

# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Region  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

NOV 15 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.13

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers  
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Arizona Department of Water Resources Recommendation for the Reallocation of Non-Indian Agricultural Priority Central Arizona Project Water in Accordance with the Arizona Water Settlements Act of 2004

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and pursuant to the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) of 2004 (Public Law 108-451, Section 104), which states that, prior to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) making a decision to accept or reject the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) recommendation for the reallocation of designated Non-Indian Agricultural (NIA) Priority Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, Reclamation must comply with NEPA. The Secretary's approval or rejection of ADWR's recommendation is congressionally mandated and nondiscretionary. Reclamation is the designated Lead Federal Agency as defined in 43 CFR § 46.225-46.230. Cooperating Agencies include the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) and ADWR. Reclamation has determined that the proposed action, which is the Secretary's acceptance of ADWR's recommendation for the reallocation of designated NIA Priority CAP water, does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The final EA and FONSI can be viewed at: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/> and paper copies are also available upon request.

Reclamation initiated public scoping on November 30, 2015 with a newsletter that was sent to interested parties on November 19, 2015, and published on Reclamation's website on November 30, 2015. Scoping comments were accepted via facsimile, email, U.S. mail, and in person at the scoping meetings, which were held on December 8, 2015, December 9, 2015, and December 10, 2015 in Phoenix, Casa Grande, and Tucson, Arizona. Reclamation received two public responses during this initial scoping period, one of which resulted in Reclamation honoring a request for a comment period extension to January 18, 2016.

In June, 2016, Reclamation mailed Notices of Availability of the Draft EA to Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American Tribes, organizations, Proposed Recipients, and other interested

stakeholders. A public meeting was held on June 22, 2016 in Casa Grande, Arizona, and the commenting period closed on July 22, 2016. Reclamation conducted in-person consultation with the Tohono O'odham Nation on February 17, 2017, and with the San Carlos Apache Tribe on June 16, 2017. The draft EA was revised in response to the comments received.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action will not significantly impact the environment, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Sean Heath, Manager, Environmental Resource Management Division, at 623-773-6250 or via email at [sheath@usbr.gov](mailto:sheath@usbr.gov).

WBR:

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(NIA)\Reallocation\NEPA\NOA