

From: [BROWN, MICHELLE L](#)
To: [Poole, Andrea](#); [LEW, DENNIS \(CTR\)](#)
Cc: [DOIRON, LYNN](#)
Subject: RE: Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridges
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 10:54:17 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Good morning Andrea,

Thank you for your invitation for U.S. Customs and Border Protection to participate in the Surface Transportation Board NEPA review process for the Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge project (Docket No. FD 36652), but CBP respectfully declines. Based on previous discussions with the STB and the proponent, the CBP requirements for NEPA documentation appear to be minimal. As the project progresses and NEPA responsibilities are more well-defined, CBP will reassess its position. For the moment, most of the CBP involvement with this project will be to provide design input for the Customs facilities, and CBP will continue to work directly with the proponent in that regard. CBP personnel will be available to provide input to the NEPA process but do not envision the need to be a cooperating agency.

Thank you,

Michelle Brown

Environmental Section Chief
Energy and Environmental Program Management Office
Office of Facilities and Asset Management
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Cell: (202) 379-8105 | Michelle.L.Brown@cbp.dhs.gov

From: Poole, Andrea <andrea.poole@stb.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:48 AM
To: LEW, DENNIS (CTR) <dennis.lew@cbp.dhs.gov>
Cc: BROWN, MICHELLE L <michelle.l.brown@cbp.dhs.gov>; DOIRON, LYNN <lynn.doiron@cbp.dhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridges

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Dennis, Thank you for the update. We appreciate the coordination and look forward to working with the design standards group and the Applicant to get the details needed to complete our review.

Best regards, Andrea

Andrea

New Mobile Number: 202-934-3330

From: LEW, DENNIS (CTR) <dennis.lew@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:26 AM

To: Poole, Andrea <andrea.poole@stb.gov>

Cc: BROWN, MICHELLE L <michelle.l.brown@cbp.dhs.gov>; DOIRON, LYNN <lynn.doiron@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridges

Andrea,

Please forgive my tardiness in getting back to you. We had the opportunity to meet with Ruben Garibay and the Puerto Verde Holdings team, and a representative from the STB last week. They were able to answer some of our questions, and they will be in contact with the CBP Field Operations Facilities Program Management Office (FOF) design standards group so details can be coordinated in the future. They mostly provided an overview of the project.

As for the environmental planning responsibilities for the project, they appear to be divided between the STB and TX DOT/FHWA. We emphasized that projects of similar scope have resulted in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) in the past. There may also be some involvement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It does not appear that GSA has any interest in acquiring the port properties, and the size of the "donation" may be too large for the CBP Donation Acceptance program. At this point it looks like the Puerto Verde Global Trade Bridge (PVGTB) group will retain ownership of all the property and will lease space for the customs facilities to CBP. This is a common arrangement that is usually made between CBP and airports or seaports of entry.

Please let me know if you need more information or would like to discuss things further.

Thanks,

Dennis

Dennis J. Lew, REM (CTR)

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