



United States Department of the Interior

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

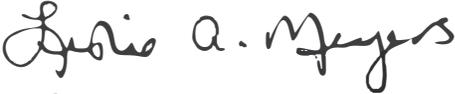
IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500a
2.1.1.04

MAR 19 2018

MEMORANDUMa

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agenciesa

From: Leslie A. Meyers 
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping Period – Environmental Assessment of Activities Proposed for Rehabilitation of the Casa Blanca-III Lateral and Sub-Lateral Canals in the Casa Blanca Canal System on the Gila River Indian Reservation, Pinal County, Arizona (Action by 30 days from the date of this memorandum)

The Bureau of Reclamation is conducting scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; Public Law 91-90) and 40 CFR 1507.1. This document is an attempt to encourage early and open public participation with the NEPA review of activities proposed by the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). These activities are part of the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP), and funded by Reclamation to improve water conservation within irrigation canals, and reduce the frequency and scope of maintenance on canal equipment.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project (Project) consists of efficiency enhancements to water distribution equipment on approximately 71 miles of lateral and sub-lateral canal offshoots (laterals) of the main Casa Blanca Canal. The laterals are entirely within land owned by the GRIC in Pinal County, AZ, and are bounded by the Gila River to the north, Olberg Road to east, Maricopa Road to the west, and the Casa Blanca Canal to the south (Figure 1).

BACKGROUND

P-MIP originated as an Indian water distribution system authorized under the Central Arizona Project with initial project planning conducted by Reclamation. The GRIC, through self-governance authority, took on the role for project design and construction for development of that system and later, through the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA), the rehabilitation of the San Carlos Irrigation Project (SCIP). The master repayment contract and AWSA called for the design and construction of a water conveyance system to deliver irrigation water on the Gila River Indian Reservation. Funding for P-MIP and SCIP is provided by Reclamation on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to the authority granted by Title IV of Public Law 93-638, as amended by Title II of Public Law 103-413, 108 Stat. 4250 (the Tribal Self Governance Act

of 1994). Accordingly, the GRIC shall plan, conduct, consolidate, and administer Reclamation programs related to P-MIP and SCIP rehabilitation, to and on the Gila River Indian Reservation as authorized by Section 301(a) and Section 403(f)(2) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act of September 30, 1968, Public Law 90-537, 82 Stat. 885 as amended, and the AWSA (Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project will consist of the following actions: 1) installation of 2.5 inches of concrete lining to all laterals; 2) construction of a new segment of lateral canal No. 14 to straighten its currently inefficient alignment; 3) inspection and repair and/or replacement measurement and control components (e.g., check structures, control gates, etc.) of the laterals, as necessary; and 4) maintenance of the lateral's access roads and road crossings within an existing right-of-way.

The Project is needed to increase water transport efficiency and reduce water losses during travel within the canals. Additionally, the assessment and modernization of system components should reduce the scale and frequency of required maintenance. The proposed updates are needed to provide flexibility in the service repair and operations of the canals and laterals resulting in reduced overhead and maintenance manpower and resources necessary to conduct repairs to the irrigation system in the future.

Reclamation requests that anyone with information or comments relevant to the actions outlined in this document provide input in the scoping process. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible and related to the activities of the proposed Project. Comments should be received within 30 days from the date of this memorandum and addressed to the attention of Mr. Dominic Graziani at Bureau of Reclamation, PXAO-1500, 6150 W. Thunderbird Rd. Glendale, AZ 85306, or via email at dgraziani@usbr.gov. Please be advised that any personally identifying information (PII) included in a submitted response, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Graziani at 623-773-6216.

Thank you for help and cooperation with this Project.

Attachment

