

Summary of Constraints

Environmental constraint information provided a basis for evaluating potential environmental impacts and regulatory compliance issues. The study team utilized methods such as available aerial photography, published data and “windshield” surveys to develop the environmental constraint maps utilized for the development of options and the screening and evaluation process. Environmental constraint mapping was developed in three basic steps.

1. A preliminary “desktop” analysis of previously documented environmental constraints was prepared
2. Limited field observations from public ROW were conducted to further detail constraint data
3. Public participation process including local officials, property owners, and other interested parties

Potential Environmental Constraints in the Study Area

To develop a preliminary list of potential constraints in addition to those required by federal regulation, the study team polled the New Braunfels community at the various public meetings, Technical Work Group, and Community Work Group meetings. The final constraints are listed below.

Human Resource Issues	Natural Resource Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use (Existing and Planned) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agricultural ○ Faith-based Organizations ○ Commercial ○ Landfill ○ Civic (state, county, and municipal) ○ Park ○ Residential ○ School • Utilities • Planned Capital Improvement Projects • Hazardous Materials • Landfills • Historic Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recorded Historic Sites ○ Potentially Eligible Historic Sites • Archeological Sites • Cemeteries • Environmental Justice • Noise Impacts • Limited English Proficiency • Community Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Schools ○ Parks/Recreational Areas ○ Civic Organizations ○ Faith-based Organizations ○ Residential ○ Agricultural (Farmlands, Ranchlands) ○ Commercial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Floodplains ○ Edwards Aquifer ○ Wetlands • Threatened and Endangered Species • Vegetation Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prime Farmlands ○ Unique Farmlands • Wildlife Habitat • Sensitive Geologic Areas

The first two sections above are from the Executive Summary of the New Braunfels Outer Loop Final Study Report. For a detailed account of the Environmental Constraints for the study, please see pages 36-44 of the New Braunfels Outer Loop Final Study Report.

Public Input & Feedback Related to Constraints

Meeting	Input/Feedback Collected
<p>Agency Coordination Conference May 23, 2007 ~58 Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked to begin the process of identifying social, economic and environmental constraints. Participants responded to the following questions: “As a group, discuss the Identified Constraints Map in front of you. Using the red marker provided, make any changes you feel are necessary to make the Identified Constraints Map accurate.” “Do you know of any additional environmentally sensitive areas that are located within the study area? Please indicate these areas on the map provided for the group.” “As a group, discuss the constraints listed on the back of this page. Using the table (also provided on the back of this sheet), rank the constraints from 1-16 (see back for additional instructions).” The results of this exercise can be found on pages 12-19 of the <i>Agency Coordination Conference Final Report</i>.
<p>Technical Work Group Meeting #1 April 4, 2007 ~28 participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were asked to take part in a constraints exercise which began the process of identifying social, economic and environmental constraints. Participants responded to the following questions. “As a group, discuss the constraints map in front of you. Using the RED marker provided, make any changes you feel are necessary to make the constraints map more accurate.” “Next, discuss the constraints listed on the back of this page. In order to ensure that constraints are properly marked, please use the legend (also provided on the back of this sheet) to mark all known constraints on the map provided for your group.” For a summary of this exercise, see pages 10-11 of <i>Technical Work Group Meeting #1 Final Report</i>.
<p>Community Work Group Meeting #1 July 10, 2007 ~24 participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain a better understanding of environmental constraints in the area, participants were asked to respond to the question “What do you think of when you think of environmental constraints?” For a list of responses to this question, see page 5 of the <i>Community Work Group #1 Meeting Minutes</i>. Participants were asked to rank the constraints listed on the back of their comment cards indicating which constraint was the most important to the least important. Results for the comment cards responses can be found as an attachment to the <i>Community Work Group Meeting #1 Meeting Minutes</i>.
<p>First Round of Public Meetings June 25, 2007 ~247 participants June 27, 2007 ~303 participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants heard a brief presentation on the background, need and purpose, and goals and objectives for the NBOL Study. They were then invited to visit six stations. An Environmental Constraints Station allowed participants to identify additional constraints that may not have been already identified on the maps. For a summary of the feedback collected at this station, see pages 15-16 as well as the displays in Appendix G & H of the <i>Round One Public Meeting Report (Monday, June 25, 2007 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007)</i>. Participants were also asked to respond to a question on a comment card to capture any additional comments regarding environmental constraints not already identified. Responses to the question “Looking at the constraints map at the station, do you know of any additional constraints the study team should bear in mind when moving forward with this study? If so, please mark them on the map at the constraints station and tell us more about them,” can be found on pages 27-28 of the <i>Round One Public Meeting Report (Monday, June 25, 2007 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007)</i>. Participants were also asked to respond to an additional question on a comment card regarding environmental constraints. They were asked to rank the constraints listed in order of priority from most important to least important. A tally of the results to the question “On a scale of 1-16, please rank the following constraints with one indicating the most important constraint and sixteen indicating the least important.” can be found on page 29 of the <i>Round One Public Meeting Report (Monday, June 25, 2007 and Wednesday, June 27, 2007)</i>.

<p>Community Work Group Meeting #2 August 30, 2007 ~30 participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order for participants to gain a better understanding of “What is an environmental constraint” they received a constraints presentation, followed by a constraints exercise. In groups, participants were asked to rank the constraints listed on a handout in order of priority. Participants individually filled out their own handouts and then compiled their results as a group, they were then asked to answer the following questions, “How does this compare with the finding presented by the study team? Why?” “After reviewing the current constraints map, please tell us if there is anything that has been missed or overlooked.” Results and responses for this exercise can be found on pages 9-14 of the <i>Community Work Group Meeting #2 Meeting Minutes</i>.
<p>Second Round of Public Meetings October 9, 2007 ~100 participants October 11, 2007 ~321 participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants were invited to an open house to view all the displays and stations, a brief presentation, and station discussions and reports. They were then invited to visit seven stations. An Environmental Constraints Station allowed participants to identify additional constraints that may not have been already identified on the maps. For a summary of the feedback collected at this station, see pages 12-14 as well as the displays in Appendix G & H of the <i>Second Round Public Meeting Report (Tuesday, October 9, 2007 and Thursday, October 11, 2007)</i>.