



United States Department of the Interior

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

PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment on the Proposed Approval of a Water Exchange between Freeport-McMoRan Miami Inc. and Salt River Project
(Action by 14 days from the date of this memorandum)

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared the subject draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to disclose potential environmental impacts that may result from a water exchange between Freeport-McMoRan Miami Inc. (Miami) and Salt River Project (SRP). A copy of the draft EA is attached for your information.

The proposed exchange would facilitate the delivery of SRP surface water to Miami in exchange for delivery of an equivalent amount of Central Arizona Project surface water to SRP. If approved, Reclamation would provide final environmental clearance for the diversion of SRP's surface water from Lower Pinal Creek and for the water infrastructure through which the water would be conveyed, stored, or treated by Miami. The points of diversion and related water infrastructure at the Miami Mine Complex already exist and are currently being used. Hence, no physical changes to water delivery, conveyance, storage, or treatment infrastructure would be necessary.

The draft EA also evaluates a "no action alternative" in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91-190) and Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508). Under the "no action alternative," Miami would continue to divert surface water from Lower Pinal Creek using the same infrastructure, relying instead on Miami's available surface water rights. The proposed action would not change the amount of water diverted from Lower Pinal Creek for use at the Miami Mine Complex.

We will consider all comments on the draft EA prior to making a final decision. The draft EA may be viewed on the Phoenix Area Office web site at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. Comments should be submitted to Ms. Kimberly Musser via email at kmusser@usbr.gov, mailed to Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ 85306, or faxed to 623-773-6486, no later than 14 days from the date of this memorandum. Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publically available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review in your comment, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Kimberly Musser at the above email address or by calling 623-773-6216.