



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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



PXAO-1500

ENV-7.00

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping Period Regarding Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Town of Marana Regional Sports Park (Action by: May 18, 2007)

The Town of Marana (Town of Marana), in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), proposes to develop a regional sports park on approximately 500 acres of vacant land administered by Reclamation. The project area is located southeast of the Marana Northwest Regional Airport and Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal along Avra Valley Road in Marana, Arizona (see attached maps).

The park development project will require review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). NEPA requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed Federal actions and to solicit input from state and local governments, Indian tribes, the public, and other Federal agencies during the decision-making process. Reclamation would need to authorize use of Reclamation land and ensure a thorough review of the proposal is conducted in accordance with NEPA. The appropriate level of analysis for the project was determined by Reclamation to be an EA.

Project Description

Reclamation would execute a land use agreement authorizing Marana to construct and maintain a regional sports park on the 500-acre site. The park would be designed to accommodate various team sports, community events, picnicking, and equestrian use with associated amenities, including restrooms and parking. Park facilities would be developed primarily for day use; no overnight uses (such as camping) would be allowed. A 6- to 12-year phased approach has been proposed by Marana for the initial development of the park. As the Marana area grows and use of the park increases, additional facilities envisioned by the Town would be constructed on the site.

Purpose and Need for Park Development

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide public recreational facilities for residents of the Marana area. The need for the project stems from the intense growth in northeast Pima County and Marana in particular. Areas of open desert are developing into housing, retail, commercial, and industrial developments at an unprecedented rate. Marana is responding to this growth by planning for open space and recreational opportunities. As part of this planning process, Marana identified an area of Reclamation land along Avra Valley Road that would be appropriate to meet this need.

How to Comment and Timeframe

You are encouraged to offer comments on the scope of the upcoming EA, including potential issues, concerns, and alternatives to the proposed project. Reclamation will accept comments for 30 days following the distribution of this notice. Comments related to advocacy of the project shall not be considered as part of the project scope unless they are based on or linked to a specific issue or concern.

You may submit written comments by mail, facsimile, or hand-delivery no later than May 18, 2007. Please include your full name and address and project title (Marana Regional Sports Park) with your comments.¹ Comments should be submitted to Mr. John McGlothlen, Bureau of Reclamation, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, Arizona 85306. Facsimiles may be sent to Mr. McGlothlen at 623-773-6486. Hand-delivered written comments may be submitted to the above address, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Electronic (email) comments may be submitted to jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov.

For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Mr. John McGlothlen at the address above, by telephone at 623-773-6256, or by electronic mail at jwmcglothlen@lc.usbr.gov.

Attachments - 2

¹ Please be advised that comments and personal information associated with them, such as names and addresses, become part of the Administrative Record for this NEPA review. As such, they may be made available to a third party upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If you do not wish for your personal information to be subject to FOIA, you may request an exemption from FOIA with your comment submittal. If your comments do not qualify for an exemption, you will be afforded the opportunity to resubmit your comments without personal information or to withhold them.



Figure 1. Location of the proposed regional sports park.

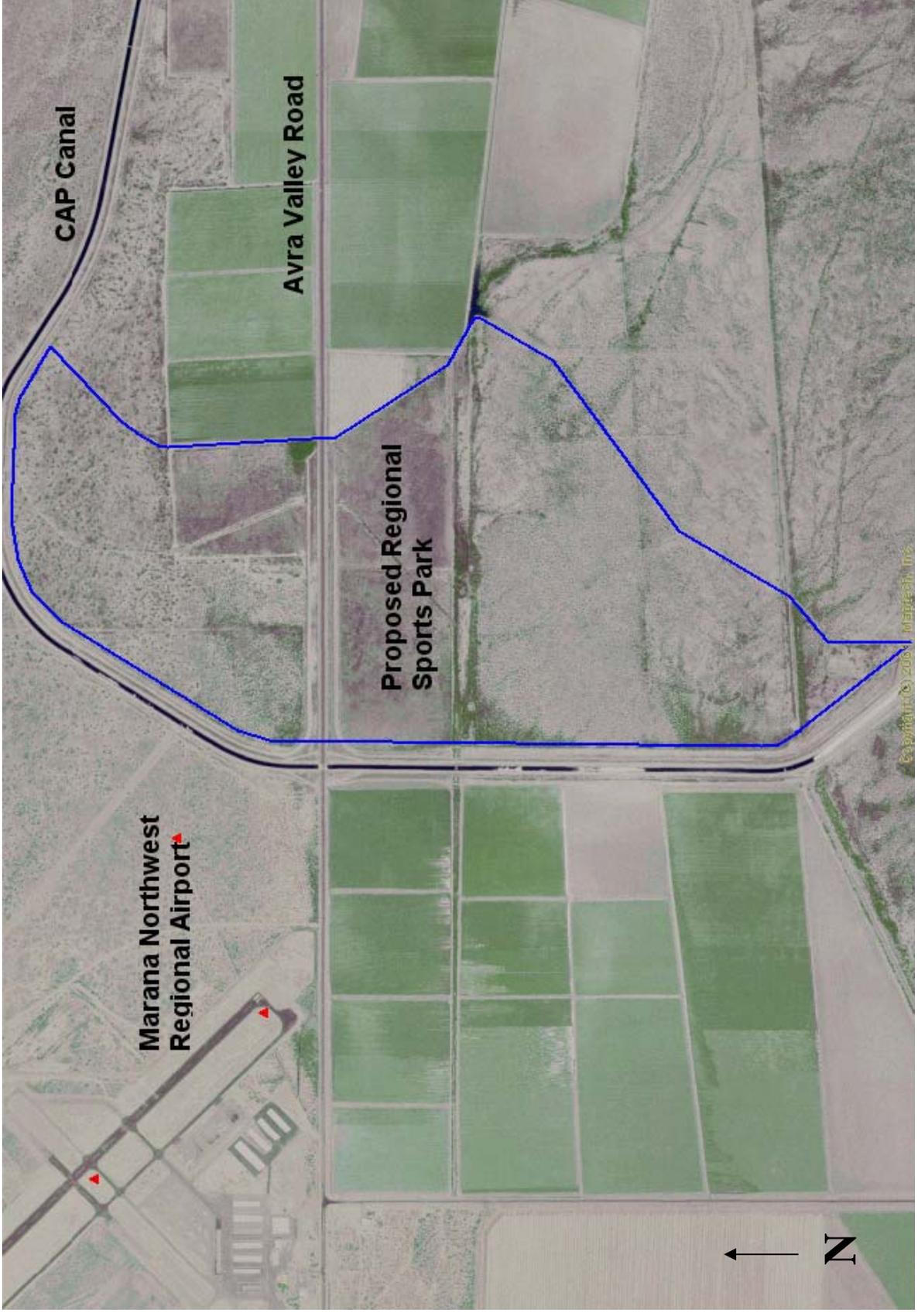


Figure 2. Approximate boundary of proposed regional sports park (shown in blue).