



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-6.00

29 October 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The Bureau of Reclamation is issuing an EA on the proposed use of Reclamation land for the SMRP. CAWCD proposes to construct and operate the SMRP on Reclamation-owned land acquired for the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and State trust lands. The project area is just east of the CAP canal where it intersects Queen Creek in Pinal County, Arizona. Under the fully built-out project, CAWCD would construct 157 acres of recharge basins and recharge up to 56,500 acre-feet of CAP water annually. Due to the unavailability of the State trust lands needed for the project, CAWCD will implement Phase I of the project on Reclamation land, constructing two 20-acre recharge basins and recharging up to 25,000 acre-feet of CAP water annually. At this time, it is unknown when, or even if, the remainder of the project will be built and operated.

The EA describes the existing affected environment and anticipated environmental impacts from construction and operation of Phase I of the proposed project, as well as impacts from the fully built-out SMRP. Based upon the EA, Reclamation has made a preliminary determination that Reclamation's approval regarding use of CAP land for the SMRP will not result in significant impacts, that a FONSI is appropriate, and an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared. The EA and a draft FONSI are available for public review on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office Web site, www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix. A hard copy or CD version of the EA also may be obtained by calling the Environmental Resource Management Division at 623-773-6251, or by e-mailing rkonst@usbr.gov.

We will consider all comments on both the EA and the draft FONSI prior to making a final decision regarding the proposed transfer. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible. Please mail your comments to Ms. Sandra Eto, Environmental Resource Management Division, at the above address, Attention: PXAO-1500, or via electronic mail to seto@usbr.gov, or send to faxogram 623-773-6486, no later than November 30, 2009. Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your

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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.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Eto of the Environmental Resource Management Division, at 623-773-6254. Thank you for your interest in this project.