

Floodplain Statement of Findings for Installation of Gaging Station (E110.7)

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: On June 2, 2022, EM-LA issued a Notice of Proposed Floodplain Action for Lower Los Alamos Canyon Gaging Station. The public comment period for that Proposed Action opened on June 2, 2022 and closed on June 16, 2022.

The Proposed Action would include removal of an inoperable Gaging Station (E109.9) and installation of a new Gaging Station (E110.7) in the 100-year floodplain of Los Alamos Canyon. The new gaging station would monitor storm water flow from the Los Alamos Canyon watershed into the Rio Grande. EM-LA worked closely with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and the Buckman Direct Diversion Board to develop this Proposed Action.



Figure 1. Locations of Gaging Stations E109.9 and E110.7 in Lower Los Alamos Canyon

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022, *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements* and provides a summary of the Floodplain Assessment for the Lower Los Alamos Canyon Gaging Station E110.7 Installation. The Notice of Proposed Action was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, and persons or groups known to be interested in or potentially affected by

the proposed floodplain action. It was also made available to the public on the and in local newspapers. No comments were received.

ALTERNATIVES: The other alternative evaluated for floodplain impacts was a no-action alternative. The no-action alternative was not selected, as it could have potential impacts to human health and the environment resulting from the BDD operating during storm water events in Los Alamos Canyon. An active gaging station will notify BDD of storm water flow from Los Alamos Canyon watershed at the Rio Grande so they can decide whether to cease diversion from the Rio Grande. To have a functional flow-monitoring gage, the site has to be in close proximity to the watercourse for accurate measurements, necessitating a gaging station within the floodplain

FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS: EM-LA has determined that to have a functional flow-monitoring gaging station, E110.7 will be located in the floodplain and partially within the ordinary high-water mark of the Los Alamos Canyon channel to monitor storm water flow. Best management practices will be implemented to minimize and mitigate any impacts to the floodplain and stream channel. The majority of impacts will be short term and occur during installation of the gaging station. This Proposed Action will not significantly modify existing topography or flow paths within the floodplain upstream or downstream of the project site. Therefore, post-project conditions will not significantly deviate from pre-project conditions or result in other long-term, negative impacts to the floodplain and its functionality. No impacts to lives and property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated. Any disturbed areas outside the identified project area will be revegetated or stabilized. No impacts to lives and private property are anticipated from this project.

Should activities require removal of shrubs or trees, they will be conducted in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which restricts vegetation removal during peak bird breeding season, May 15 through July 31, unless a biological resource specialist has conducted a survey to ensure that there are no nesting birds present. If active nests are found, the nest, tree, or shrub will be left in place until the nesting is complete.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact Jesse Kahler via email at jesse.kahler@em.doe.gov