



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
2.1.1.04

JUN 21 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers 
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for an Exchange Agreement (Agreement) of up to 25,000 Acre-Feet Annually (afa) of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Water from the Gila River Indian Community to the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District, Hohokam Irrigation and Drainage District, Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District, New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District, Roosevelt Irrigation and Drainage District, and the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association
(Action within 14 days of receiving this letter)

The Bureau of Reclamation is conducting public scoping to evaluate the potential for environmental impacts attributed to the proposed approval of an Agreement for the storage of CAP water at permitted water storage facilities by the Gila River Indian Community (Community). Parties to the Agreement are the Community, the Maricopa-Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District (MSIDD), Hohokam Irrigation and Drainage District (HIDD), Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District (CAIDD), New Magma Irrigation and Drainage District (NMIDD), Roosevelt Water Conservation District (RWCD), and Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (SRVWUA), each being a groundwater savings facility (GSF). The Agreement allows up to 25,000 afa of the Community's CAP water to be scheduled and delivered to HIDD, MSIDD, CAIDD, NMIDD, RWCD, SRVWUA customers through existing infrastructure in-lieu of the parties pumping groundwater.

In exchange for the water being delivered to the GSF, the Community would earn long term storage credits that can be recovered or assigned at the Community's sole discretion, at any location within the Phoenix/Pinal Active Management Area, in accordance with Arizona State law (ARS § 45-853.01). The Storage Agreement was executed on October 21, 2018 for a term of approximately 10 years. Beginning January 1, 2028, the Storage Agreement would be automatically renewed for an additional period of 10 years, unless either party provides written notice to terminate or renegotiate the terms of the Storage Agreement.

Approval by Reclamation, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is needed before CAP water can be delivered to the RWCD GSF pursuant to the Storage Agreement. We will consider all comments on the EA prior to making a final decision regarding the applicability of a **Finding of No Significant Impact**. The final decision will be available at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix.

Please submit your comments to Mr. Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, by mail at "Attn: Mr. Graziani, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ 85306," or by email to dgraziani@usbr.gov, no later than 14 days after the date of this letter. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information; please consider that this information is available for public review.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 623-773-6216, or via email at dgraziani@usbr.gov.