



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001
JAN 20 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXA0-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Memorandum

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

LESLIE
MEYERS

Digitally signed by
LESLIE MEYERS
Date: 2022.01.18
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Subject: Notice of Availability – Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the Proposed Expansion of the Recreational Trail Along the Central Arizona Project Canal, Pinal County, Arizona

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a final EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department's (County) proposal to develop, operate, and maintain a non-motorized, multi-use recreational trail along 39.3 miles from Park Link Drive north to Highway 79. The alignment would be located on land administered by Reclamation, the County, and the Arizona State Lands Department (ASLD). The final EA considered the impacts of Reclamation's approval of the trail on Reclamation administered lands as well as impacts from potential connected actions on ASLD and County lands. Reclamation has determined that the proposed project does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is recorded in a FONSI. The final EA and FONSI can be viewed at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>. A paper copy or compact disc can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (480) 216-9914, or via email at nolsker@usbr.gov.

Reclamation initially solicited input from the public on the proposed project to assist in identifying key issues and defining the scope of the project and environmental analysis. Reclamation conducted scoping via mail (to 115 potentially interested agencies organizations, tribes, and neighbors to the Proposed Action), newspaper notice, and internet publication. Scoping for this project began on March 11, 2021. Within the 30-day scoping period, Reclamation received 10 comments.

Following scoping, Reclamation issued a draft EA that presented the County's proposed project, existing conditions in the project area, and the environmental effects that would be reasonably expected from implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The draft EA was released on October 8, 2021, initiating a 15-day public comment period. Reclamation

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ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

mailed the Notice of Availability (NOA) letters to 120 participating agencies, organizations, tribes, and neighbors to the Proposed Action. The NOA and draft EA were also advertised in local newspapers and on Reclamation's website. Reclamation received one request for an extension to the comment period and granted the extension. Five comment letters or emails were received during the comment period, and the final EA was amended appropriately.

For additional information regarding this project, please contact Ms. Nichole Olsker, Environmental Protection Specialist, Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office, via email at nolsker@usbr.gov or by calling (480) 216-9914.

Thank you for your help and cooperation with this project.

WBR:NOlsker:SHolloway:12/13/2021:Ext.6258

N:\Projects\Central Arizona Project (CAP)\Recreation Development\Pinal-CAP Trails\Park Link Rd to Hwy 79\Final signed docs
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