



United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

AUG 0 1 2017

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers *Leslie A. Meyers*
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Recreational Trail Along the Central Arizona Project Canal, Pinal County, Arizona

The Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department (Pinal County) is proposing to develop a recreational trail along 10.5 miles of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal from the Pinal-Pima County line north to Park Line Drive (See Figure 1). The alignment would be located on land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. This project, a part of the original CAP conceptual design, is a recreational trail along the canal that would accommodate users including pedestrians (hikers, joggers, etc.), bicyclists, and equestrians. Pinal County is working with Reclamation to prepare an EA as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Reclamation is requesting public input to help identify issues and concerns associated with this section of the proposed recreational trail. This information will be used to analyze the environmental impacts of the project.

The trail would be located on the east side of the canal from the Pima - Pinal County line north to Nona Road, where it would switch to the west side to minimize new disturbance (See Figure 2). A majority of the proposed path would use the existing maintenance road on top of the berm along the canal. At one point the trail would come off the existing maintenance road and a portion of new trail would be required. Additionally, where the northern segment of the canal goes underground, the trail would be located along existing two-track trails on the disturbed surface above the underground canal, which would require minor grading and signage to identify the trail. A trailhead is planned at the northern end of this segment of the proposed trail, in a location chosen to avoid existing drainage issues and discourage users from parking on the road. Work would also include applying an aggregate base surface, posting mile marker and interpretive signs, and some revegetation along the trail border.

Reclamation has determined that an EA is the appropriate level of review under NEPA. The EA will evaluate the impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environments. As part of this EA process, Reclamation is seeking your participation in identifying any potential issues or concerns with the proposed activity. Comments should be submitted to Pinal County CAP Trail Project, c/o WestLand Resources Inc., 4001 East Paradise Falls Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85712; fax to 520-206-9518; or via email at CAPEAPinal@westlandresources.com, no later than 30 days from the date of this memorandum.

Please be aware that by law, your name, address, and other personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. Individuals may request that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so; however, we will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For additional information regarding this memorandum, please contact Ms. Kelly Bergin, Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office, via email at kbergin@usbr.gov, or by calling 623-773-6422.