



Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Draft Environmental Assessment for Constructing a Magnet School at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

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Abstract

Responsible Agency: Department of the Air Force, Air Education and Training Command (AETC), 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB), Del Rio, Texas.

Proposed Action: Lease land at LAFB to the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District (District) for the construction and operation of a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) magnet school serving pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

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Report Designation: Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Abstract: The Air Force proposes to lease one of two sites at LAFB to the District for 5 years. The District would construct and operate a STEM-focused magnet school serving pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students on the leased land. Eight relocatable buildings and one permanent restroom facility would be built on the site, along with a small on-site playground and associated infrastructure such as sidewalks, parking, drop-off and pick-up areas, and landscaping. The school could enroll up to 157 students. Depending on need, one additional relocatable building containing two classrooms could be placed on the site, increasing enrollment to up to 201 students.

Under Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site, the Air Force would lease 2.66 acres to the District for construction and operation of the school. Alternative 1 is the Air Force’s and District’s Preferred Alternative. Under Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site, the Air Force would lease 8.9 acres to the District. The District would construct and operate the STEM magnet school as described above on the selected site. Under Alternative 2, a sports field and running track would also be constructed on the site. Under the No Action Alternative, the Air Force would not lease land to the District and the school would not be constructed.

The following resources were carried forward for detailed analysis in this EA: air quality, noise, safety and occupational health, biological resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, traffic and transportation, and utilities and infrastructure. Based on the analysis in the EA, implementing the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts on the human or natural environment; therefore, preparing an environmental impact statement is not required.

Privacy Advisory Notice

Letters or other written comments provided may be published in the Final EA. As required by law, comments will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will be kept confidential. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EA. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and their specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

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A Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning

SECTION 1.0

PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE ACTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB) and the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District (District) have cooperatively and jointly worked to achieve opportunities that would assist, benefit, and fulfill the respective educational objectives for the District's community of families that includes LAFB military families. The District proposes to establish a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade (PreK-5) science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) magnet school on LAFB land leased by the United States Air Force (Air Force). The District seeks to develop an expanded school district curriculum and new facilities for qualifying students. This cooperative association between these governmental entities (LAFB and the District) enhances the capabilities and resources of both entities while benefitting the students' educational experiences.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 *United States Code* [U.S.C.] 4331 *et seq.*), the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that implement NEPA procedures (Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] 1500-1508), the Air Force Environmental Impact Assessment Process Regulations at 32 CFR Part 989, and Air Force Instruction 32-7061 (Secretary of the Air Force 2003).

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

The purpose of this action is to lease installation land for the District to provide a PreK-5 school on LAFB, Texas that would accommodate 157 students. The authority that allows LAFB to lease its land to the District is 10 U.S.C. 2667. The District Superintendent would exercise the authority under Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §25.031 and the District's school attendance areas policy, or "FC(LOCAL)" policy (see <http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Code/1180?filter=FC> for a copy of the policy) to set an attendance zone for this school (i.e., the geographic region where any student residing in that region would be assigned to attend the school) that would be for LAFB residents only. If any classroom seats are available after all interested attendance zone (on-base resident) students have enrolled, non-LAFB resident students (including military-connected and nonmilitary-connected) would have the opportunity to apply for enrollment to the District's Director of Student Services through a prioritization process described under the District's intradistrict transfers and classroom assignments regulation, or "FDB(REGULATION)"

regulation (see http://www.sfdrcisd.org/sites/default/files/FDB%28REGULATION%29Revised%20%28%205-18-2015%29_0.pdf for a copy of the policy).

A magnet school is a public school offering the state-required core curriculum augmented by a specialized focus in a particular topic area such as performing arts, foreign language, or STEM, and is authorized under TAC §74.22. For LAFB, the focus would be STEM.

1.3 NEED FOR THE ACTION

The need for a PreK-5 school is to provide on-base elementary school education to assist the District in reaching an improved (i.e., lower) student-to-teacher ratio and as an alternative to base residents having to send their children off the base to schools in the District or other districts or having to provide homeschooling. It is not uncommon for Airmen to complete a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to LAFB but leave their families behind at their previous station or move them to another city so their children can attend school in a district with lower student-to-teacher ratios. Military families residing on LAFB expressed a desire to have a STEM elementary school on-base during a Caring for People town hall meeting conducted in 2013 by the Wing Commander. According to an April 2016 survey, approximately 45 PreK-5 on-base resident students leave the base to attend District elementary schools, 19 travel to other districts to attend school (requiring round trip travel time up to 1.5 hours each day), and 20 are homeschooled. An additional 35 attend private schools off the base. (Note: 100 percent response was not received and the base population changes due to PCS of Airmen; however, the numbers reported here are accepted as generally representative of the base resident population over time.) When surveyed, base housing residents responded that if an on-base elementary school was available, 86 PreK-5 students from the base would attend. Having a PreK-5 school available on-base is expected to reduce family separations and increase morale and retention of military personnel.

The need for a magnet school under TAC §74.22 is to authorize the specialization in STEM for PreK-5 that is not currently provided for under existing STEM guidelines; current STEM guidelines under Texas Education Code §39.235 and TAC §102.1093 are limited to secondary schools. The need for a STEM school is to provide a focus for the magnet school and to support the District's program to establish certified STEM schools through grade 12. The District's Superintendent (Dr. Carlos Rios) states that a STEM program has been established at the District's high school and is expected to receive certification in 2017; development of a STEM middle school program, including a dedicated instructional facility, is also underway. The STEM school at LAFB would be the first of two elementary STEM schools planned and would help the

District meet its ultimate goal of having a certified pre-kindergarten through 12th grade STEM program.

1.4 DECISION TO BE MADE

This EA is a planning and decision-making tool that will be used to guide LAFB in implementing the proposed action in a manner consistent with Air Force standards for environmental stewardship. The EA evaluates whether the proposed action would result in significant impacts on the human and natural environment. If significant impacts are identified, LAFB would undertake mitigation to reduce impacts to below the level of significance, undertake preparation of an EIS addressing the proposed action, or abandon the proposed action.

1.5 INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND CONSULTATIONS

1.5.1 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination and Consultations

Federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed action were notified and consulted during the development of this EA. Appendix A lists the agencies consulted during the analysis and contains representative copies of correspondence.

1.5.2 Government to Government Consultations

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 CFR Part 800 direct federal agencies to consult with Native American tribal governments and seek their input when identifying traditional cultural properties (TCPs), evaluating TCP eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, and (if the TCP is eligible) resolving adverse effects of the proposed action. The NHPA consultation process is distinct from NEPA and Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning notification processes, and has its own notification requirements and timelines. In accordance with the NHPA, the federally recognized tribes that are affiliated historically with the LAFB geographic region (listed in Appendix A) have been invited to consult and provide comments.

1.6 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE EA

A Notice of Availability of the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was published in the *Del Rio News-Herald*, announcing the availability of the EA for review and inviting the public to review and comment on the Draft EA during a 30-day comment period. A printed copy of the Draft EA and FONSI was made available for review at the Val Verde County Library; the documents were also made available online at: <http://www.laughlin.af.mil/>.

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SECTION 2.0

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

LAFB would lease installation land to the District for the construction of a school campus primarily comprised of relocatable buildings. Relocatable buildings consist of modular, pre-manufactured components (such as walls and roofs) that can be disassembled, transported to a different site, and reassembled upon a concrete foundation at the desired location. The lease would be for a period of 5 years, during which time both the base and the District would measure the interest and participation of LAFB residents. If interest is high and the population of PreK-5 children living within the attendance zone increases due to the presence of the school, one additional relocatable building might be added to accommodate the growing student population.

Toward the end of the 5-year lease, the District would continue to operate the temporary campus while performing the planning and funding actions necessary to develop a permanent school facility on LAFB. The temporary campus would be dismantled once the permanent facility is ready for occupation. Construction of a permanent school is not addressed in this EA, as it is not ripe for decision. If the District and LAFB determine that a permanent campus is in their best interest, a separate EA document would be prepared as part of the planning actions before constructing a new permanent campus on Air Force property.

It is anticipated that the lease would be signed in late 2016 and construction would be completed in 2017 to allow the school to open in August 2017 for the 2017–2018 school year. The construction activities would occur over a 6- to 9-month period. Assuming there is sufficient interest in a permanent STEM-focused elementary school located on the base, the temporary school would operate for four school-years. It would then be dismantled shortly before the end of the 5-year lease, once the permanent school was ready for occupation. It is assumed that the demolition activity required to remove the temporary school campus would take 2 to 3 months—the period of time between one school year ending and the new school year beginning.

The District would be responsible for all permits and fees associated with site work and utility connections. The District would be responsible for all site preparation and construction required to place the relocatable buildings on LAFB, including concrete building pads, parking lots, access roads, and utility connections. Utilities would be metered and the District would pay LAFB for their use.

The District would also be responsible for transporting students residing off-base to and from the school, if necessary.

Based on the availability and capacity of District-owned relocatable buildings, the number of students to be served when the school opens would be 157 (22 students per pre-kindergarten through fourth-grade class multiplied by six classrooms and 25 students in one fifth-grade class). Currently, 120 PreK-5 students live on LAFB; if all the students attend the new school, 37 seats would be available for students residing off-base. The District could add one additional relocatable classroom building to the campus to accommodate a maximum of 201 students.

A school of the proposed size is expected to have a staff of approximately 11 teachers and aides and eight administrative and support staff. Twenty-five on-site parking spaces would be required to accommodate 19 staff (11 teachers and aides and 8 administrative staff) and six visitors.

There would be a total of 10 buildings (nine relocatable classrooms and one permanent restroom facility):

- Building 1: School office
- Building 2: Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classrooms
- Building 3: First- and second-grade classrooms
- Building 4: Third- and fourth-grade classrooms
- Building 5: Fifth-grade classroom and a storage room
- Building 6: Cafeteria
- Building 7: Science and art/music classrooms
- Building 8: Extra classroom and a meeting room
- Building 9: Restroom facility (permanent facility)
- Building 10: Additional classroom building (two classrooms, grade level to be determined)

A minimum of 2.4 acres is required to allow for the placement of nine relocatable buildings, one permanent restroom structure, and associated facilities. The layout of the site is under development; however, it is anticipated that most of the buildings would be arranged around a central courtyard with a small playground in the center. Because the playground equipment on the school site would be sized to accommodate the smallest children, students in grades 1 through 5 would use an existing off-site playground with appropriately sized equipment.

The buildings would be linked by concrete walkways, many of which would be covered to provide shade. Buildings would be arranged to allow for at least the minimum-required access space between them for emergency response vehicles to access the site. The restroom facility would be located near the cafeteria and other buildings. Semicircular pick-up and drop-off driveways for buses and for parents driving personal vehicles would be located on-site off of main roads. The office would be near the pick-up and drop-off area for parents. A security fence would be located around the perimeter of the school.

2.2 SELECTION STANDARDS

Per the requirements of 32 CFR Part 989, the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process regulations, selection standards are used to identify required factors for meeting the purpose of and need for the proposed action. The following selection standards were established for the proposed school site:

- A. *Location.* Site must be on-base, in an area of compatible land use, and within 1,500 yards walking distance of housing areas (i.e., a little over four-fifths of a mile). Rationale: The school would be established as an attendance zone school for LAFB and therefore must be on-base; the Air Force needs to avoid locating a school in an area where mission, industrial, or other activities could interfere with a learning environment; and the Air Force prefers the site to be within walking distance of the housing area to avoid needing to provide on-base bus services.
- B. *Noise contour.* Site must be outside the 65 decibel (dB) noise contour. Rationale: Comply with Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4165.57 to minimize classroom noise disturbance from aircraft operations.
- C. *Acreage.* Site must be a single site of at least 2.4 acres. Rationale: A single location provides best accountability of students and the most efficient use of personnel and facility resources. A minimum of 2.4 acres is required to allow for the placement of nine relocatable buildings, one permanent restroom structure, and their associated foundations with the minimum required access space between them for emergency response vehicles (this includes eight buildings, with space to expand for one additional building), student drop-off driveways for buses and parents, concrete walkways between buildings, security fences around the perimeter of the school, a small playground for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, a small building adjacent to the on-site playground for male and female restrooms, and room for 19 staff parking spaces and six visitor parking spaces.

- D. *Playground.* Site must have access to an existing playground (including equipment such as swings, slides, and climbing apparatus) within 600 feet of the school buildings.
Rationale: Because the small playground on the school site would be limited in size with equipment sized to accommodate the smallest children, students in grades 1 through 5 would need access to an off-site playground with appropriately sized equipment near enough to the school buildings to allow for walking of no more than 5 minutes to maximize their allotted times for physical activity.
- E. *Sports field.* Site must have access to an existing sports field (i.e., soccer field/track) within 600 feet of the school buildings, or the site must have 2.8 acres in addition to the 2.4 acres discussed in Selection Standard C for construction of a new sports field.
Rationale: Students would need access to a sports field for physical fitness activities that a playground would not support, such as soccer, track and field, and whiffle ball. If not constructed on-site, the sports field must be within 600 feet to allow for walking of no more than 5 minutes to maximize allotted times for physical activities that a playground would not support.
- F. *Utility connections.* Site must have utility connections for water, sewer, and electricity that can be accessed without road closures. Rationale: The Air Force seeks to avoid road closures during utility construction and connection activities conducted by the District to minimize impacts on base traffic and missions.

2.3 DESCRIPTION AND SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES

NEPA and the CEQ regulations mandate the consideration of *reasonable alternatives* for the proposed action. Reasonable alternatives are those that could be used to meet the purpose of and need for the proposed action. The following alternatives were identified and screened against the selection standards.

2.3.1 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site

The Club Amistad site is the location of a former restaurant and night club. The former structures were demolished and removed in 2012. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 1 is located on-base, away from incompatible activities, and within 1,500 yards walking distance of the housing area. Alternative 1 meets this selection standard.

- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 1 is outside the 65 dB noise contour and therefore meets this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 1 consists of 2.66 acres. Alternative 1 meets this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 1 is within 300 feet of the existing Youth Center playground, which is a recreational facility that accommodates children ages 7 to 15 primarily for afterschool activities. Alternative 1 meets this selection standard.
- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 1 is within 586 feet of an existing sports field. Alternative 1 meets this selection standard.
- F. *Utility Connections.* Alternative 1 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 1 meets this selection standard.

2.3.2 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

The Tweety Field site is the former location of a sports field with press box, swimming pool, and bath house. The facilities were removed in 2012. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 2 is located on-base, away from incompatible activities, and within 1,500 yards walking distance from the housing area. Alternative 2 meets this selection standard.
- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 2 is outside the 65 dB noise contour and therefore meets this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 2 consists of 8.9 acres. Alternative 2 meets this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 2 is within 500 feet of the Youth Center playground. Alternative 2 meets this selection standard.
- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 2 has more than enough acreage to accommodate 2.4 acres for the school facility and another 2.8 acres for the construction of a sports field. Alternative 2 meets this selection standard.
- F. *Utility Connections.* Alternative 2 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 2 meets this selection standard.

2.3.3 Alternative 3 – Fiesta Center Site

The Fiesta Center site was previously occupied by a community event complex, which included an Enlisted Annex and a noncommissioned officers' mess and club. This facility was demolished

in 2012. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 3 is located on-base near a high-traffic industrial area. The distance the children would have to walk to the site would be 1,988 yards from housing. Alternative 3 does not meet this selection standard.
- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 3 is inside the 65 dB noise contour and therefore does not meet this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 3 consists of 6.02 acres. Alternative 3 meets meet this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 3 is 3,675 feet from the nearest existing playground. Alternative 3 does not meet this selection standard.
- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 3 has enough acreage to accommodate 2.4 acres for the school facility and another 2.8 acres for the construction of a sports field. Alternative 3 meets this selection standard.
- F. *Utility connections.* Alternative 3 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 3 meets this selection standard.

2.3.4 Alternative 4 – Sports Field Site

The Sports Field site was previously used as a softball field and is directly across from the main park and playground area. This facility was demolished in 2012. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 4 is located on-base near an industrial area. The distance the children would have to walk to the site would be 2,508 yards from housing. Alternative 4 does not meet this selection standard.
- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 4 is close to the flightline and is inside the 65 dB noise contour. Alternative 4 does not meet this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 4 consists of 6.85 acres. Alternative 4 meets this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 4 is within 340 feet of an existing playground. Alternative 4 meets this selection standard.
- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 4 has enough acreage to accommodate 2.4 acres for the school facility and another 2.8 acres for the construction of a sports field. Alternative 4 meets this selection standard.

- F. *Utility connections.* Alternative 4 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 4 meets this selection standard.

2.3.5 Alternative 5 – Credit Union Site

The Credit Union site is west of the current Credit Union building and was previously occupied by the Operations Flight building. This facility was demolished in 1990. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 5 is located on-base near an industrial area. The distance the children would have to walk would be 1,884 yards from housing. Alternative 5 does not meet this selection standard.
- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 5 is inside the 65 dB noise contour and therefore does not meet this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 5 consists of 5.1 acres. Alternative 5 meets this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 5 is 1,800 feet from the nearest existing playground. Alternative 5 does not meet this selection standard.
- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 5 is 527 feet from an existing sports field. Alternative 5 meets this selection standard.
- F. *Utility connections.* Alternative 5 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 5 meets this selection standard.

2.3.6 Alternative 6 – Temporary Lodging Facilities Site

The Temporary Lodging Facilities site was previously occupied by temporary lodging facilities (buildings 460 through 463). These facilities were demolished in 2012. The results of screening this alternative against the selection standards are summarized as follows:

- A. *Location.* Alternative 6 is located on-base in an area of compatible land use. The distance children would have to walk would be 1,496 yards from housing. Alternative 6 meets this selection standard.
- B. *Noise contour.* Alternative 6 is close to the flightline and is inside the 65 dB noise contour. Alternative 6 does not meet this selection standard.
- C. *Acreage.* Alternative 6 consists of 5.4 acres. Alternative 6 meets this selection standard.
- D. *Playground.* Alternative 6 is 850 feet from the nearest existing playground. Alternative 6 does not meet this selection standard.

- E. *Sports field.* Alternative 6 has enough acreage to accommodate 2.4 acres for the school facility and another 2.8 acres for the construction of a sports field. Alternative 6 meets this selection standard.
- F. *Utility connections.* Alternative 6 has water, sewer, and electricity connections that can be accessed without road closures. Alternative 6 meets this selection standard.

2.3.7 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, LAFB would not lease installation land for the District to provide a STEM magnet school for grades PreK-5 on LAFB, Texas.

The No Action Alternative would require the continued bussing of students to off-base schools with high student-to-teacher ratios, and continued transport of students to private schools or other school districts, or the continuation of homeschooling. LAFB would continue to have problems with personnel retention, which could negatively impact the mission.

The No Action Alternative fails to address the purpose of and need for the action. However, the No Action Alternative will be carried forward for further analysis, consistent with CEQ regulations, to provide a baseline against which the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives can be assessed.

2.4 SUMMARY OF SCREENING RESULTS

Table 2-1 summarizes the screening results for the alternatives.

**Table 2-1.
Alternatives screening results**

Alternatives	Selection standards					
	A: Location	B: Noise Contour	C: Acreage	D: Playground	E: Sports Field	F: Utility Connections
1: Club Amistad	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2: Tweety Field	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3: Fiesta Center	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4: Sports Field	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5: Credit Union	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
6: Temporary Lodging Facilities	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
No Action	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes:

Yes = meets the selection standard; No = does not meet the selection standard (highlighted gray); NA = not applicable

2.5 ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Of the six sites evaluated, all of which were previously developed parcels in the main part of the base, four were eliminated from further consideration. Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 failed to meet the location standard, specifically walking distance. Alternatives 3, 4, 5, and 6 failed to meet the noise contour selection standard. Alternatives 3, 5, and 6 failed to meet the standard for walking distance to an existing playground. None of the eliminated sites are carried forward for further discussion or analysis in this EA.

2.6 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES TO BE EVALUATED IN THIS EA

2.6.1 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

This site consists of 2.66 relatively flat acres of manicured lawn with a few trees, a parking lot with 22 parking spaces, and some xeriscaping¹ adjacent to the parking lot (see Figures 2-1 and 2-2). Grass covers the rest of the site. Utilities are readily accessible on and near the site.

The Alternative 1 site is not in a wetland as referenced in Executive Order (EO) 11990, or a floodplain as referenced in EO 11988, as amended by EO 13690.

The Alternative 1 site has enough room for a small outdoor play yard; however, it is across the street from the Youth Center where a large, fenced, outdoor playscape² is available. It is expected that the District would establish an agreement with the Youth Center to use this play area. An existing sports field and running track is approximately 400 feet north of the site and would also be used. Alternative 1 is the Air Force's and District's Preferred Alternative.

2.6.2 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

This site consists of 8.9 acres of manicured lawn with scattered trees and bushes (see Figures 2-1 and 2-3). A lighted, paved walking/running trail crosses east-west through the site and might have to be relocated (along with its light poles) if the school is placed here. The site terrain gradually slopes to the south. Utilities are readily accessible on and near the site. A parking lot shared with Club XL is on the northeast side of the site; this lot can accommodate 33 vehicles.

¹ Xeriscaping is landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation.

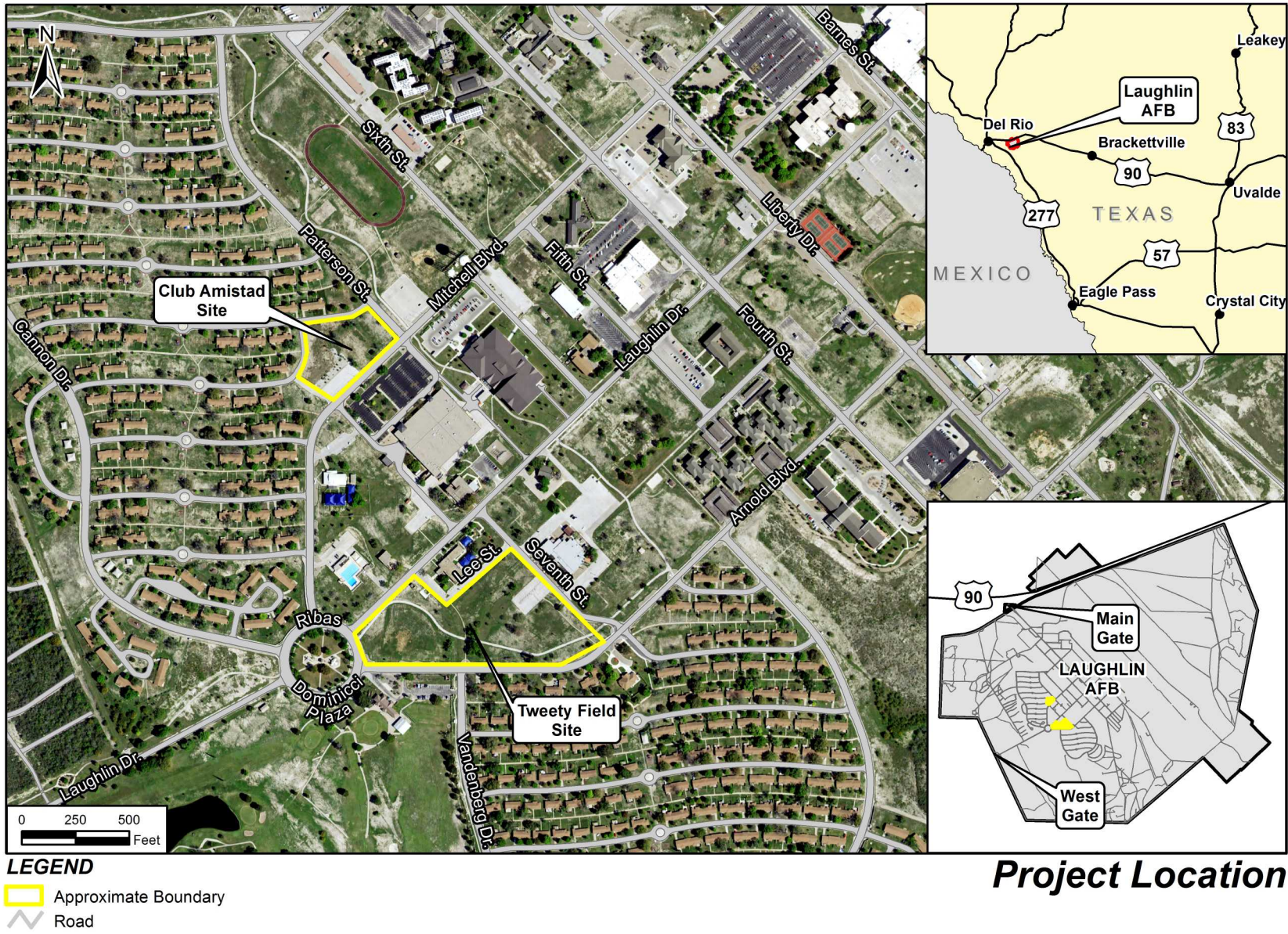
² A playscape is a playground with an integrated design of equipment, especially with components made from wood and natural products.

The Alternative 2 site is not in a wetland as referenced in EO 11990, or a floodplain as referenced in EO 11988, as amended by EO 13690.

The Alternative 2 site has enough room for an outdoor play yard, and it is approximately 500 feet from the Youth Center where a large, fenced, outdoor playscape is available. It is expected that the District would establish an agreement with the Youth Center to use this play area. The existing sports field and running track is not in close proximity; it is anticipated that a new sports field would be constructed in the western portion of the site (near Ribas Dominicci Plaza, the roundabout). The buildings would likely be located in the eastern portion of the site (near 7th Street).

2.6.3 No Action Alternative

If the No Action Alternative is selected, the on-base capacity of PreK-5 classroom space at LAFB would not be provided, and the District's student-to-teacher ratio would remain unchanged. Not having an elementary campus on-base would continue to require LAFB residents to send their children off-base or to undergo labor-intensive homeschooling.



Project Location

Figure 2-1

Source: Laughlin AFB GIS 2016; TNRIS 2015.

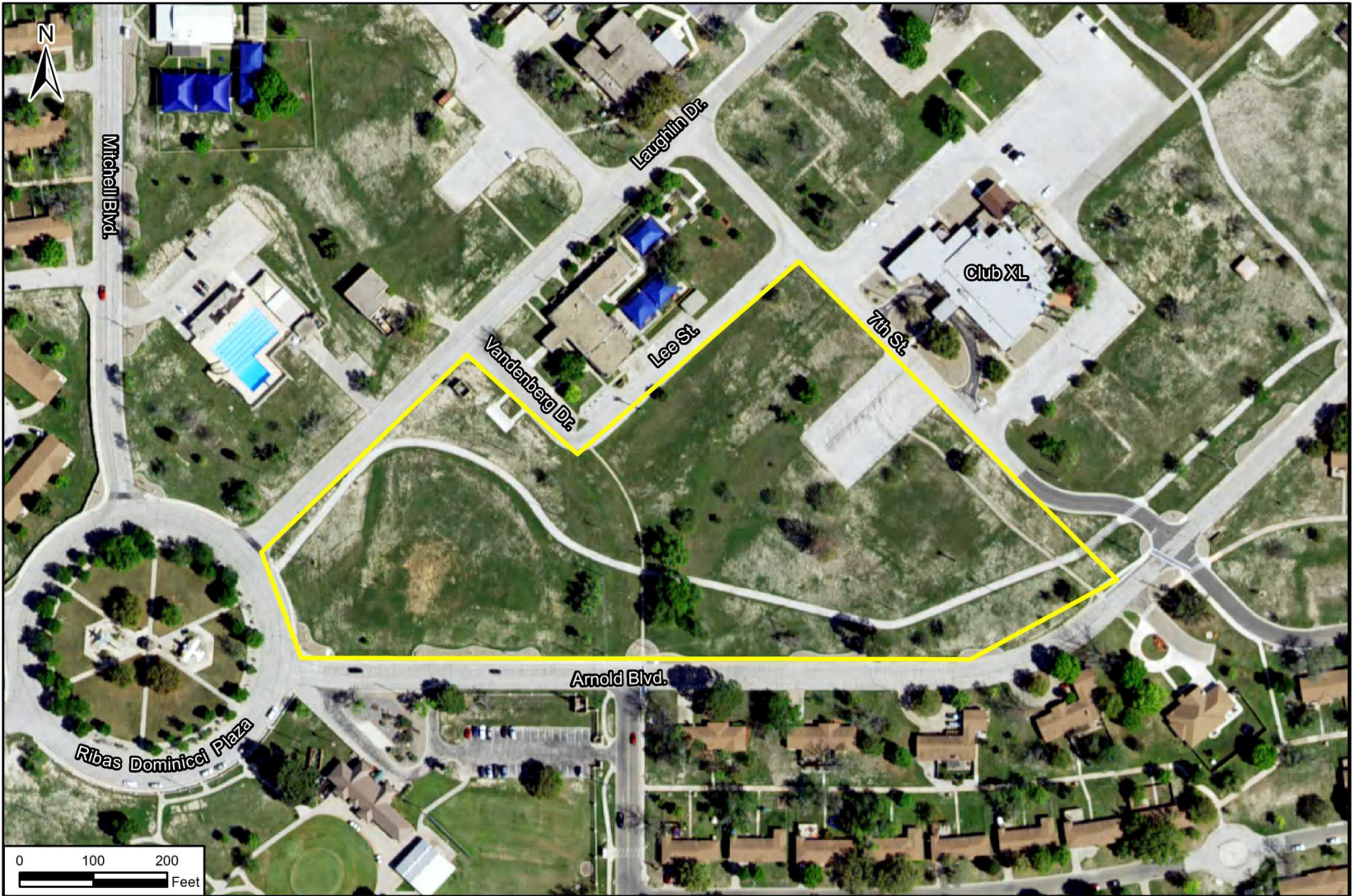


Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site

Figure 2-2

LEGEND
Approximate Boundary

Source: TNRIS 2015.



Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Figure 2-3

Source: TNRIS 2015.

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SECTION 3.0

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 RESOURCES NOT CARRIED FORWARD FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS

Per CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1500), federal agencies may focus their NEPA analysis on those resource areas that could be affected and omit discussions of resource areas that would not be affected by a proposed action (see 40 CFR 1501.7[a][3]). The following resource areas have been reviewed and determined not to warrant further consideration because there would be no or negligible potential for effects from implementing the proposed action: aesthetics and visual resources, airspace, cultural resources, geological and earth resources, hazardous materials and waste, land use, recreation, and water resources. A brief description of each resource and the rationale for a determination of negligible or no effect is provided.

Aesthetics and Visual Resources. The proposed action would have no appreciable effects on aesthetics or visual resources. There are no aesthetically sensitive locations within the viewshed of the proposed project sites. Existing views are of typical military base buildings and supporting infrastructure such as roads and parking lots. During construction, the visual and aesthetic characteristics of areas undergoing development would be temporarily altered by the use of construction equipment and the staging of construction materials. Following construction, the proposed facilities and associated infrastructure would introduce new visual features; however, these features would be visually consistent with existing conditions. As a result, the Air Force anticipates negligible short-term (less than 1 year in duration) effects, no long-term effects, and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Airspace. The proposed action would not alter navigable airspace, flight patterns, air traffic, or air operations. The school campus would be constructed of one-story buildings and would not include tall structures that could result in an obstruction to air navigation. As a result, the Air Force anticipates no short- or long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Cultural Resources. The proposed action would not affect cultural resources including archaeological resources, Native American concerns, and historical resources. In accordance with the Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP) for LAFB, there are no buildings potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places on the proposed sites. No historic district is present at LAFB, so there are no concerns regarding the viewshed. As indicated in the ICRMP, a basewide intensive cultural resources survey has been conducted and no concerns were identified at the proposed sites. No known TCP or other Native American

concerns are on the project sites. The probability of encountering subsurface archeological materials outside of known sites is low (LAFB 2012b). In the unlikely event that cultural resources are found during construction, the installation's Inadvertent Discovery Plan (found in the ICRMP) would be followed and the Texas Historical Commission would be notified. As a result, the Air Force anticipates no short- or long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

The Air Force consulted with Native American tribal governments and no tribes have responded with concerns about the project. The Air Force submitted a determination of "no historic properties affected" for the proposed project to the Texas Historical Commission. Relevant correspondence is provided in Appendix A.

Geological and Earth Resources. The proposed action is not expected to result in appreciable effects on geological and earth resources. Ground-disturbing activities would be temporary and would occur on previously disturbed land. Standard erosion control measures implemented as part of the proposed action would minimize potential erosion impacts. Because construction would disturb more than 1 acre, the project would require coverage under Texas Construction General Permit number TXR150000. General permit coverage is discussed in Section 3.9, Utilities and Infrastructure. Neither site has prime farmland soils or is near unique geological features or identified geological hazards. The proposed project sites are relatively flat and gently sloping to the west and south. Implementing the proposed project at either site would involve some grading during construction but would not substantially alter the existing topography or soils. As a result, the Air Force anticipates negligible short- and long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis

Hazardous Materials and Waste. The proposed action would not have appreciable effects on hazardous materials and waste. The proposed project sites are not in the Installation Restoration Program, and there is no known soil and groundwater contamination on or near the sites (Air Force 2016b). During construction activities, hazardous materials and petroleum products commonly used in construction (e.g., fuel, oils, lubricants, and paint) would be used at the site and some wastes would be generated and properly disposed. During operation of the school, hazardous materials commonly used in facilities (e.g., cleaning supplies) would be used at the site. The safe handling, storage, use, and disposal procedures of LAFB's Hazardous Waste Management Plan would be implemented, and all applicable federal, state, and local regulations would be followed during both construction and operation. The amounts of materials would be limited and correct management practices would minimize the potential for an accidental spill or

release. If a release occurs, it would be promptly stopped and addressed following procedures in the Hazardous Waste Management Plan. As a result, the Air Force anticipates negligible short- and long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Land Use. Implementing the proposed action would have no effect on land use. Constructing a school on either of the proposed project sites would be consistent with planned and permitted land uses under applicable land use plans, the LAFB Installation Development Plan (IDP) and Air Installation Compatible Use Zone study (URS 2014; Air Force 2008). Both project sites are in IDP Planning Districts that allow a training/educational use (URS 2014). Adjacent land uses, which include housing, child-care facilities, recreational facilities, medical facilities, and administrative uses, are compatible with a school use. Both project sites are 0.5 mile or more outside the runway Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones. As a result, the Air Force anticipates no short- or long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Recreation. The proposed action would have no appreciable adverse effects on recreation. Alternative 1 includes construction of a small on-site playground. Alternative 2 includes construction of a new sports field, which would have a beneficial effect on recreational opportunities at LAFB. Students would also use existing recreational facilities in the vicinity, including the Youth Center playground, pool, fitness center, and sports track. Use of these facilities would be prescheduled to avoid adversely affecting other users of these facilities. As a result, the Air Force anticipates no short- or long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

Water Resources. No surface water bodies or wetlands are present on or near the proposed project sites. The project sites are not in a floodplain (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2010) so implementing the proposed action would not impact 100- or 500- year floodplains or the freeboard value floodplain (+2 feet for noncritical actions and +3 feet for critical actions). Construction and dismantling activities would excavate to 3 to 4 feet below ground surface and shallow groundwater is more than 20 feet below ground surface at each site, so groundwater would not be encountered or affected. The proposed action would not use groundwater as a source of drinking water but would instead use water obtained from the municipal utility. As a result, the Air Force anticipates no short- or long-term adverse impacts and no significant impacts; therefore, this resource area was not carried forward for detailed analysis.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

This section describes air quality, including greenhouse gases (GHGs), and discusses potential effects the proposed project could have on this resource.

3.2.1 Definition of the Resource

A region of influence (ROI) is a geographic area selected as the area where effects from implementing the proposed project might occur and are therefore analyzed. The air quality ROI is Val Verde County, which is in the Metropolitan San Antonio Interstate Air Quality Control Region.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. These standards represent the maximum allowable atmospheric concentration of designated air pollutants that are considered protective of public health and welfare. NAAQS have been set for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and particulate matter.

Based on measured ambient air pollutant concentrations, the USEPA determines whether geographic areas are in compliance with the NAAQS. Areas in compliance with the NAAQS are designated as *attainment areas*; areas not in compliance are *nonattainment areas*. Nonattainment areas that subsequently achieve compliance with the NAAQS are designated *maintenance areas* to ensure air quality continues to comply with the NAAQS. Proposed actions that would result in direct or indirect emissions in a designated nonattainment or maintenance area are subject to a conformity evaluation under the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 93) and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process for air quality in 32 CFR 989.30.

GHGs are components of the atmosphere (e.g., water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) that trap heat relatively near the surface of the earth, contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change. GHGs are derived from natural sources such as volcanic activity and forest fires, and from man-made sources such as the use of aerosols and the burning of fossil fuels. Global temperatures are likely to rise as atmospheric concentrations of GHGs increase (USEPA 2016; Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2014).

EO 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*, outlines policies intended to ensure that federal agencies evaluate climate change risks and vulnerabilities, and to manage the short- and long-term effects of climate change on their operations and mission. The EO specifically requires DoD agencies to measure, report, and reduce their GHG emissions from direct and indirect activities. The DoD has committed to reduce GHG emissions from noncombat

activities 34 percent by 2020 (DoD 2014). In addition, the CEQ recently released a revised draft guidance on when and how federal agencies should consider GHG emissions and climate change in NEPA analyses. The draft guidance includes a presumptive effects threshold of 27,563 tons per year (25,000 metric tons per year) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions from a federal action (CEQ 2014). CO₂e is a term that describes multiple GHGs including carbon dioxide, reactive organic gases, and nitrous oxide, as an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

LAFB is in Val Verde County, Texas, which is classified by the USEPA as an attainment area for all NAAQS (TCEQ 2016a). Therefore, LAFB is not subject to the General Conformity regulations (40 CFR Parts 6, 51, and 93) and a General Conformity Applicability Analysis is not required.

The air quality at LAFB is considered good, according to state and federal standards (URS 2014). Existing sources of air emissions, including criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and GHGs, at LAFB include aircraft and vehicle operations, fuel storage and dispensing, pesticide application, cleaning operations, and other chemical uses (QRI 2015).

LAFB reports emissions in its annual air emissions inventory (QRI 2015). The air emissions inventory defines pollution sources and estimates the total mass of emissions generated from each source annually. Air emissions at LAFB for the 2015 calendar year are presented in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1.
Air Emissions at Laughlin Air Force Base**

Pollutant	2015 emissions
Carbon monoxide	13.37 tons
Nitrogen oxides	4.23 tons
Particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in aerodynamic ^a diameter	0.84 tons
Particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic ^a diameter	1.33 tons
Sulfur oxides	0.42 tons
Volatile organic compounds	7.12 tons
Hazardous air pollutants	0.64 tons
Carbon dioxide equivalent	5,222.52 metric tons

Source: QRI 2015

Notes:

^a Particles have irregular shapes and their aerodynamic behavior is expressed in terms of the diameter of a hypothetical sphere of a reference density that would have the same settling velocity in calm air as the particle in question, regardless of its geometric size, shape, and density. Particles are described based on this aerodynamic diameter, which is usually simply referred to as "particle size" (World Health Organization 2016).

The volume of air emissions at LAFB is below the threshold that would classify it as a Title V facility as verified by its annual air emissions survey. Title V refers to federal air pollution standards associated with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Because LAFB is not a Title V facility, its emissions sources operate under a series of operating permits and standard exemptions. LAFB has one synthetic minor air permit that has self-imposed air emissions maximums set in coordination with the state of Texas, which relieves it from needing a federal permit. All other air quality emission sources are covered under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Permit by Rule (URS 2014).

3.2.3 Environmental Consequences

3.2.3.1 Analysis Methodology

The Air Force Air Conformity Applicability Model (ACAM) was used to determine project emissions during construction and operation. Project emissions were then compared to relevant emissions thresholds to determine if the project would have a significant impact on air quality. CO₂e were compared to the GHG threshold in the CEQ revised draft guidance (CEQ 2014). Other project emissions were compared to the *de minimis* (of minimal importance) threshold values in the USEPA General Conformity Rule, which are 100 tons per year for each pollutant (40 CFR Part 93). The General Conformity Rule *de minimis* threshold values are the maximum net change an action can acceptably emit in nonattainment and maintenance areas, so they provide a conservative indicator of acceptable emissions in an attainment area like Val Verde County.

3.2.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Short- and long-term minor adverse effects to air quality would be expected. Project construction and operation would generate air emissions. Construction emissions would include emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and worker vehicles; fugitive dust from grading and other earthmoving activities; and off-gassing from paving and architectural coatings (such as paint). Operational emissions would include vehicle trips to and from the school and operation of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units on the school's buildings. Emissions from dismantling the temporary school campus at the end of the 5-year lease would be similar to or less than construction emissions.

Project emissions would include the six criteria pollutants, GHGs, and others, such as volatile organic compounds. The estimated project emissions during construction and operation are shown in Table 3-2. Project emissions are compared to relevant thresholds to determine if the project would have a significant impact on air quality.

**Table 3-2.
Proposed project air emissions**

Pollutant	Construction emissions (tons per year)	Operational emissions (tons per year)	Air quality indicator	
			Threshold ^a (tons per year)	Exceedance (yes or no)
Volatile organic compounds	0.532	0.287	100	No
Nitrogen oxides	2.196	0.690	100	No
Carbon monoxide	3.016	3.126	100	No
Sulfur oxides	0.523	1.246	100	No
PM ₁₀	1.673	0.054	100	No
PM _{2.5}	0.108	0.023	100	No
Lead	0.000	0.000	100	No
Ammonia	0.008	0.017	100	No
Carbon dioxide equivalent (GHGs)	532.7	438.3	27,563	No

Source: Air Force 2016a

Notes:

PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter; GHG = greenhouse gas

^a The same threshold applies to construction, operation, and dismantling.

As shown in Table 3-2, estimated project emissions would be well below the relevant significance thresholds for criteria pollutants, GHGs, and other air pollutants. The additional emissions from the project would not trigger additional reporting or permitting requirements for LAFB. Therefore, short- and long-term adverse effects on air quality would be minor; no significant impact would occur.

Project construction would employ best management practices (BMPs) to minimize fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions. BMPs to minimize fugitive dust could include using water to control dust and cleaning streets as needed. BMPs to reduce tailpipe emissions could include minimizing unnecessary idling of vehicles and machinery. These BMPs are not necessarily all-inclusive; the District and any contractors would comply with all applicable air pollution control regulations.

3.2.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Short- and long-term minor adverse effects on air quality would be expected. Short-term air emissions from the proposed project would be greater than those presented in Table 3-2 because in addition to constructing the school, Alternative 2 includes constructing a new sports field. However, the total emissions would not approach the threshold values in Table 3-2. Air emissions during operations would be the same as those described for Alternative 1. Therefore, short- and long-term adverse effects on air quality would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

3.2.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the school would not be constructed. Existing conditions related to air quality would be unchanged; therefore, no effects would occur.

3.3 NOISE

This section discusses the noise environment, the proposed action's consistency with the noise environment, and potential effects of the proposed project on the noise environment.

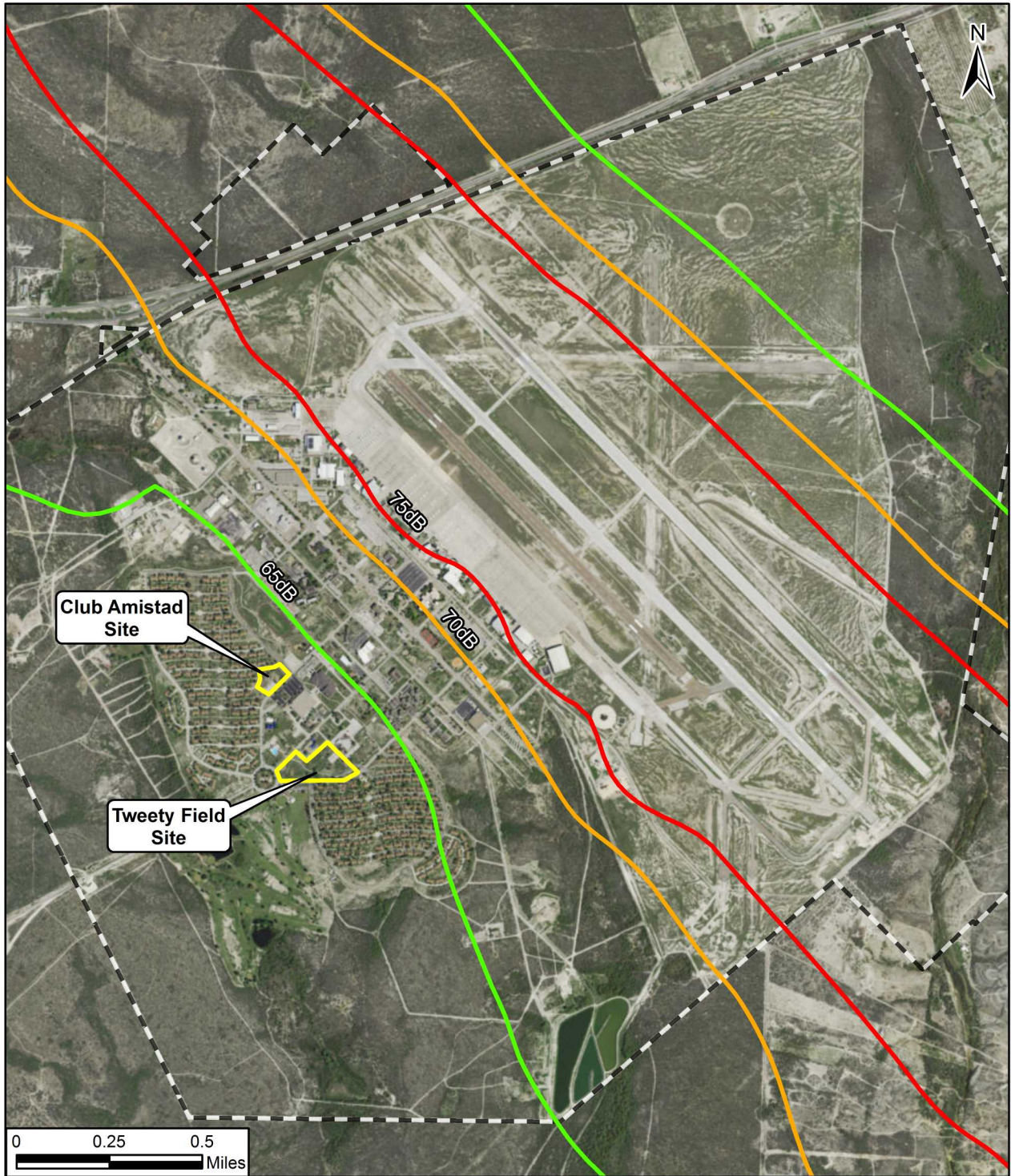
3.3.1 Definition of the Resource

Sound is defined as vibrations that travel through a medium, such as air, and are sensed by a receiver, such as the human ear. Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Whether or not sound is perceived as noise varies depending on factors including the time of day, the source of the sound, the distance between the sound source and the receiver, and the sensitivity of the receiver. Noise is generated by activities essential to daily life and the military mission, such as construction, vehicle traffic, and aircraft operations.

Sound is measured in dB on a logarithmic scale. Therefore, a change in sound level of 3 dB or less is barely perceptible by the human ear, while a 10 dB increase or decrease in sound level is perceived as a doubling or halving of sound level. In addition, sound attenuates (lessens) by approximately 6 dB with each doubling of distance from the noise source (Federal Transit Administration 2006). Sound attenuates even more rapidly when it encounters obstacles such as buildings, terrain, or vegetation. Because noise attenuates fairly rapidly with distance from the source, the ROI for this analysis is the proposed project sites and areas within 0.5 mile of those sites.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

At LAFB, aircraft operations are the primary source of noise, although construction, vehicle traffic, and other training and military readiness activities also contribute to the noise environment. LAFB has established noise contours based on current flight operations as shown on Figure 3-1. The noise contours identify areas near enough to the airfield and air operations to experience sound levels greater than 65 dB day-night sound level (DNL). DNL is the average noise level over a 24-hour period with a 10 dB penalty added to noise that occurs between 10 PM and 7 AM to account for their increased annoyance. Inside these noise contours, certain land uses



LEGEND

Installation Boundary	2012 Noise Contours
Proposed Site	65dB
	70dB
	75dB

Noise Contours

Figure 3-1

Source: Laughlin AFB GIS 2016; NAIP 2014.

might not be compatible with the noise environment. Outside these noise contours, the noise environment should be suitable for all land uses. Both project sites are more than 550 feet outside the noise contours (Air Force 2008; LAFB 2016), indicating the average sound level at the project sites is less than 65 dB. Both project sites are adjacent to residential and commercial/administrative areas. Based on the sites' location relative to the airfield and land uses in the surrounding area, existing ambient noise levels at the project sites are estimated at 60 to 63 dB.

Sensitive receptors, as defined by the USEPA, are facilities such as hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing, and convalescent facilities where occupants are more susceptible to adverse noise effects than the general population. The nearest residence is approximately 50 feet from the project sites. The Youth Center is approximately 400 feet from the project sites. Based on the sites' location relative to the airfield and land uses in the surrounding area, existing ambient noise levels at these sensitive receptors are estimated at 60 to 63 dB.

3.3.3 Environmental Consequences

3.3.3.1 Analysis Methodology

The location of the proposed project sites was evaluated for consistency with the current noise environment. Noise generated by the project was evaluated to determine if implementing the proposed action would appreciably increase ambient noise levels in the ROI.

Effects on the noise environment would be considered significant if the proposed action would be in an area with a current noise level of 65 dB DNL or greater (i.e., inside LAFB's defined noise contours, as shown in Figure 3-1) and be an incompatible land use for that noise level or result in an appreciable long-term increase in ambient noise levels.

3.3.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Implementing Alternative 1 would not result in significant impacts with regard to noise. The site is outside the 65 dB noise contour, so the existing noise environment is compatible with a school use.

Noise levels in the ROI would increase during construction and dismantling of the temporary school campus. Table 3-3 presents examples of construction equipment that would likely be used during construction and dismantling activities and their associated sound levels. Sound levels are presented at a reference distance of 50 feet, which is the approximate distance from the site

boundary to the nearest residence, and 400 feet, which is the approximate distance from the site boundary to the Youth Center.

**Table 3-3.
Construction noise levels**

Construction equipment	Noise level at 50 feet (Lmax dBA)	Composite noise level at 50 feet (dBA Leq)	Noise level at 400 feet (Lmax dBA)	Composite noise level at 400 feet (dBA Leq)
Air compressor	80	88	62	70
Backhoe	80		62	
Bulldozer	85		67	
Dump truck	84		66	
Excavator	85		67	
Fork lift	85		67	
Front end loader	80		62	
Generator	82		64	
Grader	85		67	
Roller	85		67	
Scraper	85		67	
Water truck	82		64	

Source: Federal Transit Administration 2006; Federal Highway Administration 2006

Notes:

dBA = A-weighted decibel; Leq = equivalent continuous sound level; Lmax = maximum sound level

Construction noise would be audible in the vicinity of the project site. At the Youth Center and other buildings further from the project site, construction noise would be approximately 70 dB and would be expected to be perceived as tolerable to most receptors. At the residences nearest the site, construction noise would be approximately 88 dB and could be perceived as intrusive by people outdoors at those residences. However, construction noise would be substantially less indoors (due to the shielding effects of walls and windows), would typically be limited to daytime and weekday hours unless there was an emergency, and would be temporary (6 to 9 months for construction and 2 to 3 months for dismantling), so short-term effects would be moderate; no significant impacts would occur.

During operation of the school, noise levels could be slightly elevated in the immediate vicinity of the school compared to current conditions due to additional people and activity in the area. Especially during arrival and departure times and recess, children would likely be using raised voices. The sound level of shouting is approximately 78 dB at a distance of 3 feet (Engineering Toolbox 2016), which would attenuate to approximately 54 dB at a distance of 50 feet. Therefore, the sounds of children playing would be similar to existing background noise levels at the nearest residences and would not likely be perceptible above background noise levels further away. In

addition, the sounds of children playing are less likely to be perceived as an annoyance than other types of noise. For these reasons, the long-term effects on noise would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

3.3.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Similar to Alternative 1, implementing Alternative 2 would not result in significant impacts with regard to noise. The site is outside the 65 dB noise contour, so the existing noise environment is compatible with a school use.

Construction and dismantling of the school would result in a short-term moderate increase in noise levels. Similar to Alternative 1, the Alternative 2 site is approximately 50 feet from the nearest residences and 400 feet from the Youth Center, so the construction noise levels presented in Table 3-3 are applicable at this site. At the Youth Center and other buildings further from the project site, construction noise would be approximately 70 dB and would be expected to be perceived as tolerable to most receptors. At the residences nearest the site, construction noise would be approximately 88 dB and could be perceived as intrusive by people outdoors at those residences. However, construction noise would be substantially less indoors (due to the shielding effects of walls and windows), would be limited to daytime and weekday hours unless there was an emergency, and would be temporary (6 to 9 months for construction and 2 to 3 months for dismantling), so short-term effects would be moderately adverse; no significant impacts would occur.

Operation of the school would result in a long-term minor increase in noise levels at and near the project site due to additional people and activity in the area. The sounds of children playing would be similar to existing background noise levels at the nearest residences and would not likely be perceptible above background noise levels further away. In addition, the sounds of children playing are less likely to be perceived as an annoyance than other types of noise. For these reasons, the long-term adverse effects on noise would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

3.3.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the existing noise environment, so there would be no effects.

3.4 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

This section describes safety and occupational health risks, including the capacity of emergency response services, and discusses potential effects the proposed project could have on those resources.

3.4.1 Definition of the Resource

Safety and occupational health includes risks to the public and workers from conducting daily activities, noise exposure, and exposure to unsafe or unhealthful environments. Although many routine activities involve some degree of risk, there are numerous ways to enhance safety and minimize health risks. The ROI for this resource is LAFB, where the proposed school would be constructed and operated.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 is the primary federal regulation concerning health and safety. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the federal agency that implements this regulation. Texas does not have an OSHA state plan, but does have regulations related to health and safety, including those found in the Texas Health and Safety Code and Texas Labor Code. The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation is the primary state agency charged with addressing occupational health and safety.

Emergency services are those agencies and facilities that are equipped to respond to health and safety incidents. These include law enforcement, fire protection, and medical services.

3.4.2 Affected Environment

The proposed project sites were previously developed but were cleared of buildings in 2012. Both sites are outside the 65 dB noise contour. The properties surrounding the project sites include housing, the medical clinic, Youth Center, Child Development Center, Club XL, and other nonindustrial facilities. There is no known soil or groundwater contamination at the proposed project sites or at adjacent sites (Air Force 2016b).

Traffic in the area is generally light, with workday increases during peak base arrival and departure times. The basewide speed limit is 30 miles per hour, which is the speed limit on all streets surrounding the project sites except for the portion of Mitchell Boulevard from Ribas Dominicki Plaza (the roundabout) to 6th Street where the posted speed limit is 20 miles per hour. The reduced speed on this portion of Mitchell Boulevard is due to the proximity of the Youth Center and is indicated by signs and flashing lights. Pedestrian crossings are striped and marked with signs at multiple intersections near the proposed project sites.

The 47th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) provides force protection and law enforcement services at LAFB (LAFB 2013). LAFB SFS has Memorandums of Agreement with local law enforcement agencies for support to LAFB law enforcement operations. Laughlin Fire and Emergency Services (LFES) has one fire station on the base and is responsible for on-base fire and emergency services. LFES has mutual aid agreements with Val Verde County Fire and Rescue Department, the City of Del Rio Fire Department, and the Kinney County Fire and Rescue Department. LAFB has an outpatient medical clinic (the 47th Medical Group) and a dental clinic. The Val Verde Regional Medical Center hospital is about 7 miles west of LAFB in Del Rio (DoD 2015).

3.4.3 Environmental Consequences

3.4.3.1 Analysis Methodology

Potential effects on safety and occupational health were analyzed by evaluating whether implementing the proposed project would result in unique or disproportionate risks to workers, the public, or expose these populations to inherently unsafe or unhealthful environments. The proposed action would have a significant impact if it would:

- Result in disproportionately high and adverse environmental health or safety risks to workers or the public.
- Place excessive constraints on emergency services (e.g., police, fire, emergency services) such as by not providing adequate site access for emergency responders, triggering the need for expanded capacity, or resulting in discernible reductions in the level of service provided.

3.4.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Safety and Occupational Health. Short- and long-term minor adverse effects related to safety and occupational health could occur; no significant impacts would occur. During construction and dismantling of the school, workers would be exposed to typical construction site risks such as slips and falls, use of hand and power tools, repetitive motion injuries, lifting and handling materials, use of heavy equipment, heat or cold stress, and noise exposure. The public would avoid these risks as long as they did not enter the construction site.

All construction contractors would be responsible for maintaining an adequate safety program to minimize risks to workers and the public and ensure compliance with OSHA and state regulations. Each contractor would prepare and implement a site-specific health and safety plan. This plan would specify construction safety measures, such as holding daily safety briefings,

wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, specifying the amount and type of training required for workers performing certain tasks, establishing administrative and engineering controls to minimize health and safety risks, identifying BMPs for materials handling, and outlining general construction site safety. The construction site would be maintained in a clean and orderly manner; any spills would be stopped and cleaned up promptly. The construction site would be fenced and marked with signs to prevent public access. In the unlikely event that contaminated soil or water is encountered, work would stop in that area, a designated manager would be contacted, and work would not resume in the area until appropriate actions were taken to minimize any risks to health and safety. By implementing these measures, health and safety risks would not exceed those typical of any construction site, so adverse effects would be minor.

Emergency Services. The proposed school would be required to have sufficient space on roads and driveways and between the portable buildings for emergency responders to access the site. The site would have a 5- to 6-foot security fence around the perimeter of the school and multiple evacuation routes. The portable buildings would be required to comply with all provisions applicable to industrialized buildings under the Texas Industrialized Housing and Building Laws Section 1202.004, *Relocatable Educational Facilities* (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation 2015). The portable buildings would have smoke alarms and the school would conduct fire drills.

LFES and the SFS would be the first responders to any emergencies at the proposed school. In the event of an emergency where additional support would be needed, LAFB has agreements with the local community fire and police departments and the sheriff's office. LFES would not need additional firefighting equipment or personnel to effectively respond to fire emergencies at the school. In the event a law enforcement situation at the school would be outside LAFB's jurisdiction, the SFS would pass the response to the Val Verde County's Sheriff's Office. Therefore, implementing Alternative 1 would have no effect on law enforcement, fire protection, or medical services.

3.4.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Short- and long-term minor adverse effects on safety and occupational health would be similar to those discussed under Alternative 1; no significant impacts would occur. Similar to Alternative 1, implementing Alternative 2 would have no effect on law enforcement, fire protection, or medical services. BMPs would be implemented as discussed under Alternative 1 to further minimize effects.

3.4.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the environmental baseline conditions and no effects on safety and occupational health, including emergency services, would be expected.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.5.1 Definition of the Resource

For the purposes of this analysis, biological resources are vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive species. Biological resources at the proposed project sites include plant and animal species, as well as the habitats that support these species. These resources are managed under LAFB's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (LAFB 2012c). Sensitive species are those species protected under federal or state law; they include migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and threatened and endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act and Chapter 68 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

3.5.2 Affected Environment

Vegetation. Vegetation in the cantonment area at LAFB is managed to provide an aesthetically pleasing environment rather than vegetative community variety or wildlife habitat. Grounds maintenance consists of mowing; maintenance of grass, flowers, shrubs, and trees; and pest control. In the maintained turf and landscape areas of LAFB, predominant varieties of turf grass include Bermuda (*Cynodon dactylon*) and St. Augustine (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*). The predominant tree species include Arizona ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), live oak, (*Quercus virginiana*), red oak (*Quercus shumardii*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and Afghan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) (LAFB 2012c). Vegetation at the proposed project sites is comprised primarily of maintained lawn, scattered trees, and various shrubs and flowerbeds.

A basewide initiative to reduce landscape irrigation and conserve water has resulted in the installation of xeriscaping in place of traditional turf, flowers, shrub, and tree landscaping. The Laughlin Legacy Sustainable Landscape Development Plan (SLDP) details policies to improve overall aesthetics while decreasing irrigation and maintenance requirements. The SLDP includes lists of approved plants and inert materials (such as rocks), irrigation standards, construction and maintenance guidelines, anti-terrorism/force protection guidelines, and a streetscape corridor plan (LAFB 2011a).

Wildlife. Wildlife species diversity on LAFB is high, but wildlife is concentrated away from the cantonment area on large tracts of relatively undeveloped lands. Wildlife in the cantonment area consists of common and introduced species typical of human-influenced habitats such as black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*), Mexican ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mexicanus*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), rock dove (*Columba livi*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Chihuahuan raven (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) (LAFB 2012c). The proposed project sites were previously developed and do not provide suitable habitat for most wildlife.

Sensitive Species. Three federal and state listed species are known to occur on LAFB: the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), and the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*). Additionally, four federal and state listed species have been known to occur, have occurred, or could occur on or within 6 miles of LAFB: Devil's River minnow (*Dionda diaboli*), Rio Grande darter (*Etheostoma graham*), Proserpine shiner (*Cyprinella Proserpina*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). No listed species known to occur or that could occur on LAFB have been recorded at either of the proposed project sites or adjacent sites, and the sites do not provide habitat suitable for any sensitive species of flora or fauna (LAFB 2012c).

LAFB is located in the Central Flyway migratory bird route. More than half of the bird species identified on LAFB are migratory birds (LAFB 2012c). All migratory birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Migratory birds could transit through or use the project sites.

3.5.3 Environmental Consequences

3.5.3.1 Analysis Methodology

LAFB's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan was used to assess current site vegetation, wildlife, and potential presence of sensitive species, which include federal and state listed threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. A qualitative analysis was used to assess the proposed action's potential to affect biological resources. The proposed action would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Substantially adversely affect the amount or diversity of common vegetation or wildlife.
- Result in a take of a federal or state listed species or an adverse modification of designated critical habitat.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

3.5.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Short- and long- term minor adverse effects would be expected with regards to biological resources; no significant impacts would occur. Construction and site preparation activities would disturb plantings and require vegetation removal. After construction, the site would be revegetated in accordance with the SLDP. Revegetating the site with SLDP-approved plants and native vegetation would increase habitat quality and decrease the need for vegetation maintenance and irrigation, so adverse effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

Common wildlife species could be displaced during site preparation as a result of vegetation disturbance and noise. Common wildlife species would be expected to relocate to similar habitat nearby, so effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur. No protected species are likely to occur at the site; thus, sensitive species would not be adversely affected from implementing Alternative 1.

Habitat at the site, which consists of mowed lawn with sparse tree cover, is of low quality for migratory birds and is characterized by human disturbance and presence. It is unlikely that migratory birds would favor this habitat over higher quality habitat with less human disturbance nearby. However, it is possible that migratory birds could transit through area, perch or roost on trees or other structures at the site, or nest in trees at the site.

Site preparation could include removing or relocating trees. The retention, transplantation, or removal of trees would be coordinated with the installation and done in accordance with LAFB's urban forestry management policies and other applicable Air Force regulations. To avoid effects on migratory birds, trees would be removed between September and March (outside of the nesting season) to the extent possible. If trees required removal during the nesting season (i.e., from March to September), a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey before tree removal; trees would only be removed if no active nests were found. If an active nest was found, an appropriate buffer would be established around the tree and work would not be conducted in that area until the nestlings fledged (left the nest) or the nest was abandoned. With implementation of these measures, effects of school construction and dismantling on migratory birds would be minor. Effects on biological resources from dismantling the school at the end of the lease period would be similar to those during construction.

During operation of the school, vegetation would be maintained in accordance with LAFB policies and procedures. Common wildlife and migratory birds could occupy or transit through the site, but would not be likely to due to low habitat quality and increased activity at the site.

Similar to current conditions, no sensitive species would be likely to occur at the site. Therefore, long-term minor adverse effects would be expected during operation; no significant impacts would occur.

3.5.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Short- and long-term minor adverse effects on biological resources would be expected from implementing Alternative 2; no significant impacts would occur. Effects on vegetation, wildlife, and sensitive species would be similar to those described under the Alternative 1 because the sites have similar vegetation and have both been previously disturbed. Vegetation removal, potentially including the removal or relocation of trees, during construction would result in minor adverse effects. After construction, the site would be revegetated in accordance with the SLDP, minimizing adverse effects. During operation of the school, common wildlife and migratory birds could occupy or transit through the site, but would not be likely to due to low habitat quality and increased activity at the site. Similar to current conditions, no sensitive species would be likely to occur at the site. BMPs would be implemented as discussed under Alternative 1 to avoid effects on migratory birds.

3.5.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the school would not be constructed so there would be no change to the baseline conditions; thus, there would be no effects on biological resources.

3.6 SOCIOECONOMICS

This section discusses socioeconomics and the potential effects of the proposed action on those resources.

3.6.1 Definition of the Resource

The term socioeconomics describes demographics associated with the human environment, such as employment, industry, income, population, and housing, and schools. Economic indicators for these variables for the ROI are addressed below. The ROI is defined as Val Verde County in southwest Texas on the United States–Mexico border. LAFB, where the proposed action would occur, is in southeastern Val Verde County. The city of Del Rio is about 7 miles west of the base and is also in Val Verde County. Socioeconomic data for the city of Del Rio, the state of Texas, and the United States is included in the tables in the following sections for comparative purposes.

3.6.2 Affected Environment

Employment and Industry. Table 3-4 contains civilian labor force and unemployment data. The ROI and the city of Del Rio had labor force declines between 2005 and 2015, whereas Texas and the U.S. labor force grew. The ROI and city of Del Rio annual unemployment rates were at about 6 percent in both 2005 and 2015, which was higher than the Texas and U.S. unemployment rates of about 5 percent.

**Table 3-4.
Labor force and unemployment**

Geographic area	2005 civilian labor force	2015 civilian labor force	Change in labor force, 2005–2015	2005 annual unemployment rate	2015 annual unemployment rate
City of Del Rio	15,732	14,401	-8.5%	6.3%	6.1%
ROI (Val Verde County)	20,042	19,479	-2.8%	6.5%	6.1%
Texas	11,124,240	13,078,304	17.6%	5.4%	4.5%
United States	149,320,000	157,130,000	5.2%	5.1%	5.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2016

As of 2014, the top five ROI industries (on the basis of employment by industry) were government and government-based enterprises (which includes federal civilian, military, and state and local government), health care and social assistance, retail trade, manufacturing, and accommodation and food services. Together those five industry sectors accounted for about 65 percent of regional employment. Government and government-based enterprises, which includes LAFB, was the largest regional industry in 2014, employing about 6,300 people and accounting for 26 percent of total ROI employment (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis 2015).

LAFB has a substantial financial impact on the local economy. It is the ROI's largest employer, with more than 1,400 military personnel stationed at LAFB and about 1,300 civilian employees (DoD 2015). The base's payroll totals more than \$119.5 million and the base's estimated total economic impact on the Texas economy is valued at \$1.65 billion (Texas Comptroller 2015).

Income. As shown in Table 3-5, ROI income levels are lower than the Texas and national averages. The 2010 to 2014 ROI per capita personal income (PCPI) was \$19,024. This PCPI was 72 percent of the Texas state PCPI of \$26,513 and 67 percent of the national PCPI of \$28,555. The ROI median household income of \$42,735 was 81 percent of the Texas state median household income of \$52,576 and 80 percent of the national median household income of \$53,482. The city of Del Rio income levels are lower than that of the ROI, Texas, and the United States (U.S. Census Bureau 2015).

**Table 3-5.
Income, 2010–2014 5-year estimates**

Geographic area	PCPI	Median household income
City of Del Rio	\$18,301	\$41,110
ROI (Val Verde County)	\$19,024	\$42,735
Texas	\$26,513	\$52,576
United States	\$28,555	\$53,482

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Population. Population trends are presented in Table 3-6. The city of Del Rio’s and the ROI’s population experienced little change between 2010 and 2014. During the same time period, Texas’ population grew by 7 percent and the U.S. population grew by 3 percent. The 2030 population projections predict high population growth for the city of Del Rio (22 percent), the ROI (18 percent), and the state (24 percent). The U.S. population is projected to increase by 14 percent by 2030. The city of Del Rio’s projected growth is based on its location, increased traffic on U.S. Highway 90, anticipated growth of LAFB, and proximity to Lake Amistad and the border with Mexico (TRC Engineers, Inc. 2011).

**Table 3-6.
Population**

Geographic area	2010 population ^a	2014 population ^a	Change in population, 2010 to 2014	2030 projected population	Projected change in population, 2014 to 2030
City of Del Rio	35,926	36,079	0.4%	43,841 ^b	22%
ROI (Val Verde County)	48,879	48,974	0.2%	57,736 ^c	18%
Texas	25,146,104	26,956,958	7%	33,317,744 ^d	24%
United States	308,758,105	318,857,056	3%	363,584,435 ^d	14%

Notes:

% = percent; ROI = region of influence

^a Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016a

^b Source: TRC Engineers, Inc. 2011

^c Source: Texas Demographic Center 2016

^d Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2005

Housing. LAFB has more than 450 on-base single family homes for families and unaccompanied military personnel. Laughlin Family Housing is a Hunt Military Community, which is privatized housing owned by Hunt Companies (Laughlin Family Housing 2016). Military families may choose to live in privatized on-base housing by signing a lease with Hunt Companies, or rent or own homes off-base in the local community. There are 120 elementary school-age children (PreK-5) living on base. About 100 of these children attend off-base elementary schools (public or private) and about 20 are homeschooled.

ROI housing data are presented in Table 3-7. ROI housing costs (median monthly mortgage and median monthly gross rent) are lower than the state and national levels. ROI median housing value was \$92,700, lower than the state median housing value of \$131,400 and the national value of \$175,700. The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner inventory that is vacant and available for sale, and the rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory that is vacant and available for rent. The ROI's homeowner vacancy rate of 1.3 percent is lower than the state and national rates. The ROI rental vacancy rate of 10.2 percent is higher than the state and national rates (U.S. Census Bureau 2015).

The city of Del Rio's median housing value was \$94,400, similar to that of the ROI but lower than the state and national values. The city's housing costs (mortgage and rent) were lower than that of the ROI, Texas, and the United States. Del Rio's homeowner vacancy rate is lower than that of the ROI, state, and the nation. The city's rental vacancy rate is similar to the ROI's, but higher than the state and national rates (U.S. Census Bureau 2015).

Table 3-7.
Housing data, 2010–2014 5-year estimates

Geographic area	Number of housing units	Homeowner vacancy rate^a	Rental vacancy rate^b	Median monthly mortgage	Median monthly gross rent	Median value owner-occupied units
City of Del Rio	13,069	0.5%	9.8%	\$1,128	\$625	\$94,400
ROI (Val Verde County)	18,701	1.3%	10.2%	\$1,140	\$697	\$92,700
Texas	10,187,189	1.8%	8.5%	\$1,443	\$870	\$131,400
United States	132,741,033	2.1%	6.9%	\$1,522	\$920	\$175,700

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Notes:

% = percent; ROI = region of influence

^a The homeowner vacancy rate is the proportion of the homeowner housing inventory which is vacant for sale.

^b The rental vacancy rate is the proportion of the rental inventory which is vacant for rent.

Schools. The District is the public school district serving PreK through 12th grade students in eastern Val Verde County, including LAFB and the city of Del Rio. The District has 12 schools: 8 elementary, 2 middle, 1 freshman, and 1 high school. The District's student enrollment for the 2013–2014 school year was about 10,670 students, with about 635 full-time equivalent classroom teachers (National Center for Education Statistics 2016). Bus service is provided from LAFB on-base housing to the following public schools in Del Rio: Ruben Chavira Elementary School (grades K to 5), San Felipe Memorial Middle School (grade 6), Del Rio Middle School (grades 7 and 8), Del Rio Freshman School (grade 9), and Del Rio High School (grades 10 to 12). Ruben Chavira Elementary School is at or near enrollment capacity. Private and charter schools in the

ROI serving PreK to 12th grade students are Sacred Heart Catholic School, St. James Episcopal School, The Bible Way Christian Academy, The Little Schoolhouse, Radiance Academy of Learning, and Premier High School of Del Rio. Support groups for those homeschooling their children include The Next Generation (a Homeschool Cooperative) and Texas HOPE Del Rio (DoD 2015; National Center for Education Statistics 2016).

3.6.3 Environmental Consequences

3.6.3.1 Analysis Methodology

A quantitative projection of economic effects on the socioeconomic ROI was developed using the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) model. IMPLAN is an economic model originally developed in 1976 by the U.S. Forest Service for natural resource planning that was later updated and adapted by other government agencies and private sector analysts for use in economic impact analysis. It is now owned by the IMPLAN Group, LLC. IMPLAN is a regional input-output model that uses the most currently available data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other federal and state agencies. IMPLAN uses trade flow characteristics to trace economic changes in a regional economy arising from changes in the level of activity in one or more identified industry sectors.

IMPLAN estimates direct, indirect, and induced economic changes for a defined region. Direct effects are the initial production changes or expenditures made by producers and consumers as a result of an activity or policy. Indirect effects are the secondary effects of local industries buying goods and services from other local industries (i.e., business-to-business transactions). Induced effects are the tertiary effects from spending of labor income (i.e., consumer spending by the workforce). The IMPLAN model estimates changes in regional employment, labor income, value added, and output as a result of a proposed action. Employment is the annual average of monthly jobs in an industry (full-time or part-time). Labor income is all forms of employment income, including employee compensation (wages and benefits) and proprietor's income. Value added is the difference between an industry's or establishment's total output and the cost of its intermediate inputs. Output is the value of industry production (i.e., business sales dollars) (IMPLAN 2015).

For the proposed action, annual impacts were calculated for the estimated 1-year construction period, and then for the first year of operation at full employment (the IMPLAN model is designed to evaluate on an annual basis). For modeling purposes, the estimated construction cost

of about \$850,000 was entered into the IMPLAN model as the construction industry change for 1 year.

Operation of the school would be expected to require 17 positions total (a combination of new, existing, and shared jobs): seven new, seven existing, and three shared jobs. For modeling purposes, seven new jobs were entered into the IMPLAN model. To assess the maximum possible impact to the ROI, it is assumed that the seven new jobs would be filled by workers who would move in to the ROI.

Impacts on socioeconomic resources from implementing the proposed action would be considered significant if one or more of the following would occur:

- Substantial gains or losses in population or employment.
- Disequilibrium in the housing market such as severe housing shortages or surpluses.
- Activities or operations substantially altering lifestyles or quality-of-life of LAFB employees and their families or civilian households living near LAFB.

3.6.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Employment, Industry, and Income. Short- and long-term minor beneficial economic effects would be expected; no significant impacts would occur. The estimated cost expenditures associated with constructing the school would result in a minor increase in regional employment, income, value added, and output, as determined by the IMPLAN model and shown in Table 3-8. The IMPLAN model estimates the total multiplier effect to the county's economy from increased expenditures associated with the proposed project.

The economic benefits of construction would be short-term, lasting for the duration of the construction period. Total employment (direct, indirect, and induced) created during the construction phase is estimated to be about seven jobs. The project is estimated to employ about five direct workers. The direct employment numbers were derived from the project's estimated construction expenditures and IMPLAN's estimate of construction workers employed per dollar of expenditure. The wholesale trade and truck transportation industry would generate one indirect job, and the food and retail industry would generate one induced job. The estimated increases in employment, labor income, and output from the proposed project would be minor (less than one percent) relative to the ROI's baseline economy and workforce. Effects of dismantling the temporary school campus would be similar to or less than effects of construction.

Table 3-8.
IMPLAN model output—construction economic impacts

Impact type	Employment	Labor income	Value added	Output
Direct effect	5	\$173,114	\$214,399	\$850,000
Indirect effect	1	\$47,382	\$78,083	\$160,209
Induced effect	1	\$27,798	\$53,629	\$95,633
Total effect	7	\$248,294	\$346,111	\$1,105,842

Source: IMPLAN 2016

Long-term minor beneficial economic effects would be expected during operation of the school; no significant impacts would occur. IMPLAN's estimated increase in the economic variables listed in Table 3-9 would be minor relative to the ROI's baseline economy. It is estimated that operating the proposed school would create seven new direct jobs, and a total of about 10 jobs (direct, indirect, and induced). The indirect and induced jobs would be in the real estate, food, and health care industry sectors. Employment, labor income, and output would increase by less than 1 percent of the ROI's baseline employment, labor income, and output.

Table 3-9.
IMPLAN model output—operation economic impacts

Impact type	Employment	Labor income	Value added	Output
Direct effect	7	\$216,505	\$230,794	\$379,039
Indirect effect	1	\$21,967	\$34,499	\$63,024
Induced effect	1	\$30,361	\$58,524	\$104,405
Total effect	9	\$268,833	\$323,817	\$546,468

Source: IMPLAN 2016

Population. To evaluate the potential maximum effect of the proposed action on population, it was assumed that the seven new school employees would move in to the ROI. Using the United States' average household size of 2.63 persons (U.S. Census Bureau 2015), the estimated total increase in population would be about 20 persons, a negligible increase (less than 0.05 percent) compared to the ROI baseline population of about 48,900, so adverse effects would be negligible; no significant impacts would occur.

Housing. The proposed action could create a demand for up to seven additional housing units in the ROI (assuming one housing unit per new school employee). The ROI would have sufficient housing units to accommodate the incoming population. The proposed action would not create a housing shortage and would have a negligible adverse effect on housing availability; no significant impacts would occur.

Schools. Implementing the proposed action would meet the purpose of and need for the action by providing an on-base elementary school to lower classroom student-to-teacher ratios and expand the school district's curriculum by offering the option of a STEM magnet school for families in the District, which would benefit the students' educational experience. The new school would help reduce student-to-teacher ratios in District schools, especially at Ruben Chavira Elementary School, so long-term effects would be beneficial; no significant impacts would occur.

3.6.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Socioeconomic impacts would be the same as those for Alternative 1. No significant impacts would occur; beneficial effects would also occur.

3.6.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to socioeconomic baseline conditions and thus no impacts on socioeconomics.

3.7 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

This section discusses environmental justice and the protection of children and the potential effects of the proposed action on those populations.

3.7.1 Definition of the Resource

Environmental Justice. Environmental justice addresses race, ethnicity, and the poverty status of populations in the ROI. On February 11, 1994, the President issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. The EO is designed to focus the attention of federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority and low-income populations. Environmental justice analyses are performed to identify potential disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from proposed federal actions on minority or low-income populations.

The U.S. Census Bureau identifies minority populations as Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, some other race, persons of two or more races, and persons of Hispanic or Latino origin (ethnicity). Per CEQ guidance, minority populations should be identified where either the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ 1997).

Poverty thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau are used to identify low-income populations. Poverty status is reported as the number of persons or families with income below a defined threshold level.

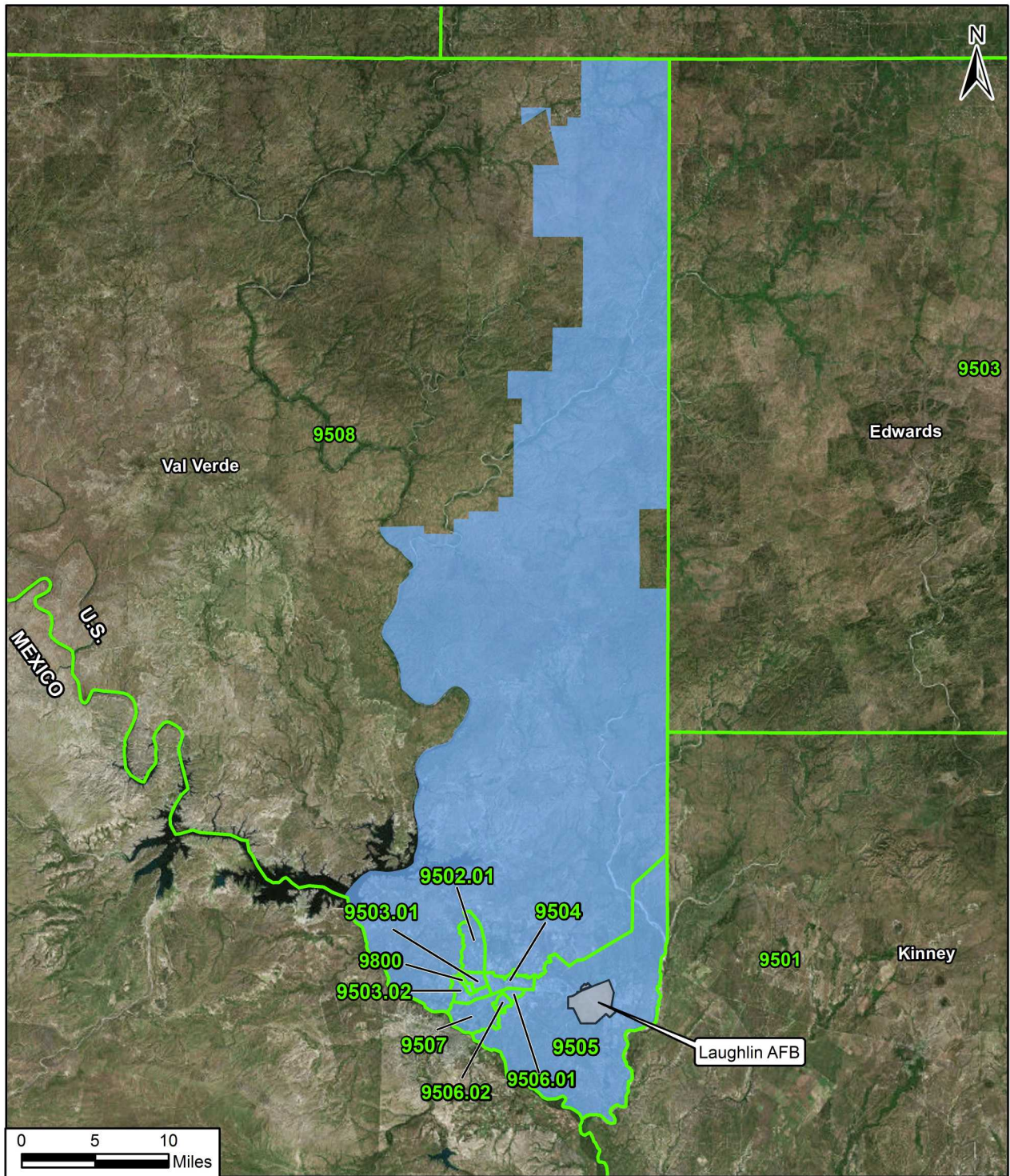
Protection of Children. EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks*, requires federal agencies to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that might disproportionately affect children, to the extent permitted by law and mission. It also directs federal agencies to ensure that their policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health or safety risks. Relevant risks are those attributable to products or substances a child is likely to come into contact with or ingest. These risks are most likely to be encountered in areas where children are present, such as schools, playgrounds, day care facilities, and neighborhoods with high concentrations of children.

3.7.2 *Affected Environment*

Environmental Justice. To determine if minority and low-income populations constituting an environmental justice community are present in the ROI, methodologies were used as specified by the Air Force's *Guide for Environmental Justice Analysis under the Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (Department of the Air Force 2014) and the CEQ's *Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act* (CEQ 1997).

Effects on environmental justice communities would be directly related to effects from other environmental resource areas covered in this EA (e.g., air quality, noise). The ROI for the environmental justice analysis includes the census tracts that encompass the area subject to potential environmental effects from implementing the proposed action, as well as the census tracts in the District because the children in this school district could attend the proposed magnet school. Figure 3-2 is a map of the census tracts. The Community of Comparison (COC) is the region surrounding the environmental justice ROI and is the demographic area used to compare and analyze potential environmental justice effects. The COC is defined as Val Verde County. Minority and low-income communities in the environmental justice ROI and the COC are specifically considered to assess the potential for disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects from proposed action on these communities.

Minority and low-income data for the census tracts that would be directly affected by the proposed action are presented in Table 3-10. The census tracts in the District are 9502.01, 9503.01, 9503.02, 9504, 9505, 9506.01, 9506.02, 9507, and part of 9508. The proposed project sites are in census tract 9505, which includes LAFB. Data are provided for the COC (Val Verde



LEGEND

-  Census Tract
-  San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District

**Census Tracts -
School District**

Figure 3-2

Source: U.S. Census 2015, NAIP 2014.

County), and data for comparison are presented for the United States, Texas, and the city of Del Rio.

As shown by the data in Table 3-10, environmental justice populations are present in all of the affected census tracts because these tracts have either a higher percentage of minority persons or a higher percentage of persons whose income is below poverty level compared to that of the COC, or have a percentage of minority persons or persons whose income is below poverty level that is greater than 50 percent.

**Table 3-10.
Minority and low-income populations and environmental justice populations**

Geographic area/affected census tract	Percent minority	Environmental^a justice minority populations present (yes or no)	Percent low-income^b	Environmental^a justice low-income populations present (yes or no)
COC and other comparison data				
United States	37	--	16	--
Texas	56	--	18	--
Val Verde County (COC)	83	--	22	--
City of Del Rio	86	--	21	--
Southeast Val Verde County census tract, including LAFB				
9505	77	Yes	30	Yes
City of Del Rio census tracts				
9502.01	66	Yes	12	No
9503.01	89	Yes	19	No
9503.02	96	Yes	20	No
9504	89	Yes	22	No
9506.01	96	Yes	23	Yes
9506.02	98	Yes	32	Yes
9507	87	Yes	25	Yes
9800 (Del Rio International Airport) ^c	NA	NA	NA	NA
Remainder of Val Verde County census tract^d				
9508	68	Yes	24	Yes

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Notes:

COC = Community of Comparison; LAFB = Laughlin Air Force Base; NA = not applicable

^a A census tract is deemed to have an environmental justice minority or low-income population if the census tract percentage is higher than that of the general population (i.e., the COC, which is defined as Val Verde County for this project) or is at least 50 percent.

^b Percent low-income is the percentage of persons whose income is below poverty level thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau (\$12,085 of annual income, or less, for an individual and \$24,259 of annual income, or less, for a family of four [U.S. Census Bureau 2016b]).

^c Census tract 9800 includes only the land area covering the Del Rio International Airport, where there are no residents.

^d Note that the census tract for the remainder of Val Verde County (tract 9508) includes the portion of the District north of LAFB and the city of Del Rio, along the eastern boundary of the county, as well as the central and western portion of the county, which includes the Comstock Independent School District. The U.S. Census Bureau data for this census tract do not break out the District from the Comstock Independent School District.

Protection of Children. The protection of children ROI for the proposed project is defined as LAFB, where the proposed school would be constructed and operated. Children are present at LAFB as residents and visitors (e.g., residing in on-base family housing or lodging, using recreational facilities, attending events), and precaution is taken for child safety through a number of means, including using fencing, limiting access to certain areas, and requiring adult supervision. On-base residential housing, a Youth Center, Child Development Center, sports field and running track, and fitness facility are near the proposed project sites.

3.7.3 Environmental Consequences

3.7.3.1 Analysis Methodology

Environmental justice analysis addresses potential impacts on minority and low-income populations per EO 12898. Following CEQ guidance, minority populations are identified where either the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ 1997). Low-income populations are identified using poverty thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau. The number of persons or families living in poverty are those with income below the U.S. Census Bureau-defined threshold levels of \$12,085 of annual income, or less, for an individual and \$24,259 of annual income, or less, for a family of four (U.S. Census Bureau 2016b).

Potential effects on the protection of children were analyzed by evaluating whether implementing the proposed project would result in disproportionate health or safety risks to children, or expose children to inherently unsafe or unhealthful environments. Risks to children could include an increase in a child's risk of exposure to an environmental hazard (through contact, ingestion, or inhalation) or the risk of potential substantial harm to children's safety during construction or operation of the school.

Impacts on identified environmental justice (minority and low-income) communities and the protection of children would be considered significant if one or more of the following would occur:

- Activities or operations substantially altering lifestyles or quality-of-life of LAFB employees and their families or civilian households living near LAFB.
- Disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health impacts on an identified minority or low-income population, which appreciably exceed those to the general population around the project area.

- Disproportionately high and adverse environmental health or safety risks to an identified population of children.

3.7.3.2 **Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)**

Environmental Justice. Providing an on-base elementary school would benefit the environmental justice communities on- and off-base by lowering classroom student-to-teacher ratios and offering a STEM magnet school for families in the District; both of these would benefit the students' educational experience. The proposed school's attendance for seats not filled by children living on-base would be open to students throughout the District; therefore, the redistribution of students within the District would not cause disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations. Implementing the proposed action would have a long-term beneficial effect on environmental justice communities; no significant impacts would occur.

Implementing the proposed action would not result in disproportionate adverse environmental or health effects on low-income or minority populations. It is not an action with the potential to substantially affect human health or the environment by excluding people, denying people benefits, or subjecting people to discrimination or disproportionately high environmental health or safety risks. In constructing and operating the school, the District would comply with applicable federal and state building codes and regulations related to air quality, water quality, noise, and hazardous materials and waste. School site preparation and construction activities would cause short-term increases in air emissions and noise, but effects would be less than significant and would not disproportionately affect a single population. Therefore, there would be no adverse effects on environmental justice communities; no significant impacts would occur.

Protection of Children. Short-term minor adverse effects on the protection of children could occur; no significant impacts would occur. In the short term, because construction sites can be enticing to children, construction activity could be an increased safety risk. As described, applicable federal (such as 29 CFR 1926, *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction*) and state safety measures and health regulations would be followed to protect the health and safety of workers and residents. The site would be fenced and "no trespassing" signs would be placed around the construction site to deter children from playing in the area, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. To eliminate children's potential exposure to hazardous materials in the school buildings, new construction would not use building products containing hazardous materials. A security fence would be placed around the perimeter of the school campus for operational security. Drop-off and pick-up points for children arriving by bus or car would be located away from main streets to the extent practicable. Crosswalks, sidewalks,

and, if needed, additional measures such as crossing guards, would be used to help children cross streets safely. The school site would be outside the airfield's 65 dB noise contour in an area with baseline noise levels that would be compatible with a school.

3.7.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Effects on environmental justice and the protection of children would be the same as those for Alternative 1. Adverse effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur. Beneficial effects would also occur.

3.7.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to baseline conditions and thus no impacts on environmental justice communities or the protection of children.

3.8 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

This section evaluates the baseline conditions and potential transportation and traffic impacts associated with implementing the proposed action.

3.8.1 Definition of the Resource

Traffic and transportation resources include all aspects of the transportation circulation system, including the roadway system and infrastructure supporting other means of transportation such as bicycle, pedestrian, bus, and rail and traffic conditions in the system. The ROI for traffic and transportation is the transportation circulation system surrounding the proposed project sites and major roads linking LAFB to points off-base.

3.8.2 Affected Environment

Vehicular traffic via the road network is the primary mode of transportation within LAFB, along with pedestrian and bike travel. At LAFB, Liberty Drive, Barnes Street, and 4th Street are the primary north-south streets, and Laughlin Drive and Mitchell Boulevard are the primary east-west streets. Multiple secondary roads also provide vehicle access to installation facilities and sidewalks provide pedestrian access. The LAFB road system is in adequate condition (URS 2014).

The transportation circulation system near the proposed project sites is shown in Figure 3-3. Primary roads adjacent to the Alternative 1 site include Patterson Street and Mitchell Boulevard, with secondary roads Kenyon Street, 7th Street, and Mumbrue Street also adjacent to the site. Primary roads adjacent to the Alternative 2 site are Ribas Dominicci Plaza, Arnold Boulevard, 7th

Street, and Laughlin Drive, and secondary streets are Lee Street and Vandenberg Drive (URS 2014).

Walking and biking are common methods of transportation at LAFB. Sidewalks are provided along many roads, including those adjacent to the proposed project sites. A walking/biking trail shown on Figure 3-3 provides access to many destinations in the cantonment area. The walking/biking trail runs parallel to the east end of the Alternative 1 site and meanders east-west across the Alternative 2 site. Crosswalks are striped at intersections and where the walking/biking path crosses roads.

Access to the installation is through the Main Gate on the north side of the cantonment area on Liberty Drive. This gate is open 24 hours a day and connects all traffic to points off-base. The West Gate, located off Ribas Dominicci Plaza near the golf course and housing areas, is another entrance to the installation; however, it is currently not open except under special circumstances by prior arrangement. Most locations on-base can be reached within 15 minutes from either gate.

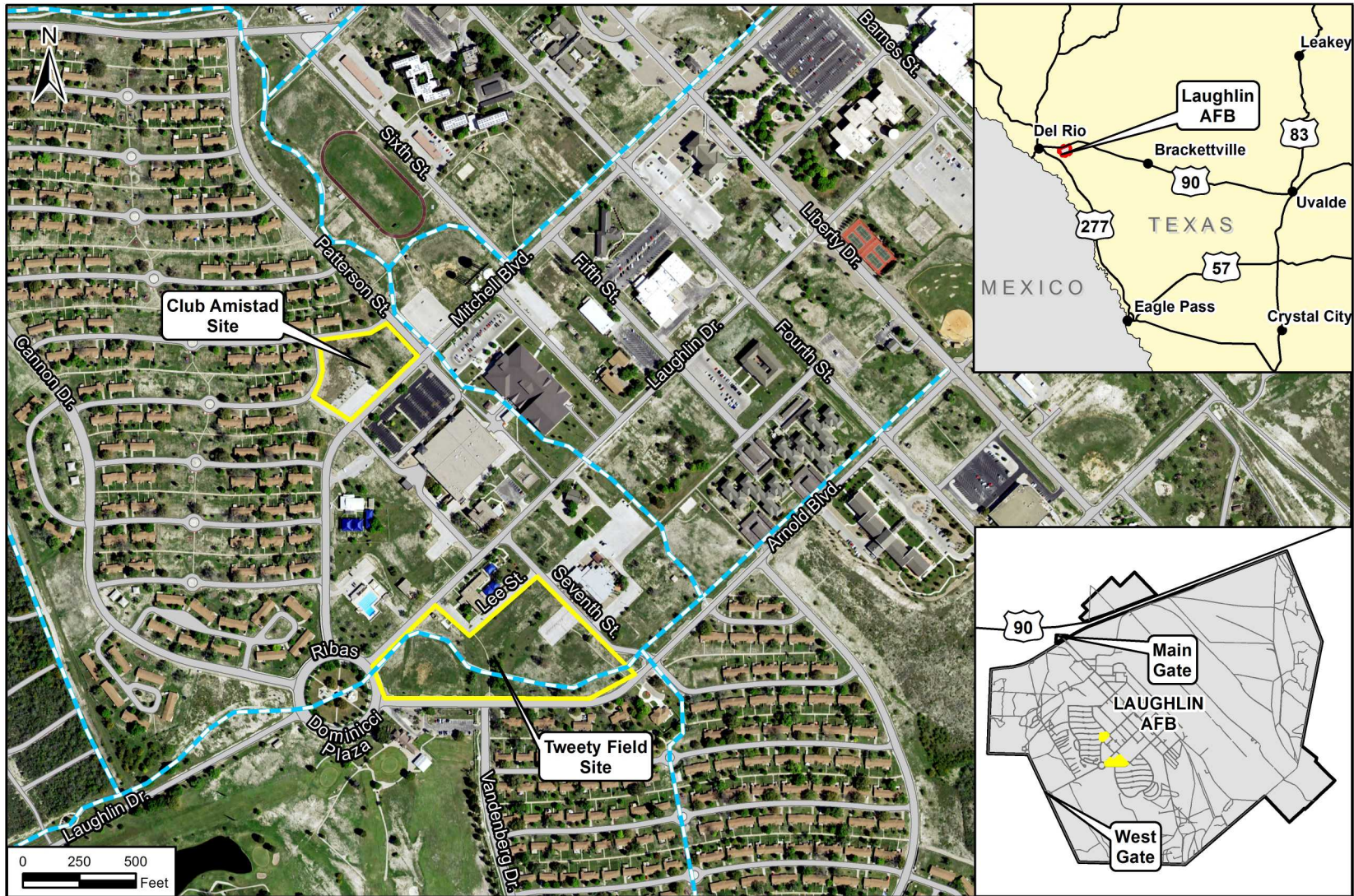
Primary off-base roads include U.S. Highway 90 to the north of LAFB and U.S. Highway 277 to the west of LAFB. The city of Del Rio is on U.S. Highway 90, which runs east-west and connects with the communities of Brackettville and Uvalde to the east and eventually to San Antonio, Texas. Del Rio is also along U.S. Highway 277, which extends north-south from Sonora, Mexico to Interstate 10 about 80 miles north. Del Rio also has intracity and intercity bus service and Amtrak passenger rail service (URS 2014).

School-age children residing on LAFB are either homeschooled or travel off-base by car or bus to attend public or private schools. Children also access the Youth Center and Child Development Center by walking from base housing or in private vehicles.

3.8.3 Environmental Consequences

3.8.3.1 Analysis Methodology

A qualitative analysis of current traffic conditions based on information provided in the IDP (URS 2014) and potential changes to traffic conditions with implementation of the proposed action was conducted. An impact would be significant if it would generate a substantial increase in vehicle trips or traffic congestion and wait times.



LEGEND

- Approximate Boundary
- Road
- Walking/Biking Path

Transportation Circulation System

Figure 3-3

Source: Laughlin AFB GIS 2016; TNRIS 2015.

3.8.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Implementing Alternative 1 would result in short-term minor adverse effects from the increase in traffic during construction and dismantling of the temporary school campus. Operating the school would have minor long-term adverse effects near the school due to increased traffic in the immediate vicinity of the school; however, beneficial effects could occur in the broader region because fewer vehicle trips would be required to transport children to school. No significant impacts would occur.

During construction and dismantling, construction equipment, trucks transporting materials and equipment, and worker vehicles would travel to and from the project site, adding trips to area roads. Construction traffic would enter the Main Gate, travel down Liberty Drive, and turn on Mitchell Boulevard to access the project site. The number of trips per day would represent a minor increase in traffic compared to current conditions, so effects would be minor.

The relocatable buildings are pre-assembled and would be transported to the site during construction and from the site during dismantling. The relocatable buildings would likely be considered wide loads under Texas regulations. The District would arrange safe transportation of the relocatable buildings, including procuring a Texas Department of Motor Vehicles oversize/overweight permit and route designation, if required. Wide loads must enter LAFB through the West Gate, which would be pre-arranged with SFS. The relocatable buildings would enter through the West Gate, travel through the roundabout (Ribas Dominicci Plaza), and turn on Mitchell Boulevard to access the site.

During operation of the school, additional vehicle trips would be generated from buses and cars transporting students and staff to the site on school days. These trips would primarily occur during school arrival and departure times, which would be similar to the arrival and departure times for many LAFB personnel. Staff and children traveling from off-base would use the Main Gate to access the site. During peak arrival and departure times, wait times at the Main Gate are typically 10 minutes or less, which is lower than those experienced at many military bases. The additional trips through the Main Gate would not appreciably increase the total number of trips through the Main Gate at these times or noticeably increase traffic congestion or wait times, so effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

The school would be near LAFB housing areas, providing the opportunity for children living there to walk or bike to school as an alternative to vehicle transportation. Currently, many students living at LAFB travel off-base to attend school. Because many LAFB children would be

expected to walk or bike to the new school, implementing Alternative 1 would likely reduce the total number of vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled both on and off-base, resulting in a beneficial effect when compared to current conditions.

The street network in the vicinity of the site would be altered to provide site ingress (entry) and egress (exit) locations and related changes such as new lane markings and signage. Site ingress and egress points and bus and passenger vehicle drop-off and pick-up points would be designed to minimize effects on traffic circulation on adjacent roadways and to provide appropriate pedestrian and bicycle safety. Drop-off and pick-up areas would be placed away from main streets to the extent possible. New lane markings, signage, and new or relocated crosswalks or bus stops, as appropriate, would be provided along adjacent streets to direct traffic and minimize effects to traffic circulation.

Because many children would walk to the school along primary roads such as Mitchell Boulevard, the site layout would be designed to provide for safe and adequate pedestrian and bicycle access. Crosswalks would be striped at convenient locations where children would cross existing roads to access the site. If appropriate, additional BMPs such as crossing guards, crossing flags, signage, or flashing lights could be used during peak school arrival and departure times.

In summary, there would be a minor increase in vehicle trips during construction and dismantling and a minor increase in traffic through the Main Gate and near the school on school days during arrival and departure times, resulting in a minor adverse effect. However, implementing Alternative 1 would likely reduce overall vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled on and off-base in comparison to current conditions with students living on LAFB traveling off-base to attend school, resulting in a beneficial effect. No significant impacts would occur.

3.8.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Effects from implementing Alternative 2 would be similar to effects described for Alternative 1, although the specific roads traveled and transportation network alterations made (such as location of ingress and egress points, signage, and crosswalks) would differ. Under Alternative 2, additional trips would be concentrated on the major streets surrounding the site: Ribas Dominicci Plaza, Arnold Boulevard, 7th Street, and Laughlin Drive (see Figure 3-3). BMPs similar to those described under Alternative 1 would be implemented to minimize effects on traffic circulation and provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the site.

The pedestrian/biking trail through the site would be reconfigured or removed. If it were removed, pedestrians and cyclists would use existing sidewalks and roads along Arnold Boulevard.

Similar to Alternative 1, implementing Alternative 2 would result in a minor increase in vehicle trips during construction and dismantling and a minor increase in traffic near the school on school days during arrival and departure times, resulting in a minor adverse effect. However, overall vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled on and off-base would likely be reduced compared to current conditions with students living on LAFB traveling off-base to attend school, resulting in a beneficial effect. No significant impacts would occur.

3.8.3.4 No Action Alternative

The environmental baseline would not change and no effects on transportation resources would result.

3.9 UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This section describes utilities and infrastructure and discusses potential effects the proposed project could have on those resources.

3.9.1 Definition of the Resource

Infrastructure and utility resources refer to structures and systems that contribute to the functionality of inhabited areas. Infrastructure components at LAFB include potable water supply, stormwater, sanitary sewer and wastewater, electricity, natural gas, communications, and municipal solid waste. The ROI for utilities and infrastructure is the area served by the utility systems that serve the proposed project sites.

3.9.2 Affected Environment

Potable Water. Potable water at LAFB is supplied by the city of Del Rio. On-base potable water system infrastructure is owned and maintained by the Civil Engineering Operations flight. On average, LAFB uses one million gallons per day (LAFB 2012a). Del Rio obtains potable water from the San Felipe Springs, which produce 90 million gallons of water per day.

To conserve water, many of the improved areas on base have been converted to xeriscaping that does not require supplemental irrigation. Irrigation systems are installed at major facilities such as those adjacent to Liberty Drive, the athletic fields, and the golf course. Multiple water valves and fire hydrants are present adjacent to the proposed project sites along Arnold Boulevard, Ribas Dominicci Plaza, and Mitchell Boulevard.

Stormwater. Stormwater refers to water originating from precipitation events that flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not infiltrate into the ground. The proposed project sites are within LAFB stormwater Drainage Area 3, which is in the southwestern portion of LAFB and includes the Leaning Pine golf course, housing areas, and other facilities. Stormwater flows west and then south from the Alternative 1 site and south from the Alternative 2 site. Stormwater in Drainage Area 3 ultimately discharges off-base through Stormwater Outfall 003 to an unnamed tributary that flows to the Rio Grande River (LAFB 2011b).

LAFB has coverage under the Texas Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) TXR05000 from TCEQ. LAFB operates under permit number TXR05M844, which allows Laughlin AFB to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activities into receiving waters as designated in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. Under regulation and the conditions of the permit, LAFB is required to maintain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and conduct quarterly visual monitoring, semiannual benchmark monitoring, and annual analytical sampling at the four outfalls at LAFB. Sampling is conducted in accordance with guidance in the MSGP.

If a construction project would disturb more than 1 acre of land or have a potential to violate a water quality standard, a construction SWPPP must be prepared and implemented, and erosion and sedimentation controls must be implemented in accordance with the TCEQ Construction General Permit TXR150000 under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The SWPPP must be kept on site during construction activities. If a construction project would disturb more than 5 acres, TCEQ requires a Notice of Intent and Notice of Termination in addition to a SWPPP.

Sanitary Sewer and Wastewater. LAFB owns and operates a wastewater collection and treatment system under Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit number WQ0012651-001 (LAFB 2012c). On-base wastewater infrastructure is owned and maintained by the Civil Engineering Operations flight. Sanitary sewer lines are located throughout LAFB and are adjacent to the proposed project sites.

Electricity. Electric power at LAFB is provided by American Electric Power, one of the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 32,000 megawatts of generating capacity (American Electric Power 2016). On-base high voltage infrastructure is owned and maintained by Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. Secondary voltage on-base infrastructure is owned and maintained by the Civil Engineering Operations flight. The majority of the cantonment area is serviced by overhead lines; the privatized housing area and the airfield both have underground

distribution systems (LAFB 2012a). Overhead electrical lines cross the northern portion of the Alternative 1 site and the middle and southern portions of the Alternative 2 site.

Natural Gas. LAFB purchases natural gas from the West Texas Gas Company. On-base natural gas infrastructure is owned and maintained by the Civil Engineering Operations flight. The majority of LAFB facilities use natural gas for heating and hot water (LAFB 2012a). Natural gas lines are located throughout LAFB and are adjacent to the proposed project sites.

Communications. The communications infrastructure at LAFB is maintained by the 47th Communications Squadron. The system is primarily comprised of copper wire for voice communication and fiber for data communications. All copper wire is installed below grade and the system is at or near capacity. The fiber network has available capacity to support future growth for both voice (using voice over Internet Protocol) and data communications (LAFB 2010). Because LAFB communications include classified data, nonmilitary entities are not allowed to connect to LAFB's secure communications infrastructure.

Municipal Solid Waste. All municipal solid waste from LAFB is collected and hauled by a licensed private contractor to the off-site city of Del Rio Landfill, approximately 5 miles from LAFB. The city of Del Rio Landfill has over 10 years of remaining capacity and accepts up to 106 tons of waste per day (TCEQ 2016b). In fiscal year 2010, LAFB averaged diverting 40 percent of material that was destined to the landfill through recycling, reuse, and composting diverted material (LAFB 2012a).

3.9.3 Environmental Consequences

3.9.3.1 Analysis Methodology

Potential effects on utilities and infrastructure from implementing the proposed action were analyzed by evaluating whether required utilities are readily available to serve the project site, whether existing utilities would have to be relocated or upgraded, and whether utility systems have sufficient capacity to accommodate the change in demand. Implementing the proposed action would have a significant impact on utilities and infrastructure if it would require extensive relocation, upgrade, or installation of new utility systems, exceed available system capacity, or substantially increase stormwater runoff volume, decrease stormwater infiltration rates, increase erosion, or increase sediment loading of surface water through stormwater runoff.

3.9.3.2 Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site (Preferred Alternative)

Short-term minor adverse impacts related to construction activities and long-term minor adverse impacts related to increased demand during operation of the school would be expected; no significant impacts would occur.

On-site access is available to the potable water, wastewater, electricity, and natural gas systems, so the school could be readily connected to these utility systems. A water line is present along the northeastern border paralleling Patterson Street. Three fire hydrants are located within 100 feet of the site: two along Mitchell Boulevard and one along Kenyon Street. Wastewater and natural gas lines run along Mitchell Boulevard. Overhead electrical transmission lines cross the northern portion of the site, and could require relocation.

The District would establish connections to and have separate metered utility service for potable water, electricity, natural gas, and communications. In particular, the District would have to install a separate communications system because public access to LAFB's secure communications system is prohibited. The District would contract with a municipal waste service to transport waste to the local landfill.

Construction and dismantling of the temporary school campus would generate debris. Although some debris such as scrap wood and metal could be recycled, some materials would require landfill disposal. The use of relocatable buildings would minimize the amount of construction debris generated. Because the proposed project is a relatively small one, a minimal amount of construction debris would be generated. The city of Del Rio Landfill has over 10 years of remaining capacity and accepts up to 106 tons of waste per day (TCEQ 2016b), which is more than sufficient to accommodate debris from the project, so adverse effects would be minor.

Building the school would result in a small increase in the amount of impervious surface at the site, thus resulting in a minor increase in stormwater runoff. New impervious surfaces at the site would include the building footings, walkways, driveways, and additional parking. Stormwater runoff would be managed at the site by installing gutters, drainage swales, storm drains, or other stormwater infrastructure as determined during the design process. Beyond the site, stormwater would be managed by the existing infrastructure in LAFB Drainage Area 3. The stormwater system has sufficient capacity, and the small increase in runoff would be expected to have minor adverse effects.

Because construction and dismantling activities would disturb more than 1 acre, they would require coverage under Texas Construction General Permit number TXR150000. To comply, a site-specific SWPPP would be prepared and implemented. The SWPPP would assess potential pollutants, contain compliance requirements, and contain stormwater BMPs that would be implemented to prevent soil loss and minimize the exposure of unsecured soils during construction. BMPs could include erosion control measures such as silt fences, covering soil stockpiles, use of soil sealants, placing fill or gravel over disturbed areas in a timely manner, and protecting storm drain inlets and outlets. Implementing these or other appropriate BMPs would effectively control the discharge of stormwater from the project site and would not cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards; therefore, adverse effects would be minor.

Operation of the new school would result in a minor increase in utility demand. The quantities of potable water, stormwater, wastewater, electricity, and municipal solid waste that students and staff would produce or consume would cause a slight increase in utility demand. Potable water use would increase by approximately 2,500 gallons per day for drinking, restroom facilities, and possibly for landscaping. LAFB uses approximately one million gallons of potable water per day, so the school's usage would be a 0.25 percent increase. Wastewater generation from the restroom facilities would increase by approximately 1,000 gallons per day, which would be similar percentage of LAFB's capacity. Electricity use would increase to serve the school's HVAC system, lighting, computers, and other systems requiring electrical power. The school's electricity demand is estimated at 1,315 kilowatts per day, which is less than one-hundredth of one percent of American Electric Power's generating capacity. The facility would produce approximately 400 pounds of municipal refuse per week of operation. The District would contract to have this refuse transported to and disposed of in the local landfill, which has over 10 years of remaining capacity and accepts up to 106 tons of waste per day (TCEQ 2016b). The school is not expected to use natural gas. The increased utility demand would be relatively small and the existing infrastructure for all utilities would be adequate to accommodate the increased demand, so adverse effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

3.9.3.3 Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site

Similar to Alternative 1, on-site access is available to the potable water, wastewater, electricity, and natural gas systems. The District would establish connections and separate metered utility service for these systems. The District would install a separate communications system because public access to LAFB's secure communications system is prohibited. Overhead electrical transmission lines crossing the site could require relocation.

Effects from construction, operation, and dismantling of the temporary school campus would be similar to those discussed under Alternative 1; no significant impacts would occur. Compared to Alternative 1, Alternative 2 would generate somewhat more construction debris requiring landfill disposal due to the additional construction of a sports track under Alternative 2; however, effects would remain minor. Because Alternative 2 is expected to disturb more than 5 acres, in addition to a SWPPP, the District would be required to submit a Notice of Intent and Notice of Termination to TCEQ. The existing infrastructure has adequate capacity to support the incremental increase in demand so effects would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

3.9.3.4 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to baseline conditions and no effects on infrastructure and utility resources would be expected.

SECTION 4.0

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects on environmental resources result from the incremental effects of an action when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively substantial actions taken over a period of time. In accordance with NEPA, a discussion of cumulative effects is required (CEQ 1997). This section provides a description of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the area and an evaluation of potential cumulative effects.

4.1 PROJECTS IN THE VICINITY

LAFB's IDP presents ongoing and reasonably foreseeable projects at the installation. Ongoing operations and maintenance projects include replacing water mains, valves, and hydrants; replacing the installation sanitary sewer system; expanding, altering, and demolishing buildings; replacing portions of the airfield apron; and relocating electrical power between the runways. Reasonably foreseeable projects projected for medium-range (6 to 10 years) implementation are building a new 120-person dormitory for enlisted personnel and enhancing airfield drainage. Long-range projects, which are likely to occur 11 or more years in the future, include paving the shoulders on the center runway, constructing a small-arms range, adding to and altering buildings, and constructing an aerospace physiology facility and student officer quarters (Air Force 2008).

Reasonably foreseeable projects include relocating the Main Gate and base entrance to the current location of the West Gate. This would shift traffic patterns at the base so traffic would enter from Laughlin Drive and disperse to their destinations using the streets connected to Ribas Dominicci Plaza, which include Mitchell Boulevard, Laughlin Drive, and Arnold Drive (see Figure 3-3).

LAFB's IDP also provides a framework for evaluating other installation development proposals. The IDP includes a strategic vision, and goals and objectives for implementing that strategic vision. The IDP defines planning constraints, capacity opportunities, and sustainable development indicators. These metrics inform compatible land uses, appropriate scale of development, how and where development should occur, and project priority to best meet LAFB's mission needs (Air Force 2008).

Development is also anticipated off-base. Examples of recent or planned projects off-base include the District's plans to construct a second STEM elementary school, promotion of Lake Amistad as a tourist destination and recreational area, revitalization of downtown Del Rio, and street paving and other construction projects in Del Rio (City of Del Rio 2007, 2016).

4.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS

4.2.1 Air Quality

Estimated emissions generated by the proposed action would be minor and well below regulatory thresholds and would not contribute significantly to adverse cumulative effects on air quality. Many of the IDP projects would generate short-term air emissions and fugitive dust during construction, from activities such as site grading, use of construction equipment, and paving. Some of the IDP projects would generate long-term emissions during operation, such as from HVAC systems in new buildings. However, none of the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects have been identified that, when combined with the proposed action, would have substantial cumulative effects on air quality. Therefore, cumulative effects on air quality would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.2 Noise

If the Main Gate is relocated to the West Gate at the same time the school is being constructed, construction noise from the two projects could occur concurrently, causing a minor cumulative impact. Construction noise attenuates relatively rapidly with distance, so the area where noise from multiple projects would overlap is relatively small. None of the other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects are close enough in proximity to the proposed project sites or on the same timeline to cause concurrent construction noise. Operational noise levels would not appreciably exceed baseline noise levels in the area when combined with the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. Therefore, cumulative effects on noise would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.3 Safety and Occupational Health

Projects in the ROI would have common construction site safety risks. These would be expected to be minimized through BMPs such as fencing the construction site and implementing a health and safety plan to promote occupational safety. Operation of projects in the ROI would not be expected to have appreciable effects on safety or health, the protection of children, or emergency services. None of the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects, alone or in combination with the proposed action, would likely result in a disproportionately high and adverse environmental health or safety risks to workers, the public, or an identified population of children or place excessive constraints on emergency services. Therefore, cumulative effects on safety and occupational health would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

Projects in the ROI would involve vegetation removal and could displace common wildlife; however, these effects are not likely to be significant. Project proponents would be expected to revegetate sites appropriately once construction was complete, so effects would be minor and could be beneficial if revegetation increased landscape sustainability (e.g., by increasing the amount of native plantings and reducing water consumption). None of the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects, alone or in combination with the proposed action, would likely substantially adversely affect the amount or diversity of common vegetation or wildlife, result in a take of a federal or state listed species or an adverse modification of designated critical habitat, or have a substantial adverse effect on birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Therefore, cumulative effects on biological resources would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.5 Socioeconomics

Projects in the ROI would each contribute in a minor way to the economy of the region. Regional economic development projects would have beneficial effects on the local economy by increasing employment, income, and business sales volume. In addition to the school project analyzed in this EA, examples of other recent or planned projects that would economically benefit the region include the District's plans for a second STEM elementary school; recreational promotion of Lake Amistad; revitalization of downtown Del Rio; street paving in Del Rio; and construction, demolition, and infrastructure improvement projects on LAFB (e.g., new aerospace and dormitory facilities, stormwater drainage improvements, solar array). Therefore, cumulative effects on socioeconomics would be beneficial; no significant adverse effects would occur.

4.2.6 Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children

Providing an on-base elementary school would benefit the environmental justice communities on- and off-base by lowering classroom student-to-teacher ratios and offering a STEM magnet school to students in the District, which would benefit the students' educational experience. In addition to the school project analyzed in this EA, another planned project that would benefit environmental justice communities in the region is the District's plans for a second STEM elementary school, which would have cumulative beneficial effects on environmental justice communities; no significant adverse effects would occur.

The proposed construction project could have safety risks to children, given the inherent risk in construction activity; however, safety measures and health regulations would be followed to protect the health and safety of LAFB residents, including children. Other projects in the ROI

would have safety measures in place, as required by law, to protect the general public and minimize safety risks. Therefore, cumulative effects on protection of children would be minor; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.7 Traffic and Transportation

Reasonably foreseeable projects include relocating the Main Gate and base entrance to the current location of the West Gate. This would shift traffic patterns at the base so that traffic would enter from Laughlin Drive and disperse to their destinations using the four streets connected to Ribas Dominicki Plaza: Cannon Drive, Mitchell Boulevard, Laughlin Drive, and Arnold Drive.

Changing the base entrance would increase the amount of traffic traveling by both proposed project sites (along Mitchell Boulevard past the Alternative 1 site and along Laughlin Drive and Arnold Drive past the Alternative 2 site).

School arrival and departure times, when traffic would be heaviest near the school, would be similar to the arrival and departure times for many LAFB personnel. However, because vehicles entering the West Gate would be able to choose between four roads emanating from Ribas Dominicki Plaza to access their destinations, traffic would be expected to disperse sufficiently so that wait times along the road adjacent to the school would be minimal, even during peak arrival and departure times. In addition, school drop-off and pick-up areas would be located off main roads to the extent possible and designed to minimize effects on traffic circulation on adjacent roadways.

None of the other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects, alone or in combination with the proposed action, would likely generate a substantial increase in vehicle trips or traffic wait times. Therefore, adverse cumulative effects on traffic and transportation would be minor to moderate; no significant impacts would occur.

4.2.8 Utilities and Infrastructure

Projects in the ROI would incrementally increase the load on base utility systems. Multiple utility repair and enhancement projects are ongoing or planned; these projects would improve the functioning and capacity of LAFB's utility systems, resulting in beneficial effects. The introduction of a small amount of additional impervious surface from new construction would increase stormwater runoff. Project proponents would be expected to implement stormwater controls such as gutters, drainage swales, and storm drains to minimize adverse effects. Planned projects in the ROI include an airfield drainage enhancement that would result in a beneficial effect on stormwater infrastructure. None of the past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects

have been identified that, when combined with the proposed action, would have substantial cumulative effects on utilities and infrastructure. Therefore, cumulative effects on utilities and infrastructure would not be significant.

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SECTION 5.0

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This EA considers the effects of implementing the proposed action, leasing land at LAFB to the District to construct and operate a STEM magnet school. Two alternatives for implementing the proposed action are considered: Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site and Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site. Alternative 1 is the Air Force’s and the District’s Preferred Alternative. The No Action Alternative is also considered.

5.1 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Table 5-1 provides a comparison of the potential effects of implementing the proposed action or No Action Alternative relative to the environmental resources evaluated. Implementing the proposed action would result in short- and long-term minor to moderate adverse effects and some beneficial effects; no significant impacts would occur. Effects on a resource could be both adverse and beneficial. There is no substantive difference in environmental effects between Alternatives 1 and 2. The Air Force and District selected Alternative 1 as the Preferred Alternative based on the expediency and cost savings of not having to build a sports field. Implementing the No Action Alternative would have no effects. Cumulative effects would not be significant.

Table 5-1.
Summary of environmental effects

Resource area	Alternative 1 – Club Amistad site (Preferred Alternative)	Alternative 2 – Tweety Field site	No Action Alternative
Air Quality	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	No effects
Noise	Short-term moderate and long-term minor adverse effects	Short-term moderate and long-term minor adverse effects	No effects
Safety and Occupational Health	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	No effects
Biological Resources	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	No effects
Socioeconomics	Short- and long-term negligible adverse effects and minor beneficial effects	Short- and long-term negligible adverse effects and minor beneficial effects	No effects
Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children	Short-term minor adverse and long-term minor beneficial effects	Short-term minor adverse and long-term minor beneficial effects	No effects
Traffic and Transportation	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects and beneficial effects	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects and beneficial effects	No effects
Utilities and Infrastructure	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	Short- and long-term minor adverse effects	No effects

5.2 MEASURES TO REDUCE EFFECTS

Implementing the proposed action would have no significant adverse effects and no mitigation measures would be required. For many resource areas, BMPs would be implemented to further minimize the potential effects of the proposed action. The BMPs presented in Section 3 are summarized here.

Air Quality. Project construction would employ BMPs to minimize fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions. BMPs to minimize fugitive dust could include using water to control dust and cleaning streets as needed. BMPs to reduce tailpipe emissions could include minimizing unnecessary idling of vehicles and machinery. These BMPs are not necessarily all-inclusive; the District and any contractors would comply with all applicable air pollution control regulations.

Noise. Construction activities would generally be limited to daytime weekday hours unless there was an emergency.

Safety and Occupational Health. All construction contractors would be responsible for maintaining an adequate safety program to minimize risks to workers and the public and ensure compliance with OSHA and state regulations. Each contractor would prepare and implement a site-specific health and safety plan. This plan would specify construction safety measures, such as holding daily safety briefings, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, specifying the amount and type of training required for workers performing certain tasks, establishing administrative and engineering controls to minimize health and safety risks, identifying BMPs for materials handling, and outlining general construction site safety. The construction site would be maintained in a clean and orderly manner; any spills would be stopped and cleaned up promptly. The construction site would be fenced and marked with signs to prevent public access. In the unlikely event that contaminated soil or water is encountered, work would stop in that area, a designated manager would be contacted, and work would not resume in the area until appropriate actions were taken to minimize any risks to health and safety.

The school would have sufficient space on roads and driveways and between the portable buildings for emergency responders to access the site. The site would have multiple evacuation routes. The portable buildings would be required to comply with all provisions applicable to industrialized buildings under the Texas Industrialized Housing and Building Laws Section 1202.004, *Relocatable Educational Facilities* (Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation 2015). The portable buildings would have smoke alarms and the school would conduct fire drills.

Biological Resources. To avoid effects on migratory birds, any tree removal would occur between September and March (i.e., outside of the nesting season) to the extent possible. If trees required removal during the nesting season (i.e., from March to September), a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey before tree removal; trees would only be removed if no active nests were found. If an active nest were found, an appropriate buffer would be established around the tree and work would not be conducted in that area until the nestlings fledged (left the nest) or the nest was abandoned.

Socioeconomics. Socioeconomic effects would be beneficial or negligible adverse and no measures to reduce effects are proposed.

Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children. Effects on environmental justice communities would be beneficial and no measures to reduce effects are proposed. To protect children, the site would be fenced and “no trespassing” signs would be placed around the construction site to deter children from playing in the area, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. To eliminate children’s potential exposure to hazardous materials in the school buildings, new construction would not use building products containing hazardous materials. A security fence would be placed around the perimeter of the school campus for operational security. Drop-off and pick-up points for children arriving by bus or car would be located away from main streets to the extent practicable. Crosswalks, sidewalks, and, if needed, additional measures such as crossing guards, would be used to help children cross streets safely.

Traffic and Transportation. Site ingress and egress points and bus and passenger vehicle drop-off and pick-up points would be designed to minimize effects on traffic circulation on adjacent roadways and to provide appropriate pedestrian and bicycle safety. Drop-off and pick-up areas would be placed away from main streets to the extent possible. New lane markings, signage, and new or relocated crosswalks or bus stops, as appropriate, would be provided along adjacent streets to direct traffic and minimize effects to traffic circulation. Crosswalks would be striped at convenient locations where children would cross existing roads to access the site. If appropriate, additional BMPs such as crossing guards, crossing flags, signage, or flashing lights could be used during peak school arrival and departure times.

Utilities and Infrastructure. Because construction at either project site would disturb more than 1 acre, the project would require coverage under Texas Construction General Permit number TXR150000. To comply, a site-specific SWPPP would be prepared and implemented. The

SWPPP would assess potential pollutants, contain compliance requirements, and contain stormwater BMPs that would be implemented to prevent soil loss and minimize the exposure of unsecured soils during construction. BMPs could include erosion control measures such as silt fences, covering soil stockpiles, use of soil sealants, placing fill or gravel over disturbed areas in a timely manner, and protecting storm drain inlets and outlets.

Because Alternative 2 is expected to disturb more than 5 acres, in addition to a SWPPP, the District would be required to submit a Notice of Intent and Notice of Termination to TCEQ.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the analysis, the proposed action would have no significant adverse effects on the human or natural environment. Preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required; issuance of a FONSI is appropriate.

SECTION 6.0

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

§	section
%	percent
ACAM	Air Conformity Applicability Model
BMP	best management practice
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
CO ₂ e	carbon dioxide equivalent
COC	Community of Comparison
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
District	San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District
DNL	day-night sound level
DoD	Department of Defense
EA	environmental assessment
EO	executive order
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	greenhouse gas
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan
IDP	Installation Development Plan
IMPLAN	Impact Analysis for Planning
LAFB	Laughlin Air Force Base
Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
LFES	Laughlin Fire and Emergency Services
Lmax	maximum sound level
MSGP	Multi-Sector General Permit
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PreK-5	pre-kindergarten through fifth grade
PCPI	per capita personal income
PCS	Permanent Change of Station
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter
ROI	region of influence
SFS	Security Forces Squadron
SLDP	Sustainable Landscape Development Plan
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
STEM	science, technology, engineering, and math
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

Appendix A
Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination
for Environmental Planning

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Agency Distribution List and Example Letter

Distribution List for HICEP Letter for the Laughlin AFB Magnet School EA

Title	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name	Address Line 1	Address Line 2	City	State	ZIP Code	Salutation
			Federal						
Regional Director	Sue	Masica	National Park Service	12795 Alameda Parkway		Denver	CO	80225	Mrs.
	Michael	Jansky	USEPA Region 6	Federal Assistance Section (6E-FF)	1445 Ross Avenue Suite 1200	Dallas	TX	75202-2733	Mr.
	Wayne	Lea	Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District	Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division	PO Box 17300	Fort Worth	TX	76102-0300	Mr.
Acting Regional Director	Tony	Robinson	Region VI - Federal Emergency Management Agency	Federal Regional Center	800 N Loop 288	Denton	TX	76209-3698	Mr.
District Conservationist			USDA - NRCS	Del Rio Service Center	302 E 17th Street	Del Rio	TX	78840	Mrs.
The Honorable	John	Cornyn	United States Senator for Texas	Wells Fargo Center	1500 Broadway, suite 1230	Lubbock	TX	79401	Mr.
			State of Texas						
The Honorable	Carlos	Uresti	State Senate District 19	Maverick County Courthouse	501 Main Street, Suite 114	Eagle Pass	TX	78852	Mr.
Executive Director	Carter	Smith	Texas Parks and Wildlife	4200 Smith School Road		Austin	TX	78744	Mr.
Regional Director (Region 16)	Jaime	Garza	Texas Commission of Environmental Quality	707 E. Calton Rd, Ste 304		Laredo	TX	78041-3887	Mr.
Director of Governmental Affairs	Don	Forse	Texas General Land Office	1700 N Congress Ave Suite 935		Austin	TX	78701-1495	Mr.
State of Texas, Single Point of Contact	Ryan	Vise	Governor's Office of Budget and Planning	PO Box 12428		Austin	TX	78711	Mr.
Executive Director	Richard	Hyde	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	PO Box 13087		Austin	TX	78711-3087	Mr.
Hydraulic Engineer	Kyle	Wright	Natural Resources Conservation Service	101 South Main		Temple	TX	76501	Mr.
Executive Administrator	Clay	Schultz	Texas Water Development Board	1700 North Congress Ave	PO Box 13231	Austin	TX	78711-3231	Mr.
			Local						
Mayor	Robert	Garza	City of Del Rio (Mayor)	109 W Broadway		Del Rio	TX	78840	The Honorable
Councilperson, District III	Elizabeth "Liz"	Elizalde	City of Del Rio (District III)	109 W Broadway		Del Rio	TX	78840	The Honorable
Executive Director	Blanca	Larson	Del Rio Chamber of Commerce	1915 Veterans Blvd		Del Rio	TX	78840	Mr.
City Planner	Janice	Pokrant	City of Del Rio	114 W Martin		Del Rio	TX	78840	Ms.
Judge	Efrain	Valdez	Val Verde County (County Judge)	County Courthouse	PO Box 4250	Del Rio	TX	78841	The Honorable
County Commissioner	Janie	Garcia-Roman	Val Verde County (County Clerk)	County Courthouse	PO Box 1267	Del Rio	TX	78841-1267	The Honorable
			School Districts						
	Carlos	Rios	Superintendent San Felipe DelRio CISD	San Felipe Del Rio CISD Administration Bldg	205 Memorial Drive	Del Rio	TX	78840	Dr.
	O.K	Wolfenbarger III	Comstock Independent School District Superintendent	PO Box 905	Sanderson Street	Comstock	TX	78837	
	Kevin	Newsom	Brackettville Independent School District Superintendent	PO Box 586	201 N. Ann Street	Brackettville	TX	78832	Mr.

Notes:



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

7 June 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR Mrs. Sue Masica, Regional Director
National Park Service
12795 Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225

FROM: CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The installation proposes to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
2. The EA will assess two potential school sites on the installation (Attachment 1) and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1, referred to as the Club Amistad site, is 2.66 acres and Alternative 2, referred to as the Tweety Field site, is 8.9 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped and were previously developed with buildings that were recently demolished. Both sites are walking distance from installation housing and the Youth Center playground. A map of the proposed sites (Attachment 1) and a description of the proposed action (Attachment 2) are attached.
3. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we are writing this letter to advise you of this proposal and request your assistance in identifying any potential issues related to the proposal. Please provide any comments you may have within 30 days of receipt of this letter.
4. The USAF intends to maximize the use of electronic transmittals during subsequent coordination phases of this project. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of any documents, please indicate this in your response. If not, the Draft EA will be provided in an electronic format when it becomes available.

5. If you have any questions pertaining to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil., or by phone at (830) 298-5746. Thank you for your assistance.



Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF
NEPA Program Manager

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location Maps
- 2 Project Description

Tribal Distribution List and Example Letter

Tribal Consultation List

Task Order: 0013

Contract No. FA3002-07-D-0016

Environmental Assessment (EA) and Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) for Constructing a Magnet School, Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), Texas

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Michael Burgess, Chairman
Comanche Indian Tribe
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

MEMORANDUM FOR Tribal Administrator Joshua Waffle
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Tonkawa, OK 74653

FROM: 47 FTW/CC
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SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The purpose of this letter is twofold: to give you an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed action at Laughlin AFB in which your tribe may have an interest; and to invite your tribe to participate in government-to-government consultation with Laughlin AFB pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.¹
2. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The installation proposes to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The EA will, as required by law and regulations,² consider the potential impacts resulting from this proposed action.
3. The EA will assess two potential school sites on the installation (Attachment 1) and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1, referred to as the Club Amistad site, is 2.66 acres and Alternative 2, referred to as the Tweety Field site, is 8.9 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped and were previously developed with buildings that were recently demolished. Therefore, the area of potential effect (APE) for this action will be limited to the areas of construction on Laughlin AFB. Both sites are walking distance from installation housing and the Youth Center playground. A map of the proposed sites and APE (Attachment 1) and a description of the proposed action (Attachment 2) are attached.
4. Please let me know whether your tribe desires to participate in the development of this NEPA analysis, or to engage in government-to-government consultation. Laughlin AFB has conducted a base-wide cultural resources inventory and is not aware of any properties of religious and cultural significance within the APE. Nevertheless, we ask for your assistance in identifying such properties of which we may be unaware, particularly those that may be affected by this proposal.

¹ 54 United States Code (USC) § 306108, as implemented by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800.

² NEPA of 1969 (42 USC § 4321 *et seq.*); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508); and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (32 CFR Part 989).

5. My staff will be contacting your office by telephone to discuss the magnet school project and any potential impacts. For staff questions, comments, or input on the NEPA process, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil., or by phone at (830) 298-5746. For matters related to government-to-government consultation, you may contact me directly at (830) 298-4700.

6. Please take this opportunity to complete the questionnaire below, which can be filled out to identify your tribe's interest in consulting about the Proposed Magnet School Project and to facilitate further communication on the matter. Upon completion, please return the questionnaire to us in the stamped and self-addressed envelope provided. I look forward to receiving any input you may have regarding this endeavor.



Thomas B. Shank, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location and APE Map
- 2 Project Description

Our tribe has determined that:

- Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are not present on Laughlin AFB, and therefore the tribe does not desire to be consulted on this or future projects.
- Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are present on Laughlin AFB, but consultation is not required at this time because the properties will not be affected by the Proposed Magnet School Project.
- Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are present on Laughlin AFB, and the tribe desires to consult on the Proposed Magnet School Project and on future projects.
- Other: _____

Signature

Position

Letters to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
Texas Historical Commission



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

MEMORANDUM FOR US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office (Southwest Region 2)
10711 Burnet Road Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758-4460

FROM: CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The proposed undertaking is to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
2. The EA will assess two potential school sites on the installation (Attachment 1) and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1, referred to as the Club Amistad site, is 2.66 acres and Alternative 2, referred to as the Tweety Field site, is 8.9 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped and were previously developed with buildings that were recently demolished. Both sites are walking distance from installation housing and the Youth Center playground.
3. The USAF is providing information to you in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Title 16 United States Code (USC), §§1531-1544. A Draft Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA), which has been prepared to support the EA, is provided as Attachment 2.
4. In accordance with the *Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* (INRMP) for Laughlin AFB (March 2012), although multiple federally- and state-listed species occur or have the potential to occur in Val Verde County, protected species are rarely observed on the installation. Federally and state-listed and candidate species observed at the installation are the black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spragueii*), and Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*). There is no designated critical habitat on or near the proposed sites. Vegetation at the proposed sites is comprised of regularly-mowed grass and minimal native and non-native shrubs and trees. The available habitat is of low quality for the protected species that could occur in the area and the probability of encountering protected species at the proposed sites is low. In the unlikely event that listed species are observed during construction, your office would be notified.
5. Based on the evidence and data provided above, the USAF determines that the present undertaking will have *no effect* on listed species or their critical habitat. If you do not concur with this determination, or would like further information regarding our determination, we respectfully request a response by 10 July 2016.

6. The USAF intends to maximize the use of electronic transmittals during subsequent coordination phases of this project. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of any documents, please indicate this in your response. If not, the Draft EA will be provided in an electronic format when it becomes available.

7. If you have any questions pertaining to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil, or by phone at (830) 298-5746. Thank you for your assistance.



Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF
NEPA Program Manager

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location Map
- 2 Project Description



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

FROM: CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The proposed undertaking is to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
2. The EA will assess two potential school sites on the installation (Attachment 1) and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1, referred to as the Club Amistad site, is 2.66 acres and Alternative 2, referred to as the Tweety Field site, is 8.9 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped and were previously developed with buildings that were recently demolished. Both sites are walking distance from installation housing and the Youth Center playground.
3. The USAF is providing information for your review and concurrence in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §800. A Draft Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives (DOPAA), which has been prepared to support the EA, is provided as Attachment 2. This information is provided to satisfy requirements listed under 36 CFR §800.11(d)(3)(e).
4. In accordance with the *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP)* for Laughlin AFB (March 2012), there are no buildings potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on the proposed sites. There is no historic district present at Laughlin AFB. As indicated in the ICRMP, a base-wide intensive cultural resources has been conducted and no concerns were identified at the proposed sites. The probability of encountering subsurface archeological materials outside of known sites is low. In the unlikely event that cultural resources are found during construction, the installation's Inadvertent Discovery Plan, found in the ICRMP, would be followed and your office would be notified.
5. Based on the evidence and data provided above, the USAF determines that the present undertaking will not affect any historic properties that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP and we respectfully seek your concurrence with our determination of "no historic properties affected".

6. The USAF intends to maximize the use of electronic transmittals during subsequent coordination phases of this project. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of any documents, please indicate this in your response. If not, the Draft EA will be provided in an electronic format when it becomes available.

7. If you have any questions pertaining to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil., or by phone at (830) 298-5746. Thank you for your assistance.



Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF
NEPA Program Manager

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location Map
- 2 Project Description

Responses Received



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)



MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

FROM: CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

CONCUR
by Justin Kockritz
for Mark Wolfe
Executive Director, THC
Date 6/29/2016
Track# 2016 08307

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The proposed undertaking is to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
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5. Based on the evidence and data provided above, the USAF determines that the present undertaking will not affect any historic properties that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP and we respectfully seek your concurrence with our determination of "no historic properties affected".

6. The USAF intends to maximize the use of electronic transmittals during subsequent coordination phases of this project. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of any documents, please indicate this in your response. If not, the Draft EA will be provided in an electronic format when it becomes available.

7. If you have any questions pertaining to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil, or by phone at (830) 298-5746. Thank you for your assistance.



Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF
NEPA Program Manager

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location Map
- 2 Project Description



COUSHATTA TRIBE

OF LOUISIANA

HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

July 7, 2016

Col. Thomas B. Shank, Commander
Dept. of the Air Force
47th Flying Training Wing
47 FTW/CC
561 Liberty Drive, Suite 1
Laughlin AFB TX 78843-5230

Subject: Proposed Magnet School, Laughlin Air Force Base, TX

Dear Col. Shank:

The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Heritage Department has reviewed the above reference proposed undertaking, and we are in concurrence with your findings of "no historic properties affected".

At this time, I know of no known sacred or ceremonial sites in the immediate area, and do not require further Section 106 consultation on this project. However, if any cultural resources such as, bone, pottery, stone tools, etc., are found subsequently, we may elect to discuss additional mitigation steps, including on-site monitoring. In the event that archaeological properties or human remains are discovered, please stop work and contact us immediately, consistent with Section IX of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and applicable laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Crawford".

Jill Crawford,
Section 106 Coordinator

KOWASSAATON NATHIHILKAS—LET US SPEAK KOASATI

337-584-1560

337-584-1616 (FAX)

PO BOX 10

ELTON, LA 70532

COMANCHE NATION



Department of the Air Force , 47th Flying Training Wing (AETC)
Attn: Mr. Danny Yandell
561 Liberty Drive, Suite 1
Texas 78843-5230

July 12, 2016

**Re: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX**

Dear Mr. Yandell:

In response to your request, the above reference project has been reviewed by staff of this office to identify areas that may potentially contain prehistoric or historic archeological materials. The location of your project has been cross referenced with the Comanche Nation site files, where an indication of “*No Properties*” have been identified. (IAW 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)).

Please contact this office at (580) 595-9960/9618 if you require additional information on this project. Please send your Section-106 inquires to Theodore Villicana at theodorev@comanchenation.com

This review is performed in order to identify and preserve the Comanche Nation and State cultural heritage, in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Regards

Comanche Nation Historic Preservation Office
Theodore E. Villicana ,Technician
#6 SW “D” Avenue , Suite C
Lawton, OK. 73502



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)**

6 Jun 16

MEMORANDUM FOR Juan Garza, Jr., Chairman
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
HC1
P.O. Box 9700
Eagle Pass TX 78852

FROM: 47 FTW/CC
561 Liberty Drive, Suite 1
Laughlin AFB TX 78843-5230

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The purpose of this letter is twofold: to give you an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed action at Laughlin AFB in which your tribe may have an interest; and to invite your tribe to participate in government-to-government consultation with Laughlin AFB pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.¹
2. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The installation proposes to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The EA will, as required by law and regulations,² consider the potential impacts resulting from this proposed action.
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4. Please let me know whether your tribe desires to participate in the development of this NEPA analysis, or to engage in government-to-government consultation. Laughlin AFB has conducted a base-wide cultural resources inventory and is not aware of any properties of religious and cultural significance within the APE. Nevertheless, we ask for your assistance in identifying such properties of which we may be unaware, particularly those that may be affected by this proposal.

¹ 54 United States Code (USC) § 306108, as implemented by 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800.

² NEPA of 1969 (42 USC § 4321 *et seq.*); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508); and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7061, *Environmental Impact Analysis Process* (32 CFR Part 989).

5. My staff will be contacting your office by telephone to discuss the magnet school project and any potential impacts. For staff questions, comments, or input on the NEPA process, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil., or by phone at (830) 298-5746. For matters related to government-to-government consultation, you may contact me directly at (830) 298-4700.

6. Please take this opportunity to complete the questionnaire below, which can be filled out to identify your tribe's interest in consulting about the Proposed Magnet School Project and to facilitate further communication on the matter. Upon completion, please return the questionnaire to us in the stamped and self-addressed envelope provided. I look forward to receiving any input you may have regarding this endeavor.



THOMAS B. SHANK, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachments:

1. Project Location and APE Map
2. Project Description

Our tribe has determined that:

Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are not present on Laughlin AFB, and therefore the tribe does not desire to be consulted on this or future projects.

Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are present on Laughlin AFB, but consultation is not required at this time because the properties will not be affected by the Proposed Magnet School Project.

Native American Traditional Cultural Properties are present on Laughlin AFB, and the tribe desires to consult on the Proposed Magnet School Project and on future projects.

Other: _____



Signature

Tribal Chairman

Position



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

June 16, 2016

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Project Number SWF-2016-00231, Proposed Magnet School

Danny Yandell
USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE
251 4th St
Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

Dear Mr. Yandell:

Thank you for your letter received June 15, 2016 concerning a proposal by Department of the Air Force 47th Flying Training Wing to construct an educational facility and associated infrastructure located in Val Verde County, Texas. This project has been assigned Project Number SWF-2016-00231. Please include this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

Ms. Hannah Halydier has been assigned as the regulatory project manager for your request and will be evaluating it as expeditiously as possible.

You may be contacted for additional information about your request. For your information, please reference the Fort Worth District Regulatory Branch homepage at www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory and particularly guidance on submittals at www.media.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/introduction/submital.pdf and mitigation at www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/Mitigation that may help you supplement your current request or prepare future requests.

If you have any questions about the evaluation of your submittal or would like to request a copy of one of the documents referenced above, please refer to our website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory> or contact Ms. Hannah Halydier at the address above or telephone 817-886-1745 and refer to your assigned project number. Please note that it is unlawful to start work without a Department of the Army permit if one is required.

Please help the regulatory program improve its service by completing the survey on the following website: http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey

Stephen L. Brooks
Chief, Regulatory Division

Andrews, Emmy

From: YANDELL, DANNY L GS-11 USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE <danny.yandell@us.af.mil>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:58 AM
To: Andrews, Emmy
Subject: FW: Proposed Magnet School, Laughlin AFB, TX

From: King, Melanie [mailto:melanie.king1@fema.dhs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:20 PM
To: YANDELL, DANNY L GS-11 USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE <danny.yandell@us.af.mil>
Subject: Proposed Magnet School, Laughlin AFB, TX

U. S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698



FEMA

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
REGION VI
MITIGATION DIVISION

NOTICE REVIEW/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION

We have no comments to offer.

We offer the following comments:

WE WOULD REQUEST THAT THE COMMUNITIES' FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATORS' BE CONTACTED FOR THE REVIEW AND POSSIBLE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. IF FEDERALLY FUNDED, WE WOULD REQUEST PROJECT TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EO11988 & EO 11990.

REVIEWER:

Mayra G. Diaz
Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch
Mitigation Division

(940) 898-5541

DATE: June 15, 2016

Melanie King

FEMA Region 6 Mitigation
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209
940-898-5165 office
940-536-5732 mobile

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Jon Niermann, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 21, 2016

Danny Yandell
USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE
251 4th St Building 100
Laughlin AFB, Texas 78843
Via: danny.yandell@us.af.mil

Re: TCEQ NEPA Request #2016-093, Proposed Magnet School, City of Del Rio, Val Verde County

Dear Mr. Yandell:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

A review of the project for general conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 indicates that the proposed action is located in Val Verde County, which is currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, general conformity rules do not apply.

We recommend the environmental assessment address actions that will be taken to prevent surface and groundwater contamination.

Any debris or waste disposal should be at an appropriately authorized disposal facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact the agency NEPA Coordinator, at (512) 239-3500 or NEPA@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Harmon".

Mark Harmon
Division Director
Intergovernmental Relations



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

State Office

101 S. Main Street
Temple, TX 76501
Voice 254.742.9800
Fax 254.742.9819

June 29, 2016

CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas 78843

Attention: Mr. Danny Yandall, NEPA Program Manager

Subject: Environmental Assessment -- Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin AFB, Val Verde County, Texas
USAF - NEPA

We have reviewed the information provided in your correspondence dated June 9, 2016 concerning the installation of relocatable buildings as part of the proposed STEM/Magnet school project. This review is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation for United States Department of Defense and The United State Air Force. We have evaluated the proposed site as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and have provided an environmental assessment of the proposed project areas.

There are no prime farmland soils in the subject area. In addition, we do not consider the construction of relocatable buildings to be a conversion of farmland. Therefore, the project is exempt from the FPPA. We have completed a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (form AD-1006) indicating the exemption.

The proposed project area is located on a complex of two soils; Zapata and Vinegarroon soils. These soils are shallow (less than 50 cm) to a moderately cemented patrocalcic layer. This restriction may provide difficulty in installing below-ground structures (utility or transmission poles, water lines, etc.). I have included a description of these soils as attachments for your use.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (254)742-9836 or by email at carlos.villarreal@tx.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

**CARLOS
VILLARREAL**

Digitally signed by CARLOS VILLARREAL
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of Agriculture,
cn=CARLOS VILLARREAL,
0.9.2342.19200300.100.1.1=1260100018
8866
Date: 2016.06.30 08:16:51 -05'00'

Carlos J. Villarreal
Soil Scientist

Attachment

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request 6/09/2016			
Name of Project STEM Magnet School Project		Federal Agency Involved USAF/NEPA			
Proposed Land Use Relocatable Buildings Insallation		County and State Val Verde County, Texas			
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS 6/29/2016		Person Completing Form: Carlos J. Villarreal	
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Acres Irrigated	
Major Crop(s)		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
Name of Land Evaluation System Used LESA		Name of State or Local Site Assessment System		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 06/30/2016	
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly					
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly					
C. Total Acres In Site					
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide important or Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)					
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	0	0	0
Site Selected:		Date Of Selection		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
Reason For Selection:					
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:				Date:	



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

July 20, 2016

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Project Number SWF-2016-00231, Proposed Magnet School

Mr. Danny Yandell
USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE
251 4th St, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

Dear Mr. Yandell:

This letter is in regard to information received June 15, 2016, concerning a proposal by the Department of the Air Force to construct an educational facility and associated infrastructure located in Val Verde County, Texas. This project has been assigned Project Number SWF-2016-00231. Please include this number in all future correspondence concerning this project.

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. USACE responsibility under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 is to regulate any work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the United States. The two potential sites, referred to as the Club Amistad site, which is 2.66 acres, and the Tweety Field site, which is 8.9 acres, are both located in upland areas. Based on your description of the proposed work, and other information available to us, we have determined this project will not involve activities subject to the requirements of Section 404 or Section 10. Therefore, it will not require Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404 and/or Section 10.

Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning our regulatory program, please refer to our website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory> or contact Ms. Hannah Halydier at the address above or telephone 817-886-1745 and refer to your assigned project number.

Please help the regulatory program improve its service by completing the survey on the following website: http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey

Sincerely,


For Stephen L. Brooks
Chief, Regulatory Division

Andrews, Emmy

From: david_hurd@nps.gov on behalf of IMRextrev, NPS <imrxtrev@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 2:03 PM
To: Andrews, Emmy
Cc: MARKELL, MELISSA L GS-13 USAF AFMC AFCEC/CZN; YANDELL, DANNY L GS-11 USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE
Subject: Re: Proposed Action at Laughlin AFB, Val Verde County, TX

Dear Ms. Andrews,

The National Park Service (NPS) would like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in your project. The NPS has reviewed this project and has found no comments at this time.

Regards,

National Park Service
Intermountain Region External Review Team
Serving MT, UT, WY, CO, AZ, NM, OK, TX
imrxtrev@nps.gov

On Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 1:43 PM, Andrews, Emmy <Emmy.Andrews@tetrattech.com> wrote:

Hello, please review the attachment. Thank you.

Emmy Andrews | Project Manager
Phone: 541.306.6319 | Fax: 510.433.0830

emmy.andrews@tetrattech.com

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
47TH FLYING TRAINING WING (AETC)

9 June 2016

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

JUN 14 2016

Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program

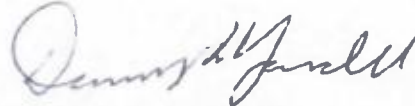
MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. Carter Smith
Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

FROM: CES/CEIE
251 Fourth Street, Building 100
Laughlin AFB, TX 78843

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment – Proposed Magnet School
Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB), TX

1. The United States Air Force (USAF) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of a construction project at Laughlin AFB, near Del Rio, Val Verde County, Texas. The installation proposes to lease land to the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District to construct and operate a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school for students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.
2. The EA will assess two potential school sites on the installation (Attachment 1) and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1, referred to as the Club Amistad site, is 2.66 acres and Alternative 2, referred to as the Tweety Field site, is 8.9 acres. Both sites are currently undeveloped and were previously developed with buildings that were recently demolished. Both sites are walking distance from installation housing and the Youth Center playground. A map of the proposed sites (Attachment 1) and a description of the proposed action (Attachment 2) are attached.
3. In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we are writing this letter to advise you of this proposal and request your assistance in identifying any potential issues related to the proposal. Please provide any comments you may have within 30 days of receipt of this letter.
4. The USAF intends to maximize the use of electronic transmittals during subsequent coordination phases of this project. If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of any documents, please indicate this in your response. If not, the Draft EA will be provided in an electronic format when it becomes available.


5. If you have any questions pertaining to this correspondence, please contact Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE, 251 4th St Building 100, Laughlin AFB, TX 78843, by email to danny.yandell@us.af.mil, or by phone at (830) 298-5746. Thank you for your assistance.



Mr. Danny Yandell, USAF
NEPA Program Manager

Attachments:

- 1 Project Location Maps
- 2 Project Description

	Based on the project description, the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources.
	Signed: <i>Russell Hoater</i> Date: <i>11 July 2014</i>

#36717 ERCS 13012

Andrews, Emmy

From: YANDELL, DANNY L GS-12 USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE <danny.yandell@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 4:05 AM
To: Andrews, Emmy
Subject: FW: Magnet School Portable Buildings

See below message

-----Original Message-----

From: lwalkingwoman@lipanapache.org [mailto:lwalkingwoman@lipanapache.org]
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 8:50 PM
To: YANDELL, DANNY L GS-12 USAF AETC 47 CES/CEIE <danny.yandell@us.af.mil>
Cc: deryan@geos.tamu.edu
Subject: Magnet School Portable Buildings

Dear Mr. Yandell,

Upon review of the information sent to our tribe's geologist, Dr. Darcie Ryan, we have no comment.

Thank you for letting us know about this project at Laughlin AFB.

Sincerely,

Linda Walking Woman
Director of Education
Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas

**PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR CONSTRUCTING A MAGNET SCHOOL AT
LAUGHLIN AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS**

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Title 42 *United States Code* sections 4321 to 4347, implemented by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, Title 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) §1500-1508, and 32 CFR §989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) assessed the potential environmental consequences associated with constructing a magnet school at Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB), Texas.

The purpose of the proposed project is to lease installation land for the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District (District) to provide a pre-kindergarten through fifth grade (PreK-5) school on LAFB, Texas, to accommodate 157 students. The need for the proposed action is to provide on-base elementary school education to assist the District in reaching an improved student-to-teacher ratio and as an alternative to base residents having to send their children off the base to schools in the District or elsewhere, or having to provide labor-intensive homeschooling.

The Environmental Assessment (EA), *Environmental Assessment for Constructing a Magnet School at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas*, dated October 2016 and incorporated by reference into this finding, analyzes the potential environmental consequences of activities associated with constructing a magnet school at LAFB, and provides environmental protection measures to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

The EA considers the potential impacts of Alternative 1 – Club Amistad Site, Alternative 2 – Tweety Field Site, and the No Action Alternative. Alternative 1 is the Air Force’s and the District’s Preferred Alternative. The EA also considers cumulative environmental impacts with other projects in the Region of Influence.

ALTERNATIVE 1 – CLUB AMISTAD SITE (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)

Under Alternative 1, the proposed magnet school would be constructed on a 2.66-acre site located north of the intersection of Mitchell Boulevard and 7th Street known as the Club Amistad Site. The District would install a campus of eight relocatable buildings, one permanent restroom building, and one playground on the site. The District would be responsible for all aspects of construction and operation of the school, including transporting non-base-resident students to and from the school, if necessary.

The lease would be for a period of 5 years, during which time both the base and the District would measure the interest and participation of LAFB residents. If interest is high and the population of PreK-5 children living within the attendance zone increases due to the presence of the school, one additional relocatable building may be placed on-site to accommodate the growing student population, increasing potential enrollment to as much as 201 students.

Toward the end of the 5-year lease, the District would continue to operate the temporary campus while planning for a permanent school facility on LAFB. The temporary campus would be dismantled after the permanent facility is ready for occupation. Construction of a permanent school would be addressed in a separate future EA.

The Club Amistad Site is on-base and within walking distance of the base housing area. The site is within 300 feet of the existing Youth Center playground and within 586 feet of an existing sports field. It is anticipated that the District would make an agreement with the Youth Center for use of this play area and that students would also use the sports field.

ALTERNATIVE 2 – TWEETY FIELD SITE

Under Alternative 2, the proposed magnet school would be constructed on an 8.9-acre site located west of the intersection of Arnold Boulevard and 7th Street. The lease terms and plans for moving to a permanent facility, if warranted, would be the same as described for Alternative 1. Like Alternative 1, eight relocatable buildings, one permanent restroom facility, and one playground would initially be constructed on-site, and an additional relocatable building could be added if warranted.

The Tweety Field Site is on-base and within walking distance of the base housing area. The site is within 500 feet of the existing Youth Center playground. It is anticipated that the District would make an agreement with the Youth Center for use of this play area.

The existing sports field and running track is not within close proximity and it is anticipated that a new sports field occupying approximately 2.8 acres would be constructed in the western portion of the site (near the traffic circle). The school buildings would likely be located in the eastern portion of the site (near 7th Street).

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed action would not be implemented. If the No Action Alternative was selected, the on-base capacity of PreK-5 classroom space at LAFB would not be provided, and the District's student-to-teacher ratio would remain unchanged. Not having an elementary campus on-base would continue to require LAFB residents to send their children off-base or to undergo labor-intensive homeschooling.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of the affected environment and environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives presented in the EA concluded that by implementing environmental protection measures and operational planning, the Air Force would be in compliance with all terms and conditions and reporting requirements.

The Air Force has concluded that no significant adverse effects would result from implementing the proposed action (Alternative 1 or Alternative 2). There is no substantive difference in environmental effects between Alternative 1 and 2. The Air Force and District selected Alternative 1 as the Preferred Alternative based on the expediency and cost savings of not having to build a sports field.

Implementing the proposed action would not have significant impacts on the following resources: air quality, noise, safety and occupational health, biological resources, socioeconomics and environmental justice, traffic and transportation, and utilities and infrastructure. The following resource areas have been examined and determined not to warrant further consideration because there would be no or negligible potential for effects from implementing the proposed action: aesthetics and visual resources, airspace, cultural resources, geological and earth resources, hazardous materials and waste, land use, recreation, and water resources. No significant adverse cumulative impacts would result from activities associated with either alternative when considered with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects.

The following text provides a summary of the impacts that could result from implementing the proposed action and presents the environmental protection measures, also known as best management practices (BMPs) that would be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts.

Air Quality. Short- and long-term minor adverse effects to air quality would be expected; no significant impacts would occur. Project construction and operation would generate air emissions. Construction emissions would include emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and worker vehicles; fugitive dust from grading and other earthmoving activities; and off-gassing from paving and architectural

coatings (such as paint). Operational emissions would include vehicle trips to and from the school and operation of the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units on the school's buildings.

Project construction would employ BMPs to minimize fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions. BMPs to minimize fugitive dust could include using water to control dust and cleaning streets as needed. BMPs to reduce tailpipe emissions could include minimizing unnecessary idling of vehicles and machinery. These BMPs are not necessarily all-inclusive; the District and any contractors would comply with all applicable air pollution control regulations.

Noise. Short-term moderate and long-term minor adverse effects would be expected. Construction noise at the residences nearest the site would be approximately 88 dB and could be perceived as intrusive by people outdoors at those residences. However, construction noise would be substantially less indoors (due to the shielding effects of walls and windows), would typically be limited to daytime and weekday hours unless there was an emergency, and would be temporary (6 to 9 months for construction and 2 to 3 months for dismantling), so effects would not be significant. During operation of the school, noise levels would be slightly elevated in the immediate vicinity of the school compared to current conditions due to additional people and activity in the area. Operational noise levels would be approximately 54 dB at the nearest residences, which is similar to existing background noise levels, and would not likely be perceptible above background noise levels further away.

Safety and Occupational Health. Short- and long-term minor adverse effects related to safety and occupational health could occur; no significant impacts would occur. During construction, workers and the public could be exposed to typical construction site safety risks. The school would be designed to have sufficient space for emergency responders to access the site and would have no effect on law enforcement, fire protection, or medical services.

All construction contractors would be responsible for maintaining an adequate safety program to minimize risks to workers and the public and complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration and state regulations. Each contractor would prepare and implement a site-specific health and safety plan, which would specify construction safety measures, such as holding daily safety briefings, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, identifying the amount and type of training required for workers performing certain tasks, establishing administrative and engineering controls to minimize health and safety risks, identifying BMPs for materials handling, and outlining general construction site safety. The construction site would be maintained in a clean and orderly manner and any spills would be stopped and cleaned up promptly. The construction site would be fenced and marked with signs to prevent public access. In the unlikely event that contaminated soil or water is encountered, work would stop in that area, a designated manager would be contacted, and work would not resume in the area until appropriate actions were taken to minimize any risks to health and safety.

The site would be fenced and "no trespassing" signs would be placed around the construction site to deter children from playing in the area, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. To eliminate children's potential exposure to hazardous materials in the school buildings, new construction would not use building products containing hazardous materials. A security fence would be placed around the perimeter of the school campus for operational security. Drop-off and pick-up points for children arriving by bus or car would be located away from main streets to the extent practicable. Crosswalks, sidewalks, and, if needed, additional measures such as crossing guards, would be used to help children cross streets safely.

Biological Resources. Short- and long-term minor adverse effects would be expected with regards to biological resources; no significant impacts would occur. Construction would involve vegetation removal but the site would be revegetated when construction was completed, so effects would be minor. Construction and operation could displace common wildlife; however, wildlife would be expected to relocate to similar habitat nearby, so effects would be minor. Similar to current conditions, no sensitive species would be likely to occur at the site, so there would be no effect on sensitive species.

Although habitat at the site is of low quality for migratory birds, it is possible that migratory birds could transit through area, perch or roost on trees or other structures at the site, or nest in trees at the site.

To avoid effects on migratory birds, any tree removal would occur between September and March (i.e., outside of the nesting season) to the extent possible. If trees required removal during the nesting season (i.e., from March to September), a qualified biologist would conduct a nest survey before tree removal; trees would only be removed if no active nests were found. If an active nest were found, an appropriate buffer would be established around the tree and work would not be conducted in that area until the nestlings fledged (left the nest) or the nest was abandoned.

Socioeconomics. Socioeconomic effects would be beneficial or negligible adverse and no measures to reduce effects are proposed. No significant impacts would occur. Construction and operation of the school would result in a minor beneficial effect on employment, industry, and income. It would also result in a negligible increase in population and need for housing. Effects on schools would be beneficial because the project would lower classroom student-to-teacher ratios and expand the school district's curriculum by offering the option of a STEM magnet school for families in the District, both of which would benefit the students' educational experience.

Environmental Justice and the Protection of Children. Effects on environmental justice communities would be beneficial and no measures to reduce effects are proposed. No significant impacts would occur. Providing an on-base elementary school would benefit the environmental justice populations on- and off-base by lowering classroom student-to-teacher ratios and offering a STEM magnet school for families in the District; both of these would benefit the students' educational experience. The proposed school's attendance for seats not filled by children living on-base would be open to students throughout the District; therefore, the redistribution of students within the District would not cause disproportionate impacts on minority or low-income populations. Implementing the proposed action would not result in disproportionate adverse environmental or health effects on low-income or minority populations.

No significant adverse effects on the protection of children would occur. To protect children, the site would be fenced and "no trespassing" signs would be placed around the construction site to deter children from playing in the area, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. To eliminate children's potential exposure to hazardous materials in the school buildings, new construction would not use building products containing hazardous materials. A security fence would be placed around the perimeter of the school campus for operational security. Drop-off and pick-up points for children arriving by bus or car would be located away from main streets to the extent practicable. Crosswalks, sidewalks, and, if needed, additional measures such as crossing guards, would be used to help children cross streets safely.

Traffic and Transportation. Short-term minor adverse effects would result from the increase in traffic during construction and dismantling of the temporary school campus. Operating the school would have minor long-term adverse effects near the school due to increased traffic in the immediate vicinity of the school; however, beneficial effects would occur in the broader region because fewer vehicle trips would be required to transport children to school. No significant adverse impacts would occur.

BMPs would be employed to provide safe access to the site for private vehicles, buses, pedestrians, and bicycles. The site layout, including ingress and egress, parking, and drop-off and pick-up areas, would be designed to provide for adequate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle safety. New lane markings, signage, and new or relocated crosswalks or bus stops, as appropriate, would be provided along adjacent streets to direct traffic and minimize effects to traffic circulation. Drop-off and pick-up areas would be located away from main streets to the extent possible. Crosswalks would be striped at convenient locations where children would cross existing roads to access the site. If appropriate, additional BMPs such as crossing guards, crossing flags, signage, or flashing lights could be used during peak school arrival and departure times.

Utilities and Infrastructure. Short-term minor adverse impacts related to construction activities and long-term minor adverse impacts related to increased demand during operation of the school would be expected; no significant impacts would occur. Because construction at either project site would disturb more than 1 acre, the project would require coverage under Texas Construction General Permit number TXR150000. To comply, a site-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) would be prepared and implemented. The SWPPP would assess potential pollutants, contain compliance requirements, and contain stormwater BMPs that would be implemented to prevent soil loss and minimize the exposure of unsecured soils during construction. BMPs could include erosion control measures such as silt fences, covering soil stockpiles, use of soil sealants, placing fill or gravel over disturbed areas in a timely manner, and protecting storm drain inlets and outlets.

Because Alternative 2 is expected to disturb more than 5 acres, in addition to a SWPPP, the District would be required to submit a Notice of Intent and Notice of Termination to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Based on my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, conducted under the provisions of NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and 32 CFR §989, I conclude that neither Alternative 1 nor 2 would have a significant environmental impact, either by itself or cumulatively with other known projects. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact completes the environmental impact analysis process.

Cynthia Oliva, GS-15
Acting Chief Resource Integration Division

Date