

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Phoenix Area Office**

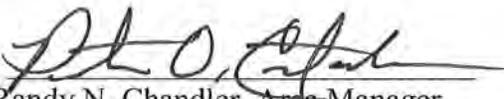
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**WaterSMART Grant FY 2013
Vadose Zone Recharge Wells
City of Goodyear**

Maricopa County, Arizona

Approved:

for


Randy N. Chandler, Area Manager
Phoenix Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation

Date:

9/17/14

FONSI No. PXAO-14-02

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (Reclamation 2014) to disclose the potential environmental impacts that may result from the City of Goodyear's use of \$300,000 in Federal funding provided under the WaterSMART 2013 program to implement the Vadose Injection Project (VIP) Underground Storage Facility (USF). The Federal grant would supplement City funding to install vadose zone water injection wells associated with the proposed VIP USF. The wells will recharge Class A+ reclaimed water generated by the City's 157th Avenue Water Reclamation Facility. Recharging reclaimed water through the USF will provide additional stored water to bolster the City's future water supply portfolio. The proposed VIP USF will be located on City-owned utility and street easements along West Yuma Road and North Estrella Parkway, south of West Van Buren Street. The EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (NEPA), and Department of the Interior regulations regarding implementation of NEPA (43 CFR Part 46).

Implementation of the proposed VIP USF will require funding in excess of levels currently allocated to the project by the City. To obviate any potential funding shortages, the City has applied for a \$300,000 grant from Reclamation's Fiscal Year 2013 WaterSMART – Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program. This grant money will supplement \$1,865,350 allocated by the City to implement the VIP.

Under the proposed action, 15 vadose zone wells will be constructed and put into service according to the 20-year schedule shown in the EA. The VIP USF would have an initial capacity to recharge up to 5,000 acre-feet per year using the newly completed wells, gradually increasing to 8,300 acre-feet per year using all 15 wells. The total design capacity of the facility (maximum amount that can be recharged during the 20-year VIP USF permit period) is 132,800 acre-feet. Because the City will utilize Federal funds acquired through Reclamation's WaterSMART grant program, the proposed project is subject to the requirements of NEPA.

The City's proposed project is designed to provide long-term storage capacity for recharged Class A+ reclaimed water. This will allow the City to more effectively and efficiently manage its use of reclaimed water and maximize its ability to obtain State-issued long-term storage credits now and into the future. Without Reclamation's grant, the City would continue to implement the proposed project, but the City may have to construct fewer vadose zone recharge wells or defer installation of some wells until additional funding is available.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

In preparing its permit application to the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) for a constructed USF, the City coordinated with the ADWR and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. The ADWR posted a copy of the Goodyear VIP constructed USF permit application on its "Public Notice of Application in Process" website.

Reclamation distributed a Notice of Availability (NOA) regarding the EA and the draft version of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a 30-day public comment period on August 15, 2014. The EA and draft FONSI were available for public review at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. No written public comments were submitted to Reclamation in response to the NOA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon review and consideration of the EA, Reclamation has determined that use of a WaterSMART grant to supplement City funding to construct the VIP USF will not result in significant environmental impacts to the human environment, and preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision is based upon the following considerations.

1. No impact to wildlife or wildlife habitat will occur. The proposed project is located along city streets in a predominately urban setting. Very little native vegetation is present within the project area. The area has been substantially altered by road construction and maintenance, utility installation, landscaping, residential development, and agriculture.
2. No adverse effects to public health or safety resulting from the recharge of A+ quality reclaimed water will occur. There are no known hazardous contaminants in the vadose zone underneath the proposed VIP which would be leached out of the aquifer. Discharge limits and monitoring requirements of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Aquifer Protection Permit (APP), which regulates the recharge activities, will ensure any potential water quality problems are detected onsite. The monitoring wells identified in the APP as the Point of Compliance will be used for all the water quality-related sampling/monitoring. Because the locations of these monitoring wells are in such close proximity to the recharge activities, any potential quality or quantity concerns associated with the recharge facility or its operations should be detected early enough to prevent damage to other property within the area of influence.
3. The project area is located within an area classified as "maintenance" for carbon monoxide and "non-attaining" for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) and ozone, as determined pursuant to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The amounts of pollutants that will be generated by construction of the proposed project are well below the *de minimis* thresholds for conformity. The relatively minute quantities of pollutants released during construction and operation of the proposed project will have a negligible direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on local air quality or global processes that lead to climate change.
4. No direct adverse impacts will occur from the proposed project to unique characteristics of the geographic area such as historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There are no wild and scenic rivers, or rivers proposed for designation as wild and scenic in the vicinity of, or that could be impacted by, the project.
5. Highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks affecting the human environment are not anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed action. There will be no impact to land uses including residential, commercial, and industrial development and ongoing agriculture.

6. No adverse impact to water resources will occur. There could be localized hydrological benefit to the West Salt River sub-basin, which has been subject to groundwater withdrawals substantially exceeding recharge in recent history. Recovery and use of the recharged water in the future will also reduce the total amount of groundwater that will need to be pumped to meet projected water demands. The proposed action will have a beneficial impact on the City's future water supply.

7. The proposed action will not establish a precedent for future actions, and will not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Reclamation's approval for use of WaterSMART grant monies for the proposed project in no way affects any decision regarding use of Reclamation funding for similar or different purposes at any other location in the future.

8. Significant cumulative impacts are not anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed action. Construction of the proposed project will contribute highly localized and temporary impacts to soil and air quality that will be cumulative to other similar construction impacts associated with nearby residential and commercial development.

9. The proposed project will not impact districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It will also not cause loss or destruction of significant cultural or historical resources.

10. The proposed action will not violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The City is required to follow all requirements and conditions of both the USF and Water Storage permits issued by ADWR. Additionally, the City must comply with all aspects of its APP.

Documents related to this action are identified below.

Bureau of Reclamation. 2014. Environmental Assessment – WaterSMART Grant FY2013: Vadose Zone Recharge Wells, City of Goodyear, Maricopa County, Arizona.