



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306-4001



PXAO-1500
ENV-6.00

December 17, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Randy N. Chandler *Leslie A. Meyer*
Acting For Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) on Approval of Groundwater Savings Facility Storage Agreement (Storage Agreement) (Action by January 2, 2014)

The Bureau of Reclamation has issued the attached EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to disclose the potential environmental impacts that will result from approval of the subject Storage Agreement between Freeport-McMoRan Corporation and the Roosevelt Water Conservation District (RWCD). The Storage Agreement was executed on August 21, 2013, for a term of approximately 10 years. Beginning January 1, 2023, 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.

The Storage Agreement would permit Freeport-McMoRan Corporation to store Central Arizona Project (CAP) water it leases from the Gila River Indian Community in the RWCD Groundwater Savings Facility (GSF). All such CAP water ordered by Freeport-McMoRan for delivery to the RWCD GSF may earn long-term storage credits pursuant to Arizona Revised Statute §45-852.01. 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 have made a preliminary determination that a FONSI is appropriate for the action and that preparation of an environmental impact statement is not warranted. However, we will consider all comments on the EA prior to making a final decision regarding the applicability of a FONSI. The final decision will be available at www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix.

Please submit your comments to Mr. John McGlothlen, at 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ 85306, no later than January 2, 2014. Comments may also be emailed to jmcglothlen@usbr.gov. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire

comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. McGlothlen by email at jmcglothlen@usbr.gov, or by calling 623-773-6256.

Attachments - 2

cc: Roosevelt Water Conservation District, P O. Box 100, Higley, AZ 85236
Arizona Department of Water Resources, 3550 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Central Arizona Water Conservation District, 23636 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85024
US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2321 West Royal Palm Road, Phoenix, AZ 85021
Arizona Game and Fish Department, 5000 West Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086
Freeport-McMoRan Corporation, Land and Water Department, 333 North Central Avenue,
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Honorable Gregory Mendoza, Governor, Gila River Indian Community, P.O. Box 97,
Sacaton, AZ 85247
(with attachments to each)