



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-7.00

NOV 17 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Randy N. Chandler  
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Lease of 5,925 Acre-Feet Annually of Central Arizona Project Water Entitlement from the San Carlos Apache Tribe to the Town of Gilbert (Action by December 2, 2010)

The Bureau of Reclamation is issuing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed 100-year lease of 5,925 acre-feet annually of Central Arizona Project (CAP) water entitlement currently held by the San Carlos Apache Tribe to the Town of Gilbert (Town). The Town will either treat and deliver or recharge the CAP water. The addition of this renewable water source would reduce the Town's dependence on groundwater within its service area and would lessen their reliance on excess CAP water. No new facilities need to be constructed, and no land disturbing activities will occur as a direct result of Reclamation's approval of this lease and the Town's delivery or recharge of the leased entitlement.

The EA describes the existing affected environment and anticipated environmental impacts from the proposed lease. As explained in the EA, there is little difference between the future with the proposed or without the proposed lease.

Reclamation has made a preliminary determination that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for this proposed transfer, and an environmental impact statement would not need to be prepared. The EA can be viewed on Reclamation's Web site at [www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix). A paper copy or CD version of the EA is available upon request by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or email at [jharagara@usbr.gov](mailto:jharagara@usbr.gov).

We will consider all comments to the EA prior to making a final decision regarding the proposed lease and whether a FONSI is appropriate. The decision will be available at [www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix). Submit comments no later than December 2, 2010, to Ms. Nichole Olsker, Bureau of Reclamation, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001, or fax to 623-773-6486, or email [nolsker@usbr.gov](mailto:nolsker@usbr.gov).

By law, the names and addresses of those providing comments are available for public review. However, individuals may request that their name and/or address be withheld from the record. These requests will be honored to the extent allowable by law. If you wish your name and/or address to be withheld, please state this prominently at the beginning of your comment letter. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Olsker at 623-773-6258. Thank you for your interest in this project.