

From: [Radke, Bill](#)
To: [Ullenberg, Beth](#)
Cc: [Fernandez, Juliette](#); [Harden, Tasha](#); [Harden, Victor S](#); [McIntyre, Julie](#); [Fernandez, Erin](#); [Humphrey, Jeff](#)
Subject: Fwd: New Border Infrastructure Impacts on Slaughter Ranch
Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 6:42:03 AM
Attachments: [Border Statement 5.6 mb.pdf](#)

Hi Beth; As you can see from the email chain, San Bernardino NWR personnel have communicated with Slaughter Ranch (Johnson Historical Museum) about FWS concerns with water withdrawal from a private well on private land resulting from DHS border infrastructure construction. No FWS personnel told anyone at Slaughter Ranch that construction would dry up their pond. We are working with DHS, Army Corps of Engineers, and refuge neighbors to try to understand potential impacts, develop an accurate (science-based) risk assessment (Joaquin Baca developed that for FWS), and alleviate or mitigate identified impacts. The risk assessment has been provided to DHS, to the owners of the private well being used by DHS contractors, and to the owners of Slaughter Ranch. In more recent weeks, DHS contractors have drilled a new well less than five miles west of the refuge, and identified plans to drill a second new well less than two-and-one-half miles east of the refuge. FWS continues to express concerns to DHS that their water withdrawal will impact artesian flow of water on the refuge and will put endangered species at greater risk. DHS has not responded with a solution, and has not answered the FWS request to minimize water use from the private well in question and to refrain from drilling additional wells within five miles of the refuge. Additionally, Slaughter Ranch, reacting to the very real threat of losing their domestic water supply, is pursuing development of an additional domestic water well on their private property. The Arizona Daily Star has submitted a FOIA request to FWS pertinent to this issue at Slaughter Ranch, and they have already been provided the information that they requested. Juliette Fernandez has recommended developing "talking points" relative to this issue, and we will try to get to that as soon as multiple other immediate priorities have been addressed at our end. I hope this information is useful to you in dealing with questions from the news media. Thank you for helping us with this issue, Bill Radke

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Radke, Bill** <bill_radke@fws.gov>
Date: Wed, Sep 18, 2019 at 6:36 AM
Subject: New Border Infrastructure Impacts on Slaughter Ranch
To: <adfinks@gmail.com>
Cc: Friar Freds <vixiej@hotmail.com>

Hi Allan; Perhaps you are already well aware of the pending border infrastructure that is being constructed across the San Bernardino Valley. A major concern is the extraordinary volume of water that will be pumped to support this construction activity (DHS - Department of Homeland Security - has reported expected volumes ranging between 83,000 - 700,000 gallons per day to support their concrete batch plant and road maintenance activities). The well contractors plan to use is the one just south of Geronimo Trail Road on the Malpai Ranch, just about 1.5-miles west of House Pond on Slaughter Ranch. While the Fish and Wildlife Service is currently working to try and model how such water use will impact the groundwater aquifer on the refuge and on Slaughter Ranch, there are many unknowns that are not being effectively analyzed by DHS. If you have information pertaining to expected water use, how that use may affect Slaughter Ranch domestic water supplies, or if you observe a decline in pond levels, water flow, etc., please provide me that information. It may help us develop a

better risk assessment. I am attaching the risk assessment information developed for the Organ Pipe National Park area for your information. Thank you, Bill Radke

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