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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey For El Paso Natural Gas Project: Texas Gas Service Line Expansion Lateral And Meter Station, El Paso County, Texas

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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey For El Paso Natural Gas Project: Texas Gas Service Line Expansion Lateral And Meter Station, El Paso County, Texas

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**INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES
SURVEY FOR EL PASO NATURAL GAS
PROJECT: TEXAS GAS SERVICE LINE
EXPANSION LATERAL AND METER
STATION,
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for
Kinder Morgan, Inc.

Prepared by
SWCA Environmental Consultant

January 2015

**INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY FOR EL PASO
NATURAL GAS PROJECT: THE TEXAS GAS SERVICE LINE
EXPANSION LATERAL AND METER STATION, EL PASO
COUNTY, TEXAS**

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SWCA Project No. 31122
SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 14-685

Texas Historical Commission Antiquities Permit No. 7077

January 8, 2015

ABSTRACT

This report details the results of an intensive archaeological survey by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) for the proposed El Paso Natural Gas Project: Texas Gas Service Line Expansion Lateral and Meter Station. El Paso Natural Gas (EPNG), a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI) is proposing to extend the existing Line No. 20121 approximately 3.59 miles, install the Transmountain Delivery Meter Station (TDMS), and install a new pressure regulating station in order to supply Texas Gas Service Company with additional natural gas. The pipeline lateral would be constructed within an existing utility corridor, approximately 50 percent of which would be through a densely populated area within the city of El Paso, Texas, and would include approximately 15 public road crossings.

Approximately 3.59 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipe will be installed to extend EPNG's existing Line No. 20121 towards the city of El Paso. The extension of Line No. 20121 will be installed parallel to EPNG's Line No. 2034 and Line No. 2058. In addition to the lateral pipeline extension, EPNG proposes to build a new meter station and pressure regulating facility. The new lateral begins at approximately Milepost (MP) 0+0000 (Engineering Station [E.S.] 0+00), and continues north where it will terminate at the new Transmountain Delivery Meter Station (TDMS) located at approximately MP 3+3062 (E.S. 189+02). The new pressure regulating facility will be installed at the southernmost end (MP 0+0000) located in Track 2, Larkin Survey 264, Abstract 10031.

The Transmountain Delivery Meter Station, measuring 100 × 105 feet (0.24 acre), will include one 4-inch rotary meter, one 6-inch ultrasonic meter, and one 8-inch header assemblies, and be located in Section 10, Block 82, Township 1, Texas & Pacific Railroad Company Survey, El Paso County, Texas. EPNG will own and operate the lateral, delivery meter station and pressure regulating facility. The new lateral pipeline will have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,080 pounds per square inch gauge, and the meter station will be designed to deliver up to 59 million cubic feet per day. The lateral line will be installed within EPNG's existing permanent right-of-way.

The project is located on both private land and land owned by the City of El Paso. This project can be accomplished under blanket authority granted to EPNG by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in its order issued September 8, 1982 in Docket No. CP82-435-000; Section 157.208(a) and Section 157.211(a). Archaeological survey was conducted on City of El Paso land under Texas Historical Commission Archaeological Permit No. 7077.

The background literature review determined that one archaeological site and a portion of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) was located within the project area. Upon completion of the archaeological survey; the previously recorded site originally thought to be within the project area was outside the area of potential effect (APE). However, a new archaeological site was discovered within the APE (Atlas 2014).

During the SWCA field investigation, one new archaeological site and one isolated occurrence were encountered. Because the project will be rerouted more than 40 feet away from the contributing elements of the site and temporary fencing will be installed to mark the area as a no disturbance zone, SWCA recommends a finding of no historic properties affected for the project.

No further archaeological work is recommended for the project area. However, if previously undocumented buried cultural resources are identified during ground-disturbing activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery should stop until the find can be evaluated by a professional archaeologist.

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DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

El Paso Natural Gas (EPNG), a Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI) company, proposes to extend EPNG's existing Line No. 20121, install a new meter station (the Transmountain Delivery Meter Station), and install a new pressure-regulating station all located in El Paso County, Texas. The pipeline lateral would be constructed within an existing utility corridor, approximately 50 percent of which would be through a densely populated area within the city of El Paso, Texas, and would include approximately 15 public road crossings (Figure 1–Figure 5). The project is located on both private land and land owned by the City of El Paso. This project can be accomplished under blanket authority granted to EPNG by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in its order issued September 8, 1982 in Docket No. CP82-435-000; Section 157.208(a) and Section 157.211(a). Archaeological survey was conducted on City of El Paso land under Texas Historical Commission Archaeological Permit No. 7077.

Approximately 3.59 miles of 12-inch-diameter pipe will be installed to extend EPNG's existing Line No. 20121 towards the city of El Paso. The extension of Line 20121 will be installed parallel to EPNG's Line No. 2034 and Line No. 2058. In addition to the lateral pipeline extension, EPNG proposes to build a new meter station and pressure regulating facility. The new lateral begins at approximately MP 0+0000 (E.S. 0+00), and continues north where it will terminate at the new Transmountain Delivery Meter Station located at approximately MP 3+3062 (E.S. 189+02). The new pressure regulating facility will be installed at the southernmost end (MP 0+0000) located in Tract 2, Larkin Survey 264, Abstract 10031.

The Transmountain Delivery Meter Station, measuring 100 × 105 feet (0.24 acre), will include one 4-inch rotary meter, one 6-inch ultrasonic meter, and one 8-inch header assemblies, and be located in Section 10, Block 82, Township 1, Texas & Pacific Railroad Company Survey, El Paso County, Texas. EPNG will own and operate the lateral, delivery meter station and pressure regulating facility. The new lateral pipeline will have a maximum allowable operating pressure of 1,080 pounds per square inch gauge, and the meter station will be designed to deliver up to 59 million cubic feet per day. The lateral line will be installed within EPNG's existing permanent right-of-way.

The “footprint of disturbance” includes EPNG's existing right-of-way easement, new permanent right-of-way and temporary workspace. On the north end of the project, EPNG will utilize its existing 60-foot wide permanent easement, obtain an additional 25 feet of new right-of-way and an additional 20 feet of temporary workspace from the meter station, south, for a length of 727 feet. The new and temporary workspace will be located on the east side of the existing pipeline corridor. The total construction corridor will be 105 feet wide at this location. In addition approximately 207 feet × 149 feet (0.71 acre) of temporary workspace will be required for the installation of the meter station.

Except for the workspace area described above, EPNG's existing permanent easement is 100 feet wide. During construction, an additional 25 feet of temporary workspace will be utilized on the east side of the easement for 2,669 feet to just north of Transmountain Road. Other locations where temporary workspace will be required will be on the north side of State Highway (SH) 375 measuring 327 feet × 155 feet on the east side of the easement; on the south side of SH 375 measuring 1,208 feet × 50 feet on the west side of the easement and 3,197 feet × 25 feet on the

east side of the easement. At the location of the reroute around the cultural site there will be temporary workspaces on the west side of the easement measuring 200 feet × 30 feet and on the east side of the easement south of the site measuring 796 feet × 25 feet. Construction activities will be confined within the existing 100-foot easement in developed areas for approximately 1.91 miles. Depths of impact are anticipated to range from 3 to 5 feet. In all, the area of potential effects (APE) totals approximately 81.9 acres.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

EPNG, a KMI company, retained SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to perform an archaeological background review and intensive pedestrian survey of the APE from the proposed Texas Gas Service Line Expansion Lateral and Meter Station. This investigation was conducted to determine whether the undertaking will impact any significant archaeological resources. This project can be accomplished under blanket authority granted to EPNG by the FERC in its order issued September 8, 1982, in Docket No. CP82-435-000; Section 157.208(a) and Section 157.211(a). The project area is located on and north of the city of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, and may be found on the Canutillo, TX/NM (31106-H5) and Smelertown, TX/NM (31106-G5) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles. The survey covered 81.9 acres of private and City of El Paso lands. The principal investigator for this project is Cherie Walth in SWCA's Albuquerque office (cwalth@swca.com, 505-254-1115).

Fieldwork was conducted on November 23, 2014, by SWCA archaeologists Kent Mead and Nina Williams. One newly recorded site and one isolated occurrence (IO) were encountered during the course of the survey. No artifacts were collected. The archaeological survey was conducted on City of El Paso land under THC Archaeological Permit No. 7077.



Figure 1. MP 3+3064 - Proposed location of Transmountain Delivery Meter Station, facing north (Digital Roll 31122, Frame T15-2707).



Figure 2. MP 0+0000 - Location of new pressure regulation station, facing south (Digital Roll 31122, Frame T11-6091).

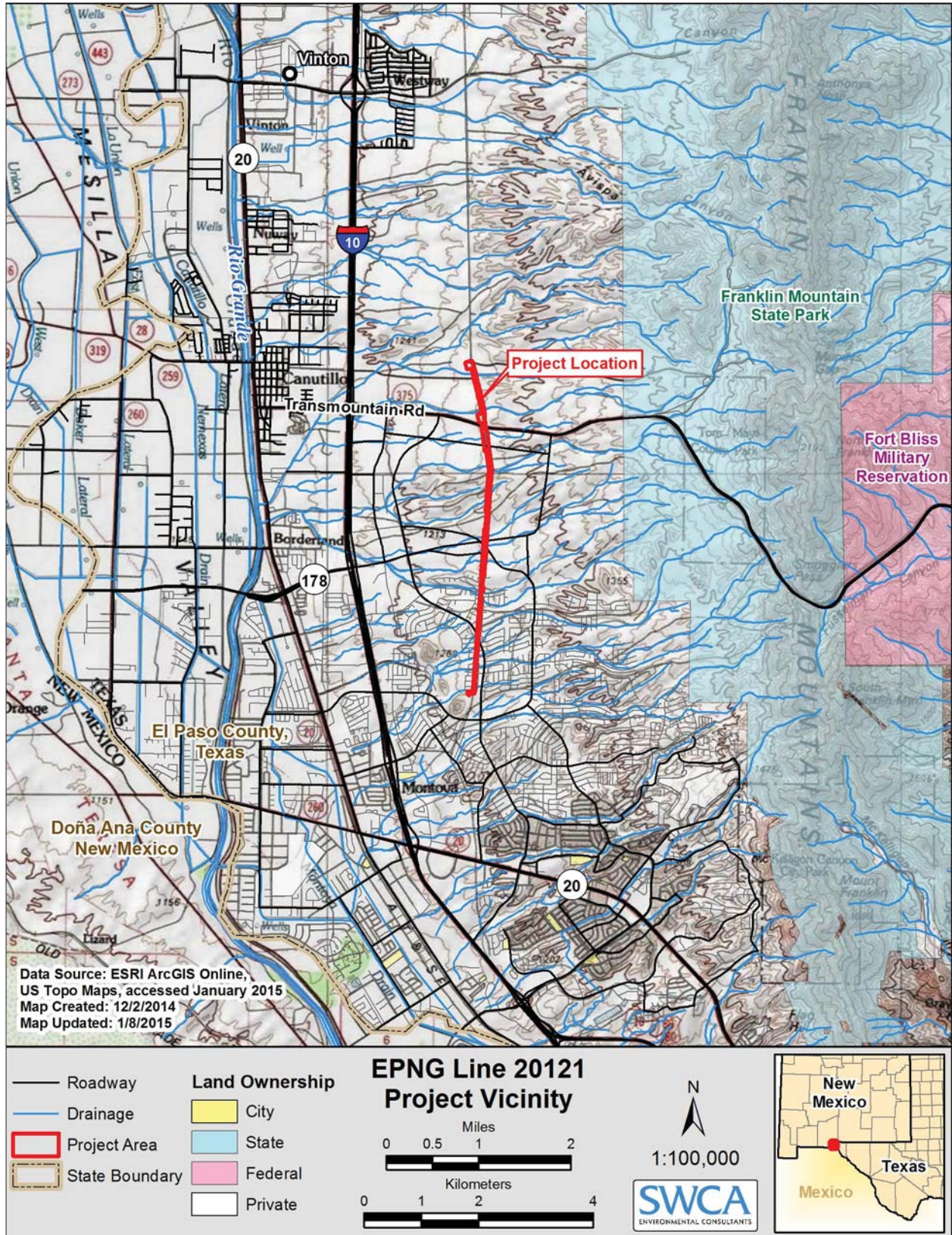


Figure 3. Project vicinity map.

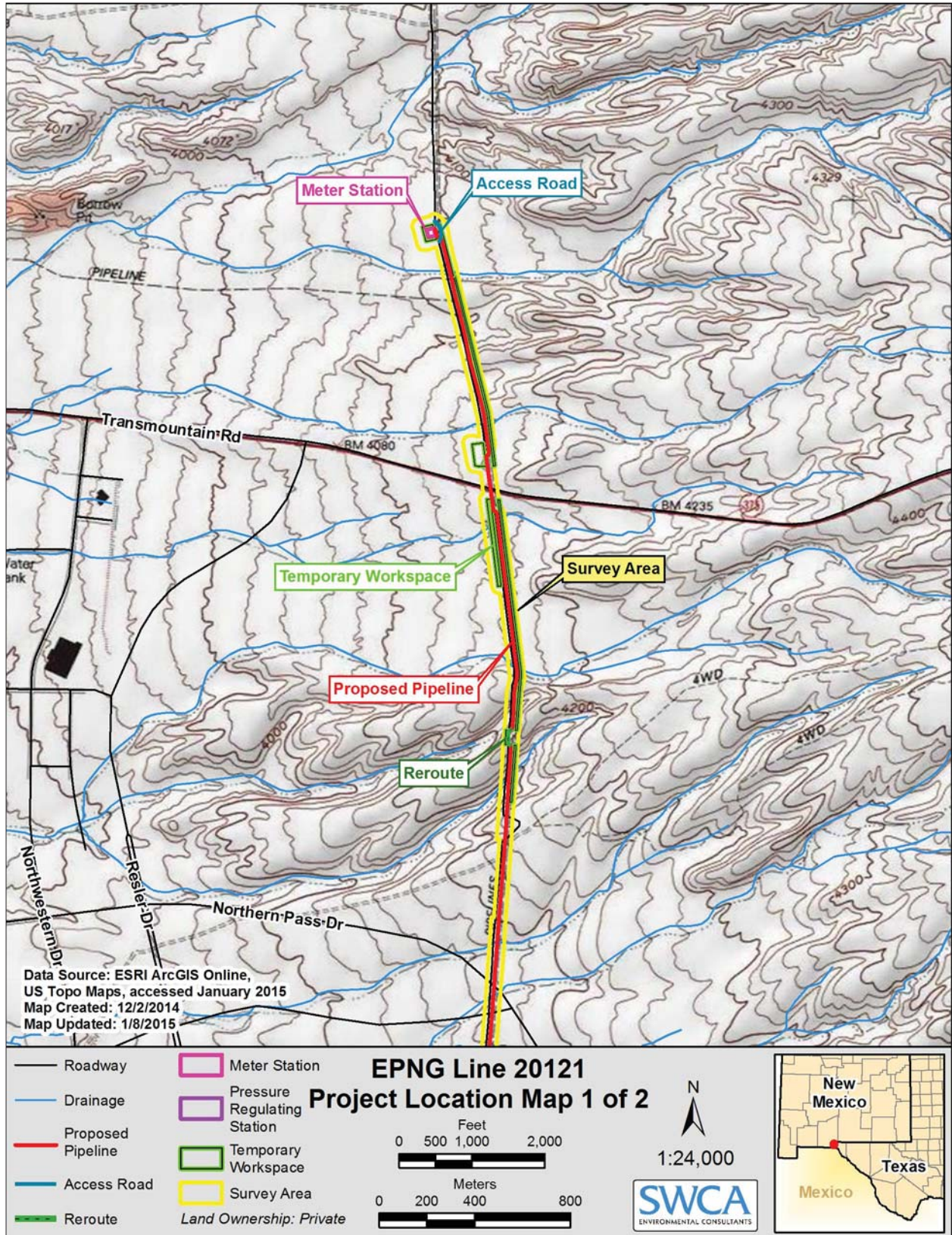


Figure 4. Project location map (1 of 2).

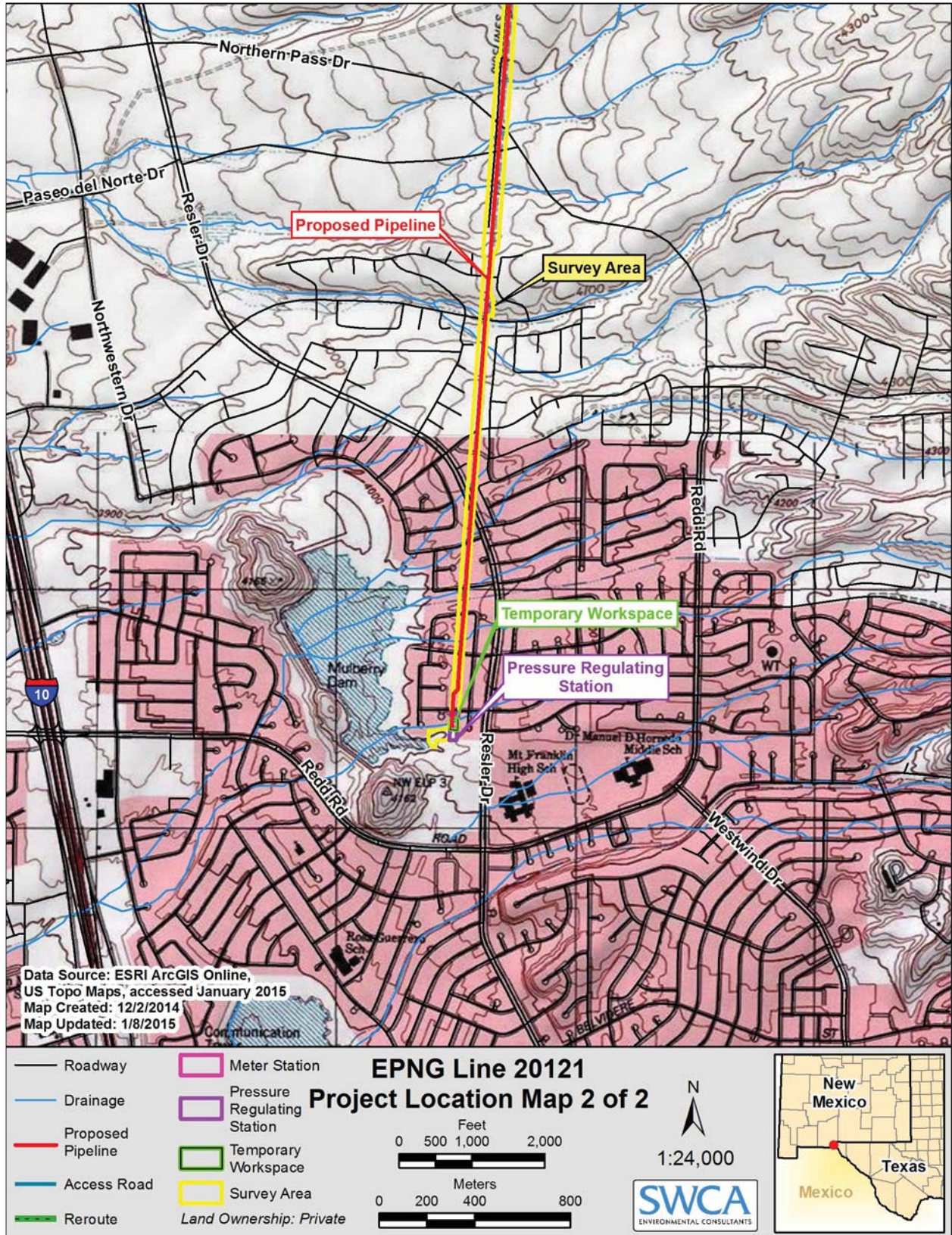


Figure 5. Project location map (2 of 2).

ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

The project is located in Chihuahuan Desertscrub habitat along the slopes of the Franklin Mountains (Brown 1994). The soils within the project belong to the Delnorte-Canutio association and typically occupy piedmont fans and hilly areas (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2014). Specifically, the soils within the project area consist of very gravelly loam and very gravelly sandy loam, 1 to 8 and 3 to 30 percent slopes (NRCS 2014). The Delnorte-Canutio association, undulating, was formed from Pleistocene-age gravelly alluviums. The Delnorte association consists of very gravelly loam (0–10 inches), cemented material (10–30 inches), and extremely gravelly fine sand (30–80 inches), whereas the Canutio association consists of very gravelly sandy loam (0–45 inches) (NRCS 2014). The Delnorte-Canutio association, hilly, was also formed from Pleistocene-age gravelly alluviums. The Delnorte association consists of very gravelly loam (0–10 inches), cemented material (10–30 inches) and extremely gravelly fine sand (30–80 inches), whereas the Canutio association consists of very gravelly sandy loam (0–11 inches) and very cobbly sandy loam (11–45 inches) (NRCS 2014).

The desert scrub vegetation observed in the project area is dominated by creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), with minor components of javelina bush (*Condalia ericoides*), littleleaf ratany (*Krameria erecta*), and desert marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*). At the time of the field survey there was a high cover of annual grasses, predominantly sixweeks grama (*Bouteloua barbata*), with scattered bristly wolfstail (*Lycurus setosus*) and feather fingergrass (*Chloris virgata*). Also, erect spiderling (*Boerhavia erecta*) and annual windmills (*Allionia choisyi*) form a continuous ground cover in many places.

Throughout the project area, stream channels support a variable mix of mesic shrubs, such as splitleaf brickellbush (*Brickellia laciniata*), resinbush (*Viguiera stenoloba*), and littleleaf sumac (*Rhus microphylla*). Larger channels often contain desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*). Diverse forbs encountered in streams include sacred thorn-apple (*Datura wrightii*), slimlobe globeberry (*Ibervillea tenuisecta*), and grasses such as purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*) and streambed bristlegrass (*Setaria leucopila*).

In residential neighborhoods prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) dominates disturbed areas, along with puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*), feather fingergrass, lemonscent (*Pectis angustifolia*), and tansyleaf tansyaster (*Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*).

The proposed pressure regulation station contains a low-lying drainage that supports very tall (33+ feet) desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) and honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). Other common shrubs include splitleaf brickellbush (*Brickellia laciniata*), resinbush, Jerusalem thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*), littleleaf sumac, purple pricklypear (*Opuntia macrocentra*), Torrey's jointfir (*Ephedra torreyana*), sacred thorn-apple (*Datura wrightii*), and herbaceous weeds common to all disturbed areas such as prickly Russian thistle and puncturevine.

Fauna noted in the project area includes eight bird species, three mammals, and two reptiles. These include black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), white-winged dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), mourning dove (*Z. macroura*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), packrat (*Neotoma* sp.),

desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), common checkered whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tesselatus*), and common lesser earless lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*).

Regarding previous disturbances, a review of recent aerial photography indicates that the project area has been under development by large housing tracts. The existing easement traverses many of these subdivisions. Much of the area has been moderately to severely adversely impacted by years of construction, infrastructure, and development.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Based on a review of the project area soils, geology, recorded archaeological sites, and the results of previously conducted surveys in the vicinity of the project area, SWCA proposed to conduct an intensive pedestrian survey within the project area. The goal of the work was to locate all prehistoric and historic archeological sites in the APE, establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the APE, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded in the APE for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and designation as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL). All work was done in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Antiquities Code of Texas (13 Texas Administrative Code [TAC] 26.20), THC policy, and the National Historic Preservation Act. The overall approach ensures that all project-related impacts are investigated thoroughly for their potential to affect cultural resources.

If an archaeological site was encountered in the proposed project area during the investigation, it would be explored as much as possible with consideration to land access constraints. Any discovered sites would be assessed in regards to potential significance so that recommendations can be made for proper management (avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work). Additional shovel tests would be conducted per THC standards at any discovered sites to define horizontal and vertical boundaries. Appropriate State of Texas Archaeological Site Data Forms would be filled out for each site discovered during the investigations. A detailed plan map of each site would be produced and locations plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles and relevant project maps. SWCA proposed a non-collection survey. Artifacts would be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts would be described in detail and photographed in the field.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Considering the setting of the APE, there was generally a low probability that intact, buried prehistoric cultural resources sites would be encountered within the project area. New housing developments within much of the proposed project area indicated a low probability of identifying any new cultural resources.

ANALYSIS, REPORT PREPARATION, CURATION

Once the archaeological survey has been completed, SWCA will analyze the field data, produce a report of the investigations, and curate all artifacts and documents. Analysis of field data will include mapping, the production of official State of Texas site forms for all documented sites and the acquisition of trinomials from the Texas Archaeological Research Lab (TARL), analysis and

tabulation of shovel tests and results, and the review, organization, and assessment of field notes. Once this is complete, SWCA will prepare a report of the investigations. The report will be in conformance with reporting standards of 13 TAC 26.24 as well as Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) reporting guidelines. The archaeological report will document previous investigations in the area, background cultural settings, the methodology used in the investigations, the presence and condition of any previously recorded sites revealed in the records review, the general nature and extent of cultural resources encountered during the archaeological survey, the ownership of the land for each site location, recommendations on the need for further work, and the potential significance of the cultural resources in regards to future development and eligibility for listing as an SAL or on the NRHP. The report will contain recommendations for further work, if necessary, on the project with appropriate justifications based on the requirements of 13 TAC 26.20 and defined in 13 TAC 26.5.

Draft copies of the report will be submitted to KMI for review and comment. Once this has been accomplished, any appropriate edits will be made and two copies of the draft report will be submitted to the THC and any other relevant agencies. Once the reporting process is complete, two paper copies of the final report and one electronic copy (CDs with the electronic document in tagged PDF format) will be submitted to THC. An additional 10 hard copies of the final report will be sent to various designated repositories throughout the state. In addition, though SWCA is proposing a non-collection policy, in the unlikely event that artifacts are recovered, all recovered artifacts and documentation will be curated at an approved repository. Pursuant to 13 TAC 26.27 (g)(1), recovered artifacts (if any) will be curated at an approved curation facility, which will be in this case the TARL in Austin, Texas. These artifacts will be washed, analyzed, and cataloged according to TARL curation standards. Records, files, field notes, forms, documentation of disposed artifacts, and other required documentation will be archived and included in the curation package.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA performed a cultural resources file records review on October 8, 2014, to determine whether the project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and whether any archaeological sites have been recorded in or near the project area. To conduct this review, SWCA project manager Kimberly Parker reviewed the USGS Canutillo, TX/NM and Smelertown, TX/NM 7.5-minute quadrangles at the TARL and searched the THC Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) database and site files at TARL. These sources provide information on the nature and location of previously conducted archaeological surveys, previously recorded cultural resource sites, locations of NRHP properties, sites designated as SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers, Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys.

In 2006, SWCA had surveyed an area that overlaps with this project area. Several sites were recorded, which are primarily north of the current project area, and they were all recommended not eligible to the NRHP, with concurrence from Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. One previously recorded site is in the project area and it is recommended not eligible. The project area is within the Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID) boundary.

PROJECT RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FIELD METHODS AND SURVEY

The goal of the archaeological survey was to locate all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the defined APE, establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any sites recorded for designation as an SAL. Once an Antiquities Permit was obtained, SWCA conducted an intensive 100 percent ground coverage archaeological field survey of the proposed project area. The survey was of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, significance of cultural resources located within the proposed project area. An additional 50-foot buffer was added to the survey. This buffer was also a part of the Class III survey. The survey was conducted at 15-m intervals in parallel transects within the project area. Temporally diagnostic artifacts, if present, were to be described in detail and photographed in the field. Only especially rare artifacts or discoveries were to be collected.

On November 23, 2014, SWCA archaeologists Kent Mead and Nina Williams conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area. One new archaeological site and one IO were identified during the survey. In addition, the project area is partially located within the boundaries of the EBID. However, no elements of this property are located within the proposed project area. All features associated with EBID appear to be west of Interstate 10 and, therefore, west of the current APE.

The intensive pedestrian field survey consisted of SWCA archaeologists walking over the proposed project area. The project area covered 99.9 acres, of which 18 acres cross housing developments. The remaining 81.9 acres was intensively surveyed. SWCA assumed that the surface-visibility percentage would be high enough that no shovel tests would be necessary.

41EP7108

Additional Site Number: 31122-1

UTM Data: See Appendix A

USGS: Canutillo (31106-H5)

County: El Paso

Elevation: 1,272 m (4,174 feet)

Landowner: Private

Cultural Affiliation and Age: Unspecified Native American (< A.D. 1850)

Site Type: Artifact scatter with features

Size: 324 m² (3,484 square feet, or 0.08 acre)

NRHP Eligibility Recommendation: Eligible

Management Recommendations: Avoid

SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is a lithic scatter with two hearth features (Figure 6 and Figure 7). The site measures 27 m (northeast-southwest) × 17 m (northwest-southeast) (86 × 56 feet). The site is estimated to be 90 percent intact and is in good condition with little disturbance of the artifacts and features. The pipeline and access road does not appear to have caused any disturbance to the site. No artifacts were observed in the pipeline scar or road cut, suggesting that the site boundary does not extend that far west. The estimated maximum depth of subsurface cultural deposits is 0 to 10 cm, based on the location of the site atop a rocky hill with some deflation from wind and water erosion. Creosotebush, yucca, and grasses slightly obscure surface visibility, which is estimated at 70 percent.



Figure 6. Site overview of 41EP7108, facing southeast (Roll 31122, Frame T11-7327).

Figure 7. Site map of 41EP7108. (MAP REMOVED)

FEATURES

Two features were identified within the site. They are both hearths located on top of the ridge and are described below.

Feature 1

Feature 1 is a poorly preserved rock-ringed hearth measuring 1.2 m east-west by 1.0 m north-south. The stones forming the ring are partially disarticulated but the north and west margins still appear in place and partially imbedded in sediments. The stones consist of locally available rhyolite and granite. These stones range in size from 10 to 25 cm in maximum dimension. A couple of the igneous rocks show evidence of scorching and thermal fracturing. The surrounding ground surface is a dense desert pavement of the same material derived from the alluvial fan upon which the site is located.



Figure 8. Feature 1 at 41EP7108, view north-northeast (Digital Roll 31122, Frame T11-1352).

Feature 2

Feature 2 consists of a disarticulated concentration of cobbles and boulders of locally available igneous and limestone rock. This feature measures approximately 1.8 m east-west by 2.4 m north-south. The stones measure 15 to 40 cm in maximum dimension. The function of this concentration is undetermined. A few of the boulders are embedded in the sediments. Feature 2 is located at the south shoulder slope of the ridge. Some material appears to be eroding downslope to the south. A couple flakes of Thunderbird black rhyolite are located in the immediate vicinity of this concentration of rock.



Figure 9. Feature 2 at 41EP7108, view south (Digital Roll 31122, Frame T11-0825).

MATERIAL IDENTIFIED

Observed cultural materials consist of 11 pieces of lithic debitage and flaked stone tools that are concentrated on top of the ridge (Table 1 and Table 2). The cultural assemblage includes a black basalt core, a black rhyolite core, a black chert modified flake, a siltstone flake, and various rhyolite flakes. No diagnostic artifacts were identified during site recording.

Table 1. All Observed Lithic Debitage at 41EP7108

Material Color/Type	Cortex Present	Maximum Length of Flake (cm)						Type Total	Material Total
		1	2	3	4	5	5+		
Black rhyolite	≥ 50% cortex								6
	≤ 50% cortex				1		2	3	
	No cortex				1			1	
	Cortical shatter			1		1		2	
Black basalt	Non-cortical shatter								1
	≥ 50% cortex						1	1	
	≤ 50% cortex								
	No cortex								
	Cortical shatter								
	Non-cortical shatter								

Material Color/Type	Maximum Length of Flake (cm)							Type Total	Material Total
	Cortex Present	1	2	3	4	5	5+		
Brown siltstone	≥ 50% cortex								1
	≤ 50% cortex								
	No cortex					1		1	
	Cortical shatter								
	Non-cortical shatter								
Total		0	0	1	2	2	3		8

Table 2. Stone Tool Artifacts Observed at 41EP7108

PL No.	Material Type	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Description
	Rhyolite	7.0	5.3	2.5	Complete black multi-directional core with 30 percent cortex.
	Chert	6.0	5.0	1.4	Complete black edge-modified flake with one retouched margin and 30 percent cortex.
1	Basalt	11.5	11.0	4.0	Complete black multi-directional core with 80 percent cortex (Figure 10).

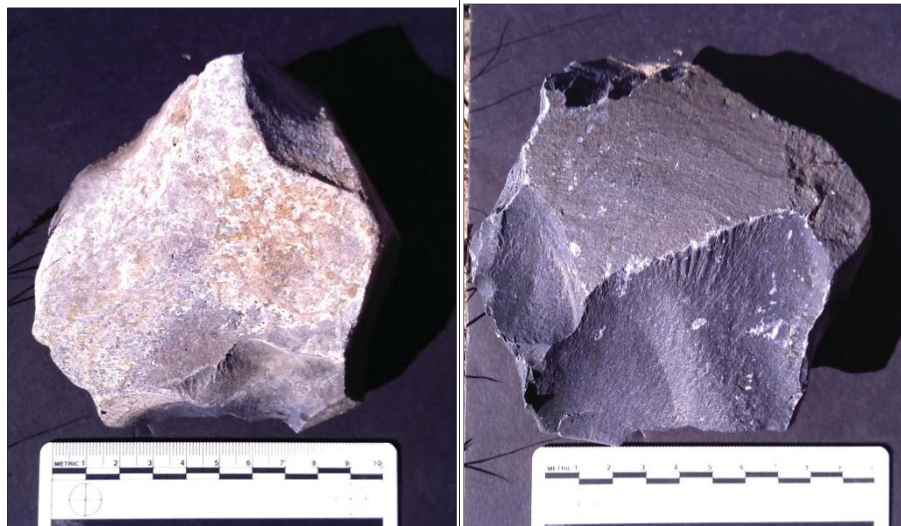


Figure 10. PL 1, multi-directional core (Digital Roll 31122, Frames T11-9837 and T-11-8645).

SITE CHRONOLOGY

An unspecified Native American affiliation (< A.D. 1850) was assigned to this site due to the lack of any diagnostic artifacts.

SITE INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARY

Site 41EP7108 consists of a lithic scatter with two hearth features. The site is in good condition with little disturbance of the artifacts and features. The assemblage indicates that limited tool manufacturing occurred at the site. This site is likely the remnants of a small temporary camp utilized during regional resource exploitation or seasonal movements throughout the area.

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Site 41EP7108 is a lithic scatter with two hearth features. The presence of the two hearth features suggests a potential for additional data that could inform us on the chronology of this site. Therefore, SWCA recommends the site eligible to the NRHP under Criterion D. THC did not concur with SWCA's recommendation. THC recommends that the site is undetermined and that test excavations would be needed to complete the identification process.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

REMOVED

ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The EBID is located within both New Mexico and Texas. It was placed on the NRHP in 1997. The district has 217 contributing elements that are spread over a large discontinuous area and is centered on the Bureau of Reclamation's Rio Grande Project. The Rio Grande Project was authorized in 1905 and consolidated and reconstructed small privately built water diversion and conveyance structures in both the Rincon and Mesilla Valleys. Because the water output became dependable, thousands of acres of land became irrigable. The EBID is one of three irrigation systems of the larger Rio Grande Project. Within the EBID are three diversion dams and over 200 canals, laterals, and drains, as well as the Leasburg Dam Tender's Residence and four siphons (U.S. Department of the Interior 2014).

Although the proposed project is located within a portion of the EBID boundary, there are no features of this district within the current APE. There will be no adverse visual impacts to this property from the proposed project, as the majority of it will be underground and the other aboveground features are within an already existing recently constructed built environment.

ISOLATED OCCURRENCES

In total, one IO was recorded during the course of this investigation (Figure 11). IO 1 consists of a purple glass decorative shard that exhibits unifacially worked flaked modification on all four margins. Flaking appears to be cultural and measures 3.2 cm long, 2.8 cm wide, and 1.4 cm thick. Flake scars originate on the flat side and terminate on the rounded side, similar to a unidirectional core. It appears to be fashioned into a steep beveled scraper. It is unknown if this item represents a historically modified artifact or if it is modern. It was found atop a modern push pile of asphalt, concrete, and rebar at the head of a shallow drainage.



Figure 11. IO 1 (Digital Roll 31122, Frame T11-1402 and T11-4042).

SUMMARY

At the request of KMI, SWCA conducted a cultural resources survey of EPNG's proposed Texas Gas Service Line Expansion Lateral and Meter Station in El Paso County, Texas. The project is a federal undertaking and subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 United States Code 470) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800). The work was performed to determine whether the proposed use of the area would affect significant cultural resources. The archaeological investigation included an archaeological background records review and an intensive pedestrian survey.

The background literature review determined that one archaeological site and a portion of the EBID was located within the project area (Atlas 2014). Upon completion of the archaeological survey; the previously recorded site originally thought to be within the project area was outside the APE. However, a new archaeological site was discovered within the APE.

During the SWCA field investigation, one new archaeological site and one IO were encountered. Because the project will be rerouted more than 40 feet away from the contributing elements of the site and temporary fencing will be installed to mark the area as a "no disturbance zone", SWCA recommends a finding of no historic properties affected for the project. No further archaeological work is recommended for the project area. However, if previously undocumented buried cultural resources are identified during ground-disturbing activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery should stop until the find can be evaluated by a professional archaeologist.

REFERENCES

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**APPENDIX A
SITE LOCATION DATA**

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DATA REMOVED

Table A.1: Cultural Resource Location Information