

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Rural Development

Arroyo ProjectCo 1, LLC, Arroyo ProjectCo 2, LLC, Arroyo ProjectCo 3, LLC, Arroyo ProjectCo 4, LLC, Arroyo ProjectCo 5, LLC, Arroyo ProjectCo 6, LLC, and Arroyo ProjectCo 7, LLC (Arroyo Portfolio): Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Arroyo Portfolio. The proposal is for construction of the Proposed Arroyo Portfolio in Cameron County. Arroyo Portfolio has submitted an application to RBS for funding of the proposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Michael Self, Business & Cooperative Programs Director, 101 South Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501, at 254-742-9979 or michael.self@usda.gov. The EA is also available for public review at Edinburg Area Office, 2514 South Veterans Blvd., Ste 4, Edinburg, TX 78539

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Arroyo Portfolio will consist of the construction, operation, and maintenance of seven 25.7-MWac stand-alone battery storage system (BESS), as well as an interconnection to the proposed substation, and necessary safety features including access roads, perimeter roads, and fencing. The project area is located southwest of Searcy Ranch Road near Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas 78550. The purpose of the Proposed Project is to provide a zero-carbon resource to help improve grid reliability and resilience as growth in intermittent renewable generation increases volatility.

True North Consultants, Inc., an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RBS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. The Proposed Project would be required to obtain coverage under the statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Stormwater Permit for Construction

Activities. Coverage under the NPDES Permit would require implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and various Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce

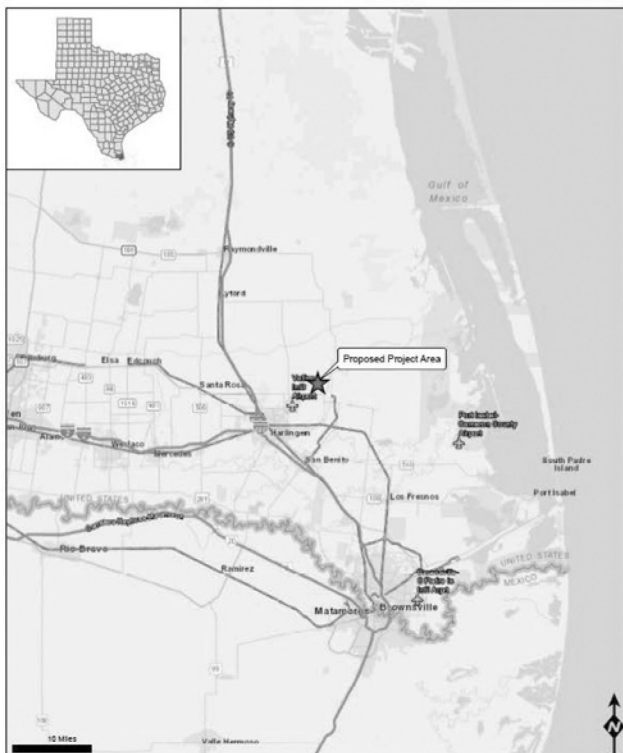
erosion and loss of topsoil during construction. Compliance with the NPDES permit and identified BMPs would ensure impacts from erosion would be less than significant. Additionally, once the Proposed Project has reached its operational end, the Proposed Project Area will be decommissioned and returned to its pre-construction state of cropland following the guidelines of the SWPPP.

RBS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RBS at the address provided. RBS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RBS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.



Dated: May 15, 2024