



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001



May 10, 2007

PXAO-1500  
ENV-6.00

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin  
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of and Public Review and Comment Period for a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Assignment of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Municipal and Industrial Priority (M&I) Sub-Contract Water Entitlements from Four Water Companies to the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) (Action by June 8, 2007)

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is providing notice of the availability of a draft EA on the above referenced subject. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the adequacy of the draft EA in describing the potential environmental impacts from Reclamation's approval of the proposed action. The draft EA is available on Reclamation's Phoenix Arizona Office website at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix>. A hard copy or CD version of this document may also be obtained by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or by e-mailing [rkonst@lc.usbr.gov](mailto:rkonst@lc.usbr.gov).

Under the proposed action, 7,746 acre-feet annually (afa) of CAP M&I water entitlements held by four water service companies (West End Water Company, Sunrise Water Company, New River Utility Company, and Litchfield Park Service Company) located in western Maricopa County would be transferred to CAWCD. CAWCD would enter into a water service contract (Supplemental Contract) with Reclamation for a total volume of 7,746 afa. The CAP water would be used exclusively by CAWCD in support of its ground-water replenishment obligations, acting in its capacity as the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGR).

The CAP water service subcontracts for these four water service companies would be terminated. None of these water companies have developed the infrastructure necessary to take, treat, and deliver CAP water to their customers. Under either the Proposed Action or the No Action alternative, the four companies expect to continue utilizing ground water to serve their customers. Developers of residential subdivisions within the service areas of these four water companies would need to enroll their property as member lands of the CAGR in order to meet the requirements of the Arizona Department of Water Resources' Assured Water Supply Rules.

CAGRDR would recharge the transferred CAP M&I water at existing recharge facilities. According to CAGRDR, the most likely scenario is that the CAP water would be recharged within the Phoenix Active Management Area. Under the Proposed Action, the CAGRDR would use the recharge credits to first meet replenishment obligations incurred by member lands located within the water service areas of the four water companies involved in this proposal. Any remaining CAP water allocated to CAGRDR under the proposed action would then be used to satisfy replenishment obligations for member lands enrolled in CAGRDR as of the date of the Supplemental Contract.

These proposed transfers are consistent with recommendations made by the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). In accordance with its policy of August 23, 1996, regarding transfers of CAP M&I water entitlements, ADWR reviewed these transfer requests and considered public input solicited through widespread public notices and several meetings that were held from 2000 through 2003. Reclamation requested comments from interested parties in a memorandum dated October 29, 2003, which initiated a 30-day public scoping comment period. Although a substantial amount of time has elapsed since that time, relevant conditions have not changed; and Reclamation determined a second scoping comment period would not be necessary.

To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible and sent to Reclamation at the above address, ATTN: Ms. Sandy Eto, by June 8, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eto of the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6254. Thank you for your interest in this project.