



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Amistad National Recreation Area
4121 Veterans Blvd.
Del Rio, TX 78840-9350



October 9, 2009

Subject - Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Construction of Joint Operations Space with Border Patrol, Park Headquarters, Maintenance, and Visitor Contact at Amistad National Recreation Area

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to construct a facility at the Diablo East Sub-District to act as a hub for combined law enforcement and border security operations, park headquarters, maintenance, and visitor contact component. This project would provide an approximately 22,450-square-foot facility housing all Amistad National Recreation Area (Park) activities, and an additional 5,400 square feet for the Border Patrol Lake Task Force. The facility would include offices, restrooms, communications room, evidence room, weapons storage, office mail/fax space, conference rooms, fitness room, visitor contact area, maintenance areas, storage for marine buoys and equipment, site development, utilities, access road, revegetation, parking, and secure outside storage for vehicles and equipment. Development of the joint operations facility would provide an immediate law enforcement presence within the Park boundaries. The Park shares 83 miles of contiguous boundary with Mexico, making joint law enforcement operations a necessity for employee and visitor safety. The Border Patrol shares the belief that a strong partnership with the NPS on public lands in Texas is key to gaining operational control of the border in Texas.

An environmental assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The Park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Environmental Assessment. The Park is currently in the scoping phase of this proposed project, and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, you may submit written comments at the address on this letterhead. Please provide comments by November 9, 2009. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

It is the practice of the NPS to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents who provide that information, available for public review following the conclusion of the environmental assessment process. Individuals may request that the NPS withhold their name and/or address from public disclosure. If you wish to do this, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. Commentors using the website can make such a request by checking the box "keep my contact information private." NPS will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law, but you should be aware that NPS may still be required to disclose your name and address pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alan Cox
Superintendent



Aerial Overview of General Area Proposed for Development