



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

February 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Carol Lynn Erwin
Area Manager

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Transfer of 1,481 Acre-Feet Annually (AFA) of Central Arizona Project (CAP) Water from Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) to the Town of Marana Utilities Department (TMUD), Pima County, Arizona (Action by March 9, 2009)

Reclamation has received a proposal from TMUD for purchase and transfer of 1,481 AFA of FWID's CAP water entitlement. If approved, TMUD's CAP water service subcontract would be amended to add 1,481 AFA to its existing allotment of 47 acre-feet, for a total of 1,528 AFA of CAP water; FWID's CAP water service subcontract would be amended to reduce its entitlement by this same amount (Figure 1, attached). TMUD indicates the additional CAP water would be used to reduce its dependency on the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District to fulfill TMUD's replenishment obligations under the Groundwater Management Act. In the foreseeable future, TMUD would recharge this additional CAP water in the Lower Santa Cruz Recharge Project. No new treatment and delivery facilities would need to be constructed for TMUD to use this transferred CAP water.

FWID entered into a CAP water service subcontract in 1985 for 4,354 AFA but has never taken delivery of its CAP entitlement. FWID's service area is essentially built out and has determined the 1,481 AFA of CAP entitlement that would be transferred to TMUD is in excess of its water supply needs.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, Reclamation is requiring preparation of an EA to describe the anticipated environmental consequences resulting from approval and implementation of this transfer of CAP water entitlement and amendment of FWID's and TMUD's CAP water service subcontracts. The EA will also consider a No Action alternative—Reclamation would not approve the transfer nor amend the CAP water service subcontracts. It is anticipated that under that scenario, FWID would continue to pursue transfer of CAP water entitlement it considers to be excess to its needs, and TMUD would continue pursuing other sources of water to add to its water supply portfolio.

We are requesting your input regarding resources, issues, and concerns you feel should be addressed in the EA. To be most helpful, comments should be as specific as possible and sent to Reclamation at the above address, ATTN: Ms. Sandra Eto, by March 9, 2009. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

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.

Attachment

