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ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

TO: File

FROM: T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development

Clay Schultz Digitally signed by Clay Schultz Date: 2026.02.13 11:25:35 -06'00'

SUBJECT: El Paso County, Texas
TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund, Flood Mitigation Project No. 40196
El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin (SOC1, SOC2)
Total Commitment Amount: $4,650,500
Loan No. L1001526
Grant No. G1001527

The environmental review for El Paso County's (County's) proposed El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin (SOC1, SOC2) Project has been completed consistent with 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14 and 363.16. The County is proposing to use $4,650,500 in financing from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) Program to: 1) repair an existing embankment in the El Paso Hills Basin (SOC1), increase the basin's water and sediment retention capacity by excavating and removing 33 acre-feet of sediment, and construct a new emergency spillway; and 2) construct a second detention basin (SOC2) 0.5 mile downstream to provide additional flood attenuation and sediment capture, which will require installation of a new 30-feet high embankment and spillway and excavation and removal of 41 acre-feet of sediment. The TWDB committed financing for the project on October 5, 2022. The County closed the financing on December 16, 2022.

Results of this environmental review are documented in the accompanying Memorandum, which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse impact on Waters of the U.S., floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species.

Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, particularly the Environmental Data Form received by the TWDB on November 7, 2025, the project meets the requirements of 31 TAC § 363.14 and 363.16 with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

<u>Special Environmental Conditions</u>

- Consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 64, if migratory birds are found nesting on or adjacent to the project area, vegetation clearing must be

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excluded during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15; or if clearing at these times is unavoidable, the area proposed for disturbance should be surveyed, during the nesting period, to identify occupied nests. If occupied nests are found, the area around each nest should remain undisturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged. State and federal regulations as currently interpreted do not permit incidental take.

- Consistent with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Section 68.015, El Paso County (County) must inform construction workers and other field personnel regarding the potential occurrence of state listed species—particularly the Texas horned lizard--in the project area. Prior to beginning work each day, open trenches and excavation areas must be checked to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. If state-listed species are encountered, the animals must be allowed to leave the area safely. State-listed species may be handled only by persons with authorization obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Disturbed areas must be reseeded with native grasses by hydromulching, hydroseeding, or seed broadcasting techniques. If erosion control blankets or mats are used, the County must avoid the use of plastic mesh matting or netting.

- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, Flood Disaster Protection Act, Executive Order 11988 as amended by EO 13690, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, the County must obtain a floodplain development permit issued by the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in the Special Flood Hazard Area of Stream 4 and TWDB approval of plans and specifications. The County is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program.

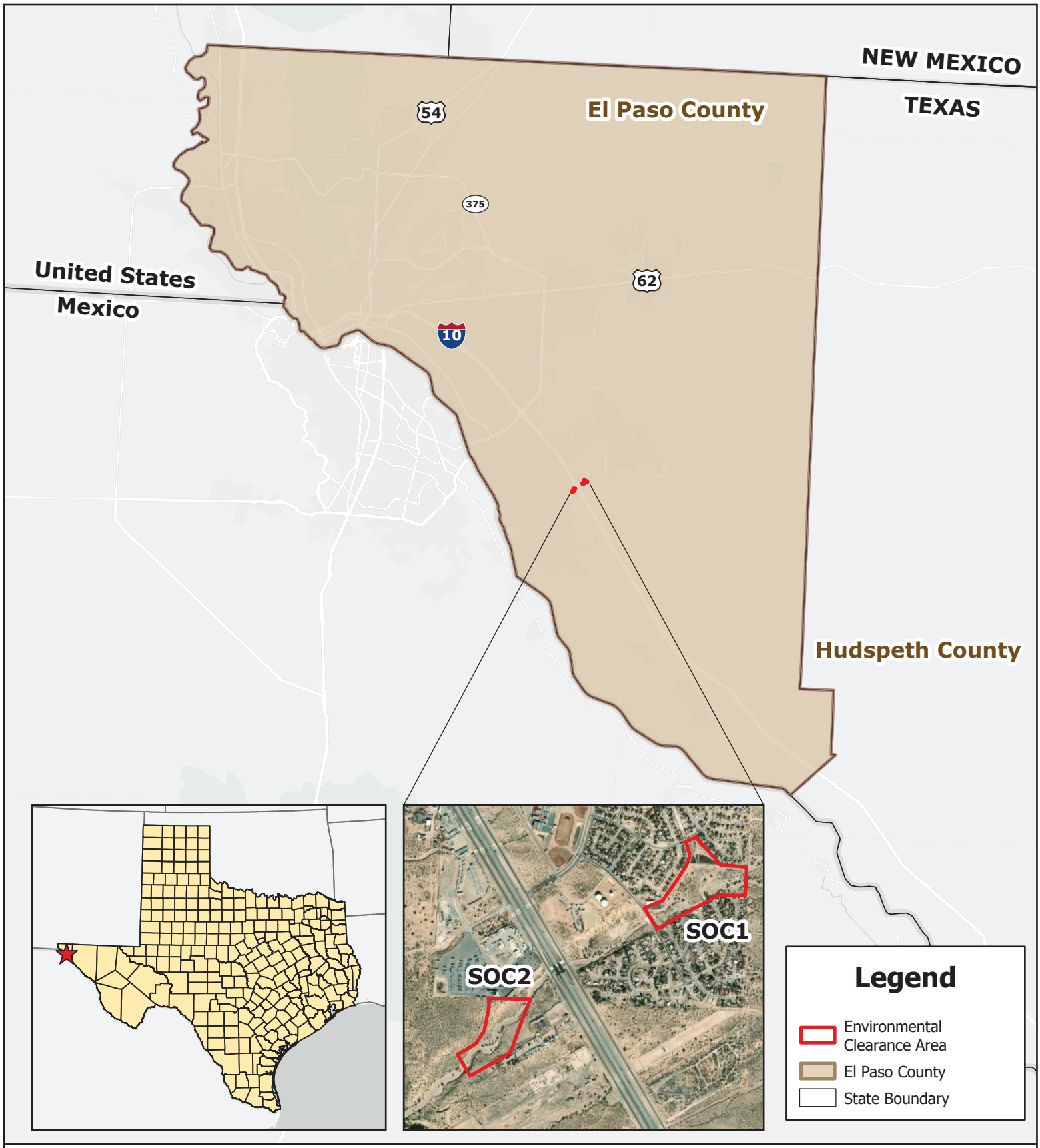
<u>Standard Environmental Conditions</u>

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the County will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the County will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

With the addition of these requirements, design funds may be released once all other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosures



Regional Location Map

El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin (SOC1_SOC2)
El Paso County, Texas

DISCLAIMER
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No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor to its suitability for a particular use.
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0 10 20 Miles

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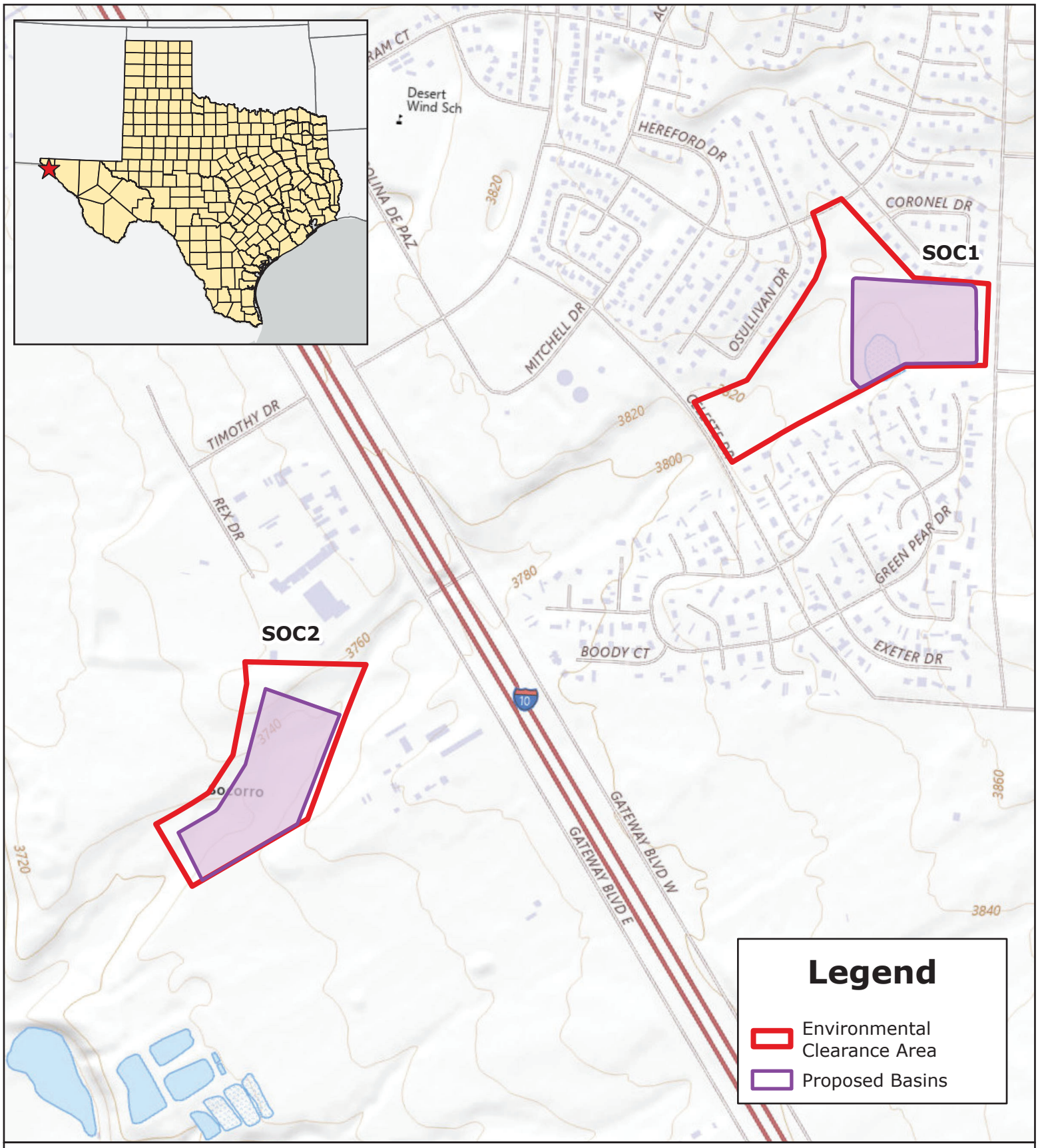

USGS Topographic Map - SOC1_SOC2

Clint NW, TX
El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin
El Paso County, Texas

0 400 800 Feet

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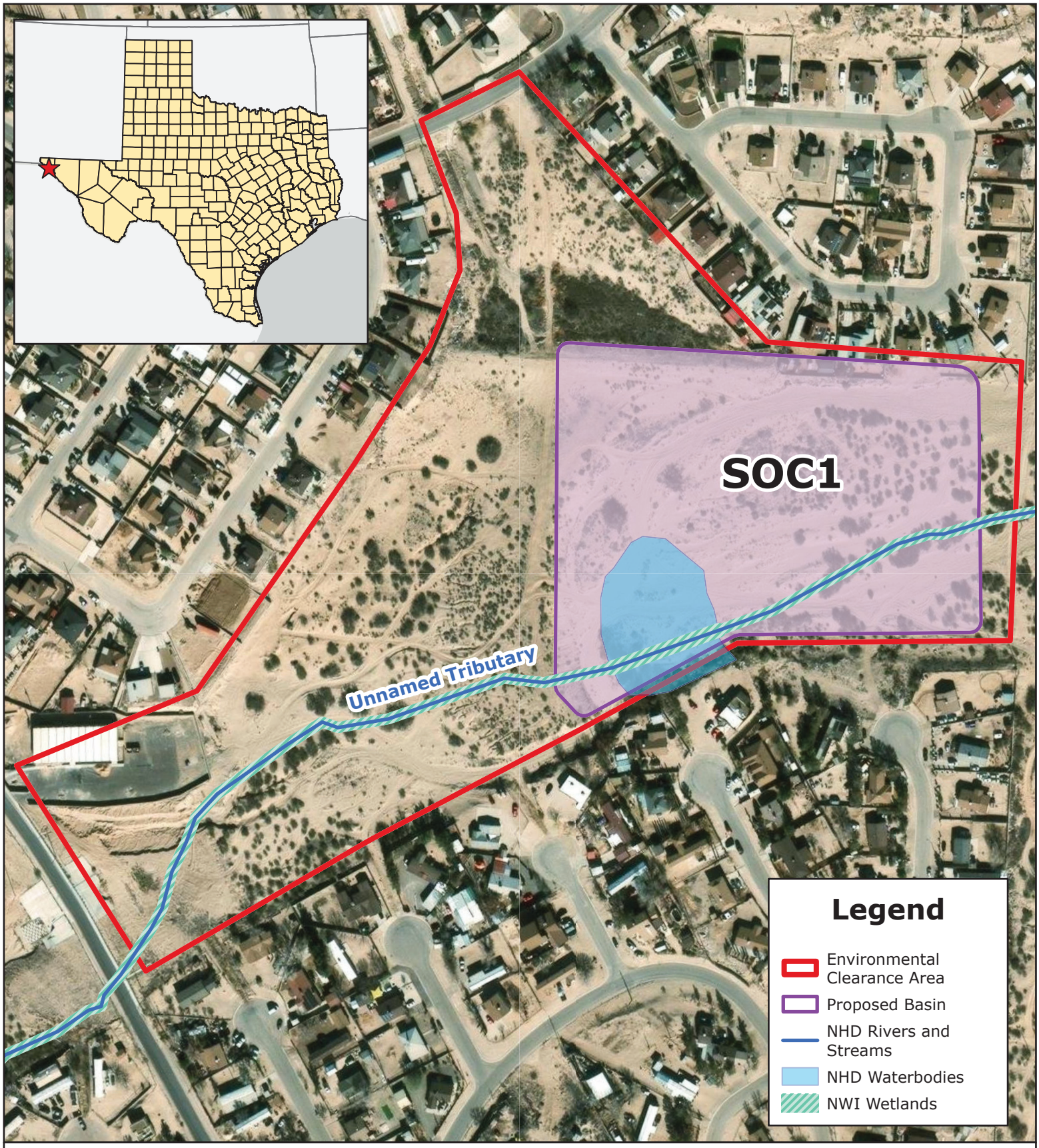

Water Resources Map - SOC1

El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin
(SOC1_SOC2)
El Paso County, Texas

N

0 250 500 Feet

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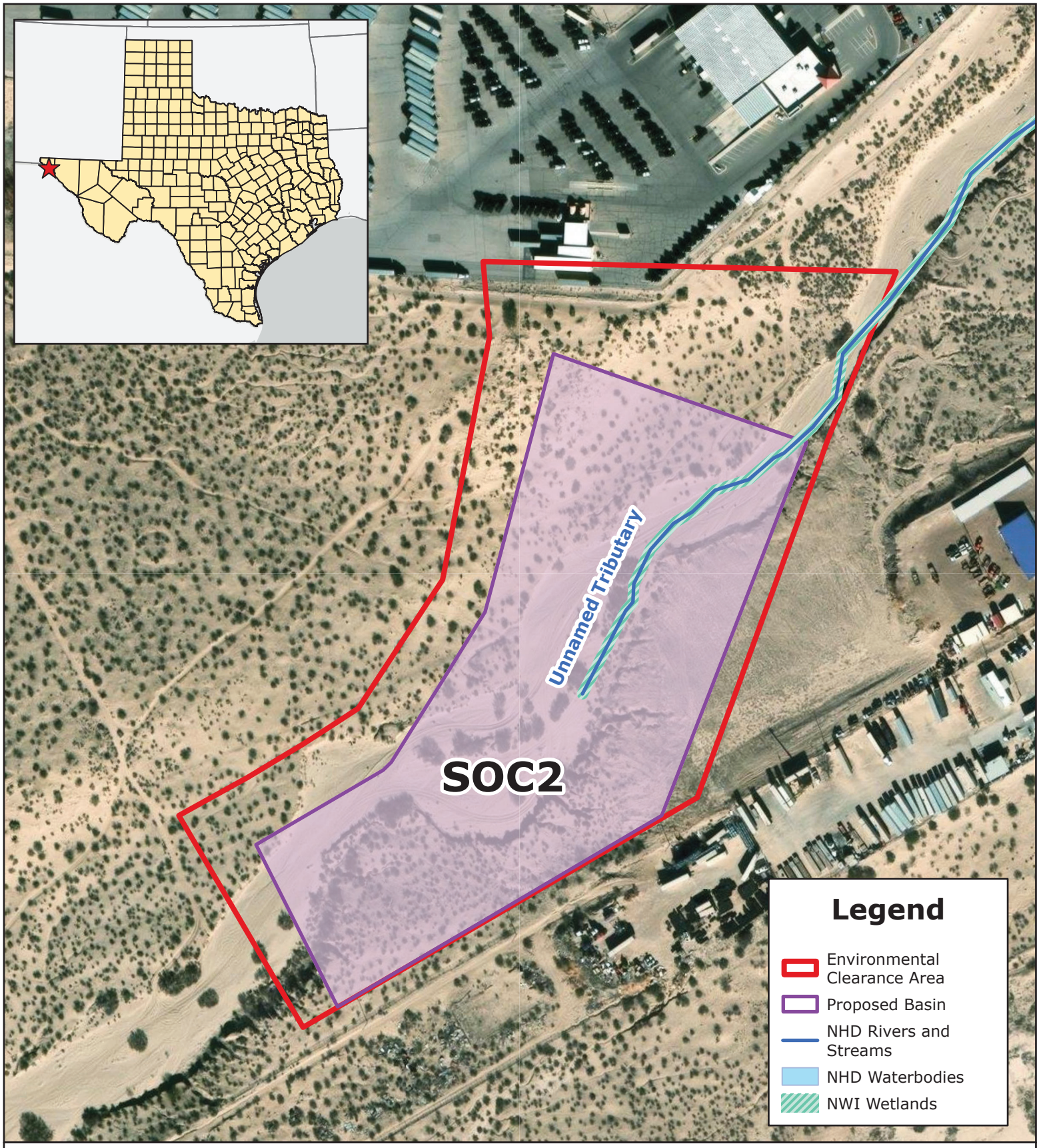

Water Resources Map - SOC2

El Paso Hills Basin Repair and Stream 4 Basin
(SOC1_SOC2)
El Paso County, Texas

N

0 250 500 Feet

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