



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
4200 East Pine Lodge Road
Roswell, NM 88201-0504
Phone (575) 622-6755

June 27, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter serves as a reference for Mr. Eric Prytherch (dba Stormwater Plans LLC, 15832 West Charlotte Drive in Surprise, AZ). In fiscal year 2014, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service- Region 2 Refuge Roads Program and Bitter Lake NWR received funding in the amount of \$2.1 million dollars for a large roads project. Eric's company was awarded the general contract, and construction took place from February through April of 2014.

The project consisted of re-paving ~1.24 miles of existing asphalt refuge entrance road; gravel re-surfacing of ~6.83 miles of existing refuge auto tour route; widening, improving and re-gravelling existing parking areas and viewing overlooks; fog seal & restriping of an existing large asphalt parking area at the Refuge's visitor center; and upgrading an existing automatic entrance road gate system.

Eric coordinated daily project work with not only his own company employees but also with several sub-contractors, always keeping in constant communication with the on-site Federal Highway Administration's inspector and me.

As with any large construction project involving general and sub-contractors, project delays, setbacks and unexpected situations are inevitable. This project was no different. Remedies had to be developed, negotiated and approved for several situations and issues that came up including an instance involving a large quantity of gravel that was not to specification but made it into the project. An unexpected issue arose during construction of a large parking lot when the ground collapsed under the weight of equipment and materials, causing delays and design changes. Finally, mid-way through the project, the quality control inspector unexpectedly quit the job, and a scramble had to be made to find a suitable replacement.

Eric met and handled each issue head-on and without excuses. I noticed that when Eric stated that he was going to do something, he got it done. I felt that he had a genuine desire to do the right thing, time and time again, and he followed through with actions not just words.

The project was completed a week ahead of schedule, within budgeted limits and not only to the satisfaction of the Federal Highway Administration's project inspectors & engineers but most importantly to the customer- Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. I would without hesitation, give Eric and his company full consideration on any future roads projects, and I highly recommend them.

If you have any questions or wish to contact me, please feel free to do so at (575) 625-4019. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Floyd A. Truetken
Refuge Manager