



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Las Flores Subdivision Phase II

Project Type: HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, BUILDINGS

Latitude/Longitude (DMS): 32.074512 / -106.616464

County(s): DONA ANA

Project Description: Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation plans to acquire 32 lots in a new subdivision, Las Flores Phase II, Berino NM using \$165,000 of 2018 HUD SHOP funds (S-H1-80-36-0000) and \$315,000 of 2019 HUD SHOP funds (S-H1-90-33-0000). These funds will be leveraged with \$850,000 in private funding. The homes will be built through the Section 523 Mutual Self Help Technical Assistance Program to provide construction training for groups of 8-10 low income families to work together to build their homes. Sweat equity labor will reduce the cost to purchase the homes by low income families. HOME funds are planned to provide up to \$25,000 in down payment assistance for low income homebuyers. As a colonia, Berino lacks adequate water, sewer, or decent housing. Lack of paved streets and improper drainage compounds flooding issues. More affordable homeownership opportunities are needed for low income families that experience poverty and unemployment at higher rates. 97.1% of Vado residents are Hispanic. Poverty and low income are endemic in Berino and Dona Ana County, NM. 43.7% of homeowners in Dona Ana County are cost-burdened. The median income of households in Berino at \$31,731, is 47% lower than the median income of Dona Ana County at \$59,726. Poverty in Berino at 19% is higher than Dona Ana County at 17.6%. 13% of households in Dona Ana County have zero net worth, meaning their debt and liabilities exceed their assets. 39% of households have liquid asset poverty meaning they lack sufficient financial resources to support themselves for at least 60 days. 6% of households are unbanked and 17% are underbanked. This project will provide new affordable homeownership opportunities in a new subdivision with paved streets, sidewalks, water and sewer utilities, and improve broadband access for rural colonia residents. The project will help low income families create assets through homeownership and equity through self-help homeownership programs, addressing racial inequities. Homeownership counseling through Tierra del Sol will increase knowledge about banking, and the obligations of homeownership.

REQUESTOR INFORMATION

Project Organization:

Contact Name: Leah Markiewitz

Email Address: Lmarkiewitz@ziaeec.com

Organization: Zia Engineering & Environmental Consultants, LLC

Address: 755 S. Telshor Blvd., Suite Q-201, Las Cruces NM 88011

Phone: 575-532-1526

OVERALL STATUS



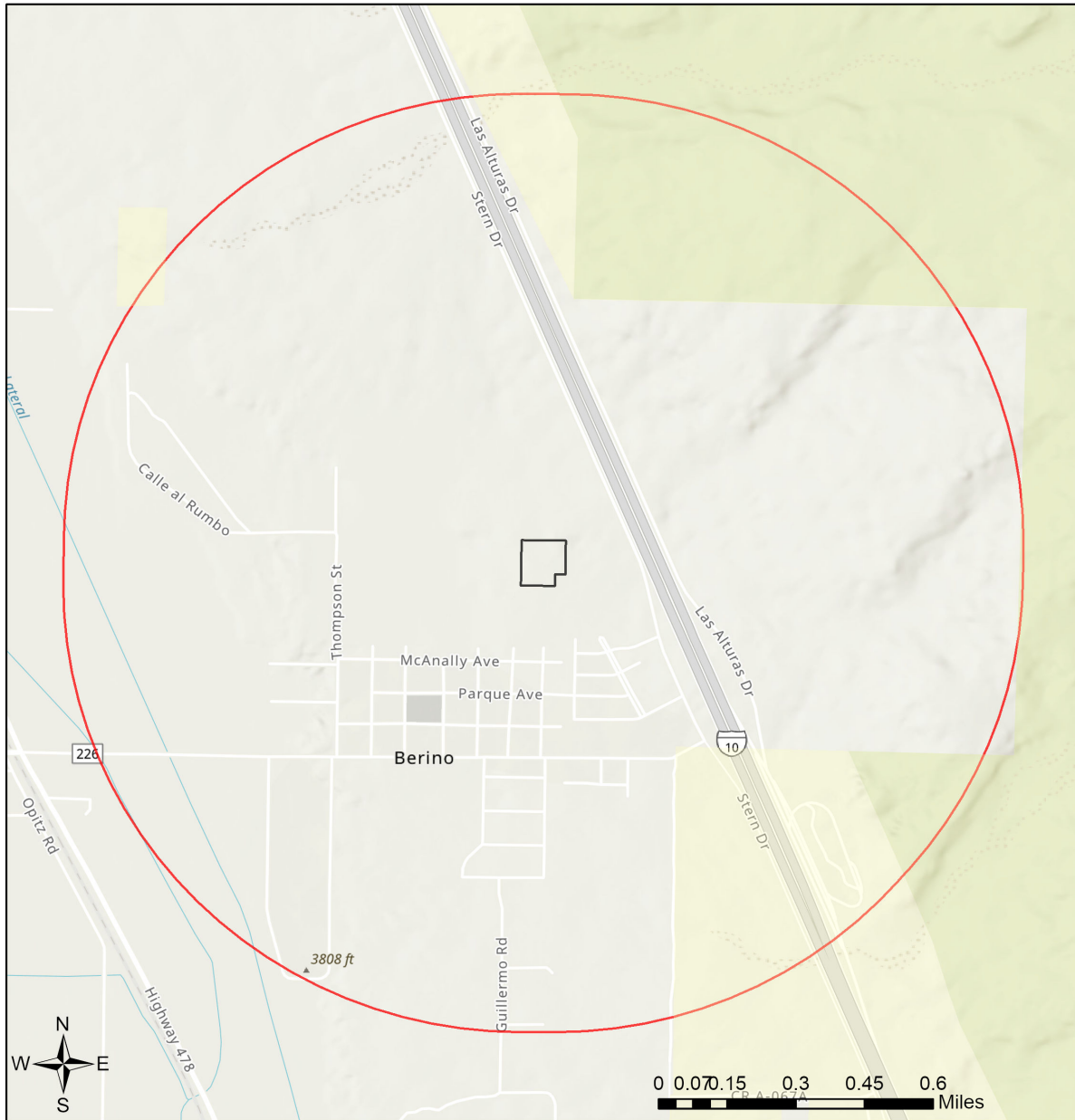
The information contained within this report comprises the recommendations of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) for management and mitigation of proposed project impacts to wildlife and habitat resources; see the Project Recommendations section below for further details. No further consultation with the Department is required based on the project's location and, with implementation of mitigation measures described in the Project Recommendations section below, no adverse effects to wildlife or important habitats are anticipated. However, a Department biologist may be in touch within 30 days if they determine that further review is required.

About this report:

- This environmental review is based on the project description and location that was entered. The report must be updated if the project type, area, or operational components are modified.
- This is a preliminary environmental screening assessment and report. It is not a substitute for the potential wildlife knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. Federal status and plant data are provided as a courtesy to users. The review is also not intended to replace consultation required under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), including impact analyses for federal resources from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) using their [Information for Planning and Consultation tool](#).
- This report contains information on wildlife species protected under the ESA and the [Wildlife Conservation Act \(WCA\)](#), [Species of Greatest Conservation Need \(SGCN\)](#), and Species of Economic and Recreational Importance (SERI). Species listed under the ESA are protected from take at the federal level and under the WCA are protected from take at the state level. SGCN are identified in the [State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\) for New Mexico](#); all of these species are considered to be of conservation concern but not all of them are protected from take at the state or federal level. The harvest of all SERI is regulated at the state level. The Department has no authority to designate critical habitat for species listed under the WCA; only the USFWS can designate critical habitat for species listed under the ESA.
- The New Mexico Environmental Review Tool (ERT) utilizes species observation locations and species habitat suitability models, both of which are subject to ongoing change and refinement. Inclusion or omission of a species within a report cannot guarantee species presence or absence within your project area. To determine occurrence of any species listed in this report, or other wildlife that may be present within your project area, onsite surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during appropriate, species-specific survey timelines may be necessary.
- The Department encourages use of the ERT to modify proposed projects for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of wildlife impacts. However, the ERT is not intended to be used in a repeatedly iterative fashion to adjust project attributes until a previously determined recommendation is generated. The ERT serves to assess impacts once project details are developed. The [New Mexico Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool](#), the data layers from which are included in the ERT, is the appropriate system for advising early-stage project planning and design to avoid areas of anticipated wildlife concerns and associated regulatory requirements.



Las Flores Subdivision Phase II



- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Buffered Project Boundary | Department of Energy | State Land Office | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| Project Boundary | NM Department of Game & Fish | State of New Mexico | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Bureau of Land Management | NM State Forestry Division | Tribal Land | U.S. Forest Service |
| City Land | NM State Parks | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| County Land | National Park Service | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | |
| Department of Defense | Private | | |

USGS, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM), and USDA Forest Service,

Compiled by Richard Norwood of NHNM over the period 2020 to 2021.

Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasyreisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community



Special Status Animal Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMDGF (WCA)	NMDGF SGCN/SERI
Barking Frog	Craugastor augusti			SGCN
Northern Leopard Frog	Lithobates pipiens			SGCN
American Bittern	Botaurus lentiginosus			SGCN
Common Black-Hawk	Buteogallus anthracinus		T	SGCN
Aplomado Falcon	Falco femoralis		E	SGCN
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus		T	SGCN
Elf Owl	Micrathene whitneyi			SGCN
Western Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia hypugaea			SGCN
Common Nighthawk	Chordeiles minor			SGCN
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis			SGCN
Bank Swallow	Riparia riparia			SGCN
Pinyon Jay	Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus			SGCN
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sitta pygmaea			SGCN
Mountain Bluebird	Sialia currucoides			SGCN
Bendire's Thrasher	Toxostoma bendirei			SGCN
Sprague's Pipit	Anthus spragueii			SGCN
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius ludovicianus			SGCN
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii		T	SGCN
Virginia's Warbler	Leiothlypis virginiae			SGCN
Lucy's Warbler	Leiothlypis luciae			SGCN
Black-Chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis			SGCN
Vesper Sparrow	Poocetes gramineus			SGCN
Thick-billed Longspur	Rhynchophanes mccownii			SGCN
Chestnut-Collared Longspur	Calcarius ornatus			SGCN
Cassin's Finch	Haemorhous cassinii			SGCN
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum		T	SGCN
Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens			SGCN
Mule Deer	Odocoileus hemionus			SERI
Gray-Checkered Whiptail	Aspidoscelis tessellata		E	SGCN
Rock Rattlesnake	Crotalus lepidus			SGCN
Desert Massasauga	Sistrurus catenatus edwardsii			SGCN

ESA = Endangered Species Act, C = Candidate, LE = Listed Endangered, LT = Listed Threatened, XN = Non-essential Experimental Population, for other ESA codes see this website: <https://nhtm.unm.edu/node/1378928>; WCA = Wildlife Conservation Act, E = Endangered, T = Threatened; SERI = Species of Economic and Recreational Importance; SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Special Status Plant Species Potentially within 1 Miles of Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	USFWS (ESA)	NMAC	NMRPCS
Sand Prickly-Pear	Opuntia arenaria		E	SS

NMAC = New Mexico Administrative Code, NMRPCS = [New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy](#), SS = NM Rare



Plant Conservation Strategy Species, E = Endangered

Project Recommendations

With implementation of the applicable mitigation or avoidance measures included in the project description, and incorporation of the guidance listed below, the Department does not anticipate significant impacts to wildlife or sensitive wildlife habitats from the proposed project activities. See the "OVERALL STATUS" section above to determine the likelihood that your project will be reviewed further based on its location. If a Department biologist determines that additional conservation measures are needed, then you should expect to receive notification and/or any additional project recommendations within 30 days of your project submission.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) may occur within your project area. Burrowing owls are protected from take by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and under New Mexico state statute. Before any ground disturbing activities occur, the Department recommends that a preliminary burrowing owl survey be conducted by a qualified biologist using the Department's [burrowing owl survey protocol](#). Should burrowing owls be documented in the project area, please contact the Department or USFWS for further recommendations regarding relocation or avoidance of impacts.

Your project area intersects an Important Plant Area (IPA) that contains one or more species of plants listed as threatened or endangered by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) under New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 75-6-1 or by the USFWS under the federal ESA. Although IPAs have no legal designation, they have been identified as areas that support either a high diversity of sensitive plant species or contain the last remaining locations of New Mexico's most endangered plants. The Department recommends that you consult with EMNRD's [Endangered Plant Program Coordinator](#) regarding any state-listed plants and the USFWS's [Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPAC\)](#) system for any federally-listed plants and reaching out to the appropriate federal species lead(s) with the [New Mexico Ecological Services Office of USFWS](#). The Department does not have any authority to designate or advise on state- or federally-listed plants.

The proposed project occurs within or near a riparian area. Because riparian areas are important wildlife habitats, the project footprint should avoid removing any riparian vegetation or creating ground disturbance either directly within or affecting the riparian area, unless the project is intended to restore riparian habitat through non-native plant removal and replanting with native species. If your project involves removal of non-native riparian trees or planting of native riparian vegetation, please refer to the Department's habitat handbook guideline for [Restoration and Management of Native and Non-native Trees in Southwestern Riparian Ecosystems](#). The [New Mexico Riparian Habitat Map \(NMRipMap\)](#) may also provide useful information on local riparian habitat composition and structure.



Disclaimers regarding recommendations:

- The Department provides technical guidance to support the persistence of all protected species of native fish and wildlife, including game and nongame wildlife species. Species listed within this report include those that have been documented to occur within the project area, and others that may not have been documented but are projected to occur within the project vicinity.
- Recommendations are provided by the Department under the authority of § 17-1-5.1 New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978, to provide "communication and consultation with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users".
- The Department has no authority for management of plants or Important Plant Areas. The [New Mexico Endangered Plant Program](#), under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department's Forestry Division, identifies and develops conservation measures necessary to ensure the survival of plant species within New Mexico. Plant status information is provided within this report as a courtesy to users. Recommendations provided within the ERT may not be sufficient to preclude impacts to rare or sensitive plants, unless conservation measures are identified in coordination with the Endangered Plant Program.
- Additional coordination and/or consultation may also be necessary under the federal ESA or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Further site-specific mitigation recommendations may be proposed during ESA consultation and/or NEPA analyses or through coordination with affected federal agencies.