



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-1500
2.1.4.13

SEP 27 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Connection to a Central Arizona Project (CAP) Pipeline and Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) CAP Water Delivery to and Use at the Farmers Investment Company (FICO) Groundwater Savings Facility for Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Inc. (Action by 30 days from the date of this memorandum)

The Bureau of Reclamation is overseeing preparation of a draft EA to analyze the potential environmental effects of plans to connect a water delivery pipeline to the CAP and deliver CAP water leased from the GRIC to an existing Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF) operated by the FICO. Use of the renewable CAP water at the GSF would allow for the accrual of long-term storage credits for future use at the Sierrita Mine, and/or the replenishment of pumped groundwater. The proposed CAP water delivery pipeline would connect to the CAP canal near its terminus at an existing vault, west of Interstate 19 on the north side of Pima Mine Road. The 36-inch diameter, gravity-driven pipeline would be constructed along Pima Mine Road to the east for approximately 2.5 miles, and then turn south following Sahuarita Road for another 3 miles. At Sahuarita Road the pipeline would split east and west and connect to three points of existing FICO irrigation system infrastructure. The approximately 6.5 miles of proposed pipeline would be entirely constructed within existing water line easements, roadway rights-of-way, and private lands owned by FICO.

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. All comments should be submitted to Attn: Mr. Dominic Graziani, at 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ 85306, or via email 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