



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
UNITED STATES SECTION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION  
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

January 8, 2009

Mark S. Borkowski  
Executive Director  
Secure Border Initiative  
Customs and Border Patrol  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave  
Suite 7.2C  
Washington D.C. 20299

Dear Mr. Borkowski:

Reference is made to Secure Border Initiative (SBI) fence projects (b) (6)

The USIBWC has received a response from the United States Department of State in reference to (b) (6). In this letter, it is recommended that the USIBWC, because of the potential for negative impacts on our relationship with Mexico, advise CBP/SBI to look at other options to prevent illegal crossings in this area.

In reference to SBI fence Project (b) (6) the USIBWC has reviewed this project by use of Geo Hec-Ras software and the most recent alignment file sent to the USIBWC from the SBI contractor (Baker). This software compares the flood elevation of the water to the alignment of the fence using extremely accurate LIDAR elevation information along the entire length of the project. The original data provided by the SBI contractor did not contain the required information to conduct an analysis using LIDAR and GIS tools to show the exact three dimensional location of the wall within the flood plain.

The three dimensional analysis of the most recent alignment file has revealed that portions of this fence are underwater during a flood event between the following Geographic Positions:

(b) (7)(E)

Given the foreign policy guidance received from the State Department on (b) (7) and a recent communication from the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (CILA), objecting to the construction of this fence on the current alignment by virtue of its potential to generate obstruction and deflection effects of the Rio Grande flows pursuant to the

1970 Boundary Treaty between the United States and Mexico, the US Section is unable to concur with CBP/SBI's proposed (b) (7) (E) segments currently shown to be in the floodplain.

If you have any questions, please contact Principal Engineer (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

C.W. Ruth  
Commissioner