



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001
MAR 11 2022

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXAO-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Memorandum

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

From: Leslie A. Meyers
Area Manager

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MEYERS
Date: 2022.03.11 15:52:45 -07'00'

Subject: Notice of Availability – Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed GSC Farm, LLC – Town of Queen Creek Water Partial Assignment and Transfer – La Paz, Pinal, and Maricopa Counties, Arizona (Action by April 15, 2022)

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the potential impacts from the Town of Queen Creek's (Queen Creek) proposed GSC Farm, LLC – Queen Creek water partial assignment and transfer. GSC Farm, LLC (GSC Farm) has an entitlement to an annual diversion of up to 2,913.3 acre-feet of Arizona fourth priority mainstream Colorado River water for irrigation use within GSC Farm's contract service area. GSC Farm's total consumptive use of its entitlement is 2,083.1 acre-feet per year (AFY). GSC Farm's entitlement is authorized under the Contract for the Delivery of Colorado River Water for Use in Arizona, between GSC Farm and the United States of America, Contract No. 13-XX-30-W0571, dated December 23, 2013, and as amended by Amendment No. 1, dated December 3, 2014 (collectively, the GSC Contract). GSC Farm's water entitlement is presently used to irrigate approximately 485 acres of farmland, owned by GSC Farm, located within the Cibola Valley Irrigation and Drainage District in La Paz County, Arizona.

The draft EA analyzes two action alternatives and a no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, the proposed transfer of water between GSC Farm and Queen Creek would not occur. One action alternative analyzes the potential impacts of a partial assignment and transfer of 2,033.01 AFY, and the other action alternative analyzes a lower transfer amount of 1,078.01 AFY. Under both action alternatives Reclamation would approve: (1) the partial assignment and transfer of Arizona fourth priority Colorado River water between GSC Farm and Queen Creek; (2) a Colorado River water delivery contract between the United States and Queen Creek; (3) an amendment of the existing Colorado River water delivery contract between GSC Farm and the United States to reduce GSC Farm's Arizona fourth priority Colorado River water entitlement; and (4) a Wheeling Contract with Queen Creek to wheel the transferred water to the Queen Creek service area.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

The draft EA is available for public review and comment on the project website www.gscfarmqckwatertransfer.com and on the Lower Colorado Basin's website at https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/ProposedAction_GSC_QC.html. Comments should be submitted to: Bureau of Reclamation, ATTN: GSC-QC Water Transfer EA, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, Arizona, 85306, or via email to: proposedwatertransfer@usbr.gov, or submitted online through: www.gscfarmqckwatertransfer.com, no later than April 15, 2022. For additional project information and directions on submitting comments, please visit the website: <https://www.gscfarmqckwatertransfer.com/>.

For additional information regarding this memorandum, please contact Mr. Sean Heath, Reclamation's Phoenix Area Office, Environmental Resource Management Division Manager, via email at sheath@usbr.gov.

Please be aware that by law, your name, address, and other personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. You may request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review by stating so prominently at the beginning of your comment. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so; however, we will honor your request to the extent allowable by law. All comments from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.