

DRAFT

ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN ARROYO FLOOD CONTROL AUTHORITY WILDLIFE CONSIDERATIONS POLICY

1. Purpose

The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority operates and maintains flood control and stormwater quality infrastructure throughout the Albuquerque metropolitan area.

AMAFCA facilities exist within an urban wildlife interface where flood control infrastructure, utilities, developed areas, open space, public use, the bosque, the Rio Grande corridor, and wildlife may intersect.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a practical and consistent framework for considering wildlife and environmental conditions while fulfilling AMAFCA's mission to protect life and property and maintain safe, functional, and effective infrastructure.

2. Policy Statement

Protection of life and property, public safety, and the proper operation of AMAFCA infrastructure are paramount.

Within that responsibility, AMAFCA will incorporate wildlife considerations into planning and field operations using a practical, risk-based approach appropriate to the location, type of work, site conditions, seasonal conditions, and known or observed wildlife activity.

Biological surveys and pre-work biological review will be focused on facilities, site conditions, and activities where wildlife is known or reasonably likely to be encountered, as well as situations where AMAFCA staff observe wildlife activity or evidence that may be affected by planned work.

AMAFCA personnel do not capture, handle, transport, or relocate wildlife. When wildlife handling or specialized biological expertise is needed, AMAFCA will coordinate with qualified wildlife professionals or appropriate agencies.

3. Strategic Wildlife Review

- 3.1. AMAFCA will periodically evaluate its facilities and activities with qualified biological professionals to identify locations, conditions, activities, or seasons where additional wildlife consideration may be appropriate.
- 3.2. Based on this review, AMAFCA may conduct targeted biological assessments, incorporate additional review into planned work, modify work planning when appropriate, or obtain additional professional or agency assistance.
- 3.3. The level of review will reflect the conditions and potential concerns associated with the particular facility or activity.

4. Training and Awareness

- 4.1. AMAFCA will provide appropriate wildlife awareness training to staff whose work may place them in areas where wildlife or sensitive environmental conditions may be encountered.
- 4.2. Training will support recognition of wildlife activity, sensitive environments, seasonal considerations, and conditions that warrant additional professional review.
- 4.3. AMAFCA staff are not expected to perform biological surveys or make formal determinations regarding species, habitat, or regulatory status.

5. Wildlife Encounters

- 5.1. AMAFCA will maintain field directives establishing procedures for responding to wildlife encountered during agency activities.
- 5.2. Field work may be adjusted as appropriate based on observed conditions, professional biological guidance, interagency coordination, public safety, and operational requirements.

6. Coordination and Third-Party Activities

- 6.1. AMAFCA may coordinate with qualified biological consultants, local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, utility owners, contractors, permittees, and other appropriate organizations when wildlife considerations intersect with AMAFCA facilities or activities.
- 6.2. Contractors, consultants, utilities, permittees, and other entities performing authorized work on AMAFCA facilities shall comply with applicable AMAFCA requirements and project-specific biological or environmental conditions.
- 6.3. AMAFCA may establish appropriate requirements or controls when public use, third-party activities, wildlife considerations, and agency operations intersect.

7. Implementation

- 7.1. The Executive Engineer or designee is authorized to implement this policy through administrative guidelines, field directives, staff training, professional biological services, interagency coordination, and other measures necessary to carry out the intent of this policy.
- 7.2. Implementation documents may be updated as conditions, available information, operational needs, and professional recommendations change.