



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

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

FOR:

Subject: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Central Arizona Water Conservation District's (CAWCD) Proposed Superstition Mountains Recharge Project (SMRP), Pinal County, Arizona

The Bureau of Reclamation is issuing a FONSI for the 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). 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; acquisition of State trust land will be needed to develop the fully built-out project. Due to the unavailability of the State trust lands needed for the project, CAWCD will implement Phase I of the project on 107 acres of 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.

Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft FONSI and issued them for public review and comment on October 29, 2009. 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. Three letters were received; however, no revision of the EA is required.

Having no additional issues to consider, Reclamation has made a final determination that the FONSI is appropriate for the proposed action, and an environmental impact statement does not have to be prepared. Reclamation will approve CAWCD's use of Reclamation land for construction and operation of the SMRP. The FONSI and the EA are available on Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office Web site, www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix.

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