

From: [Radke, Bill](#)
To: [Fernandez, Juliette](#)
Cc: [Baca, Joaquin](#); [Harden, Tasha](#); [McIntyre, Julie](#)
Subject: San Bernardino NWR Border Infrastructure Issues
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2019 4:26:13 PM

Hi Juliette; I was disappointed today to see first hand that DHS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) did not abide by the (most recent) October 16, 2019 Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) request to minimize water withdrawal from the aquifer that supports all wetlands on San Bernardino NWR. Contractors are continuing to pump high volumes of water from the Glenn Ranch well located about 1.5 miles west of the refuge, have not yet used their newly drilled well located in the Roosevelt Reservation near milepost 9 about 4.8 miles west of the refuge, and sadly did not heed our recommendation not to drill closer than 5-miles from the east side of the refuge. Instead, contractors have begun drilling their second new well 480 FEET east of SBNWR (see photos), and it is on state trust land rather than within the Roosevelt Reservation. All this is in support of the 30-foot tall barrier that contractors began erecting along the south side of the refuge yesterday (see photos). There is also significant road enhancement and water use (see photos) as part of the project.

While DHS/ACOE stated that they would provide FWS updated water use numbers, they have not presented those numbers yet. This increases the concerns already identified within the FWS risk assessment which was provided to DHS/ACOE on October 15, 2019 about border infrastructure impacts to refuge wetlands and listed species. We are monitoring refuge wells, pond levels, water discharge rates, etc., and will be alert to expected changes so that we can respond appropriately. The pictures below were taken this morning. Thank you for your help, Bill Radke

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