



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001

OCT 14 2011

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PXAO-1500
ENV-7.00

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations and Agencies

From: Randy N. Chandler
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA), Proposed Lease of 1,000 Acre-Feet Annually of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Water Entitlement from Gila River Indian Community to City of Apache Junction's Water Utilities Community Facilities District (WUCFD) (Action by October 28, 2011)

The Bureau of Reclamation is issuing an EA on the proposed 100-year lease of 1,000 acre-feet annually of CAP water entitlement currently held by the Gila River Indian Community to the City of Apache Junction's WUCFD. WUCFD will either treat and deliver or recharge the CAP water. The addition of this renewable water source would reduce WUCFD's dependence on groundwater within its service area and would lessen their reliance on excess CAP water. Reclamation's approval of the proposed option and lease agreement and WUCFD's delivery or recharge of the entitlement would not result in additional construction of new facilities or any land-disturbing activities beyond what WUCFD has already committed to in their 2010 Designation of Assured Water Supply.

The EA describes the existing affected environment and anticipated environmental impacts from the proposed lease. As explained in the EA, there is little difference between the future with the proposed or without the proposed lease.

Reclamation has made a preliminary determination that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for this proposed transfer, and an environmental impact statement would not need to be prepared. The EA and draft FONSI can be viewed on Reclamation's Website at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. A paper copy or CD version of the EA is available by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or email at jharagara@usbr.gov.

We will consider all comments to the EA prior to making a final decision regarding the proposed lease and whether a FONSI is appropriate. The decision will be available at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. Submit comments no later than October 28, 2011, to Ms. Nichole Olsker, Bureau of Reclamation, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001, or fax to 623-773-6486, or email nolsker@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 to be withheld, please 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.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Olsker at 623-773-6258. Thank you for your interest in this project.