MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING AND FUTURE STORM WATER CONVEYANCES IN THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE, NEW MEXICO

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

APPLICANTS:

ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

SOUTHERN SANDOVAL COUNTY ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Submitted to:
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SWCA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This biological evaluation has been completed following provisions of the Endangered Species Act to evaluate and analyze potential effects of maintenance operations for storm water conveyances at various locations on the Rio Grande in New Mexico. Each storm water conveyance is under the direct or shared administrative control of either the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, the Southern Sandoval County Arroyo Flood Control Authority, the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, or the City of Rio Rancho.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Completion of the Section 404 permit process would authorize the entities listed above to perform routine and emergency maintenance operations on any and all existing storm water facilities in the Albuquerque reach of the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico. Permits issued under the process described above would also cover similar storm water conveyances constructed and operated under their respective authorities and mandates in the future.

This action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, three of the five federally listed threatened and endangered species that were identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as potentially occurring in the study area. All of the storm water conveyances are within the designated critical habitat of the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow.

The potentially affected species are:

- bald eagle
- Rio Grande silvery minnow
- southwestern willow flycatcher

This action is unlikely to affect:

- Mexican spotted owl
- black-footed ferret