United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess Street
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.blm.gov/nm

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer To:
NMNM 066392
NMNM 131088
2800 (L0310)

NOV 7 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District Office has received two separate right-of-way (ROW) applications from Doña Ana County (DAC) to upgrade and realign portions of Dripping Springs Road and Baylor Canyon Road, located east of Las Cruces, New Mexico (see enclosed map). Your input and interest in the scoping process for DAC's ROW applications is an important component of project development and assists us in understanding the many issues to be considered.

Approximately 4.9 miles of combined roadway improvements are proposed, including roadway paving, drainage improvements, and where possible, straightening curves. Also proposed is realignment of curves at a windmill location along Baylor Canyon Road and at the intersection of Dripping Springs and Baylor Canyon Roads. The new roads would be constructed for all-weather/year-round use, and would have two (2) 12-foot driving lanes with 4-foot shoulders. The project is currently scheduled for construction from January 2016 through August 2016.

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM will analyze environmental impacts of the proposed road improvements in an Environmental Assessment (EA). The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

Two Federal agencies are participating in the NEPA process: The BLM is considering a proposal to authorize the road improvements, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would authorize the expenditure of the funding for the road improvements. The funding is provided from FHWA's Federal Lands Access Program, which funds work on public roadways located on, or provide access to, Federal lands.

At this stage of project development, FHWA may authorize the expenditure of funds. However; the BLM has just initiated its EA process and must complete a full analysis of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives to it before it may issue a decision to authorize the road improvements, and under what conditions.

Project information is available on the Las Cruces District website at www.blm.gov/nm/lascruces. If you would like to provide comments on this project, you may submit them to the address on the letterhead above, or to blm_nm_lcdo_comments@blm.gov. Please send your comments to the above address no later than December 4, 2014.

If you have questions or require further information, contact Frances Martinez, Realty Specialist, at (575) 525-4385.

Sincerely,

Douglas N. Haywood
Supervisory Lands and Minerals
Division of Multi-Resources

1 Enclosure