



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

April 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Parties, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability – Revised Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) on the Proposed Community Water Company of Green Valley (CWCGV) Central Arizona Project (CAP) Water Distribution System and Recharge Facility, Green Valley, Pima County, Arizona (Action by May 21, 2010)

Reclamation is issuing a revised DEA on the proposed CWCGV CAP Water Distribution System and Recharge Facility (Proposed Project) for public review and comment. The revised DEA is available on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office's Web site, <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/>. If you would like a paper or CD copy of the revised DEA, please call Ms. Ruth Konst at 623-773-6251, or via electronic mail at rkonst@usbr.gov. If you requested a hard copy of the March 2009 draft EA, a revised DEA is attached.

An initial draft EA for the Proposed Project was made available for public review and comment period on March 6, 2009. The March 2009 draft EA described and assessed the environmental consequences that may result from construction and operation of CWCGV's Proposed Project, to take and use its CAP entitlement of 2,858 acre-feet per year. The CAP water would be conveyed through a pipeline to be constructed mainly within existing road or utility rights-of-way, to an artificial recharge facility to be located east of CWCGV's water service area, where the CAP water would be stored underground. The Proposed Project would provide CWCGV with a renewable source of water that would help relieve groundwater overdraft and an alternative water source that could be directly used should CWCGV's groundwater wells become unusable due to water quality issues.

Subsequent to the end of the public review and comment period for the March 2009 draft EA, CWCGV indicated its intention to identify an alternate location for the recharge facility associated with the CAP Water Distribution System. After a rigorous evaluation of ten potential recharge areas, CWCGV identified two alternate recharge sites, located adjacent to each other, about 1.6 miles west of the originally proposed recharge site. Both of these sites were found to be more suitable than the original recharge location. Evaluation of these two sites indicates either site would be capable of recharging up to 7,000 acre-feet per year (AFY), which is the

preferred capacity initially identified in the original scoping notice to the public. The evaluation also indicated resulting impacts would be similar to those described in the March 2009 draft EA, with the exception of impacts to the lesser long-nosed bat and Pima pineapple cactus; impacts to these federally protected species have been reduced to “no effect.”

The revised DEA reflects the new recharge site alternatives, an increase in the capacity of the recharge facility (from 5,000 to 7,000 AFY), and an optional tie-in to the CAP terminus, in case CWCGV is not able to connect into the Pima Mine Road Recharge Project Lateral. The action alternatives presented in this revised DEA have been adjusted to accommodate these refinements to the proposed project and are described in more detail in Section 2.0, Description of Alternatives. This revised DEA also reflects, where appropriate, changes made in response to comments received on the March 2009 document.

This revised DEA is being issued for another public review and comment period; however, because the anticipated environmental impacts remain essentially the same or have been reduced as a result of the refinements to the Proposed Project, Reclamation does not intend to conduct a public hearing to receive oral comments. Reclamation welcomes written comments regarding the adequacy of this revised DEA and will take all public comments received, on both the initial draft and this revised draft, into consideration prior to making a decision regarding whether a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate, or an environmental impact statement should be prepared. Comments that were previously submitted do not have to be resubmitted. All comments received on both versions of the EA, and Reclamation’s responses, will be included in the final EA.

To be most helpful, comments on the adequacy of the EA should be as specific as possible regarding statements found in the EA that the reader believes are incorrect, including the reasons why the reader believes they are incorrect. Please mail your comments to Ms. Sandra Eto, Environmental Resource Management Division, at the above address, Attention: PXAO-1500, via electronic mail to seto@usbr.gov, or by faxogram to 623-773-6486, no later than May 21, 2010. Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandra Eto of the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6254. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Attachment