

## **Attachment 13A**

### **Explanatory Note for Department of State (STATE) Report August 1, 2011**

Attached is the Department of State ARRA-NEPA Report for the period ending June 30, 2011. This report reflects no change in status since our previous submittal that covered progress through March 31, 2010. NEPA benefits and explanatory details are highlighted below:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hard Skills Training Center (Row #2 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet) remains in a pending status. This action has been pending for more than one report. On June 28, 2010, GSA and the Department announced that the preferred site in Queen Anne's County, Maryland was no longer being considered. Activities related to the acquisition and development of the Queen Anne's County, Maryland site have ceased. In June 2010, President Obama issued a memorandum which directed federal agencies to make more efficient use of existing Federal resources and pursue consolidation opportunities within and across agencies in common asset types. This directive was applied to all potential sites. The Department of State and GSA are working together to identify and evaluate all potential publicly-owned locations for this facility.

The Department of State (DOS) received \$70 million in Recovery Act funds to support the proposed Diplomatic Security Foreign Affairs Training Center (FASTC). DOS has obligated over \$10 million in Recovery Act funds for master planning, site-selection support, environmental services, related surveys, cost estimation, and public affairs support for the FASTC project. The remainder of the Recovery Act funds, \$59 million, was obligated by DOS to GSA through a reimbursable work authorization for FASTC project management, planning, and consulting services to support site identification, evaluation, environmental services, and acquisition; program development; design; construction; construction management; and commissioning services. The funds obligated to GSA for the pending EA are available until September 30, 2015 and the EA is expected to be completed prior to that date.

The segment of the Rio Grande Flood Control Rectification project (Paisano to International Dam) was withdrawn on the July 15, 2010 report because IBWC determined that the project will not be accomplished with ARRA funds after all (Row #17 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet).

#### **NEPA Benefits:**

The Department of State benefited from the Environmental Assessment prepared for improvements to the Arroyo Colorado Floodway in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties in Texas. The International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section, proposed raising the levees to allow for adequate protection of a 100 year flood event and to meet the standards of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The NEPA process allowed the US Section to involve the surrounding community and stakeholders in an evaluation of potential impacts that may occur to cultural resources in the project area and developed protective measures to preserve the resources.

Rows 7-16: The IBWC will be able to accomplish a large percentage of needed levee raising and structural rehabilitation work to ensure the levees provide adequate protection and meet the standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Rio Grande Flood Control System projects will: 1) enhance protection of lives and property of over 3 million U.S. border residents; and 2) achieve FEMA certification standards, negating the need for residents to buy costly flood insurance.

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