ultimately used and what rate was the water pumped at?
3. After this report was completed, were any steps taken to reduce the impacts projected by this report? If so, what were they and if not, why not?
4. Thus far, what have the impacts of pumping water for border wall construction been and are they similar to the impacts laid out by this report?
5. Has there been harm to any animal species, plant species or habitats as a result of pumping water for border construction?

I also received through FOIA an email from Bill Radke raising questions about the proposed water use and I was wondering if you all would like to comment on that?

1. Did DHS "force" FWS to use its water resources?
2. Have there been issues where artesian wells not being able to get water as he mentions?

The documents are attached and I would appreciate it if you can get back to me by COB tomorrow.

Best,
Rachel Frazin
Energy and Environment Reporter, The Hill

