

United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500
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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Region
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

FEB 14 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Acting For Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment for the Proposed 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 overseeing preparation of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental effects of a proposed project consisting 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 Gila River Indian Community in Pinal County, Arizona and are bounded by the Gila River to the north, Olberg Road to east, and Maricopa Road to the west, and the Casa Blanca Canal to the south.

The draft EA for the proposed project evaluates the following proposed 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 the inefficient alignment; (3) inspection and repair and/or replacement of measurement and control components (e.g., check structures, control gates, etc.) of the laterals, as necessary; and (4) maintenance of the laterals access roads and road crossings within an existing right-of-way (Figure 1).

The draft EA is available for public review and comment on the Phoenix Area Office web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/>. A paper copy or CD of the draft EA can be obtained by calling Reclamation at 623-773-6251 or by emailing crock@usbr.gov.

Comments are due within 30 days of the date stamp on this memorandum and should be submitted to Mr. Dominic Graziani at the address above or emailed to dgraziani@usbr.gov.

If you have questions, or would like to discuss the project, please contact Mr. Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 623-773-6216, or via email at dgraziani@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 withheld, you must 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.

Attachment

