
CHAPTER 1

1

1 INTRODUCTION

2 The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is authorized by the Wellton-Mohawk Transfer Act
3 of June 2000 (P.L. 106-221, Appendix A) to transfer title to the facilities of the Wellton-
4 Mohawk Division (Division) of the Gila Project and lands in or adjacent to the Gila Project
5 to the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (District). This Draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared by the Department of the
7 Interior (DOI), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to evaluate the potential impacts of the
8 proposed title transfer.

9 The Division, located in Yuma County, Arizona is currently owned by the United States,
10 administered by Reclamation, and operated by the District. The Gila Project was originally
11 authorized under a finding of feasibility approved by the President on June 21, 1937. The
12 project was reauthorized by the Gila Project Act of July 30, 1947 (P.L. 272) for the purpose
13 of reclaiming and irrigating lands in the State of Arizona and other beneficial uses.

14 Reclamation is an agency of the DOI established by Congress in 1902, whose mission is to
15 manage, develop, and protect water resources in 17 western states in the interest of the
16 American public. Reclamation is responsible for administration of the Gila Project for the
17 United States and for management of federal lands in Yuma County that were acquired or
18 withdrawn from the public domain for purposes of the Gila Project.

19 The Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District is a political subdivision of the State
20 of Arizona constituted to own lands and facilities and to contract with Reclamation for
21 diversion of Colorado River water for delivery to its landowners. Created in 1951 by action
22 of the state legislature, the District begins approximately 12 miles east of the City of Yuma
23 and extends upstream along the Gila River corridor for approximately 45 miles, as shown on
24 Map 1-1.

25 Reclamation and the District signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in July 1998,
26 amended May 11, 2001, regarding the title transfer process (Appendix A). The MOA
27 defines the method and principles by which title to the Division works, facilities, and certain
28 federally owned lands would be transferred from the United States to the District.

29 **1.1 LEAD AND COOPERATING AGENCIES**

30 Pursuant to the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations
31 implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1500 et seq.),
32 Reclamation is the lead agency in this NEPA review of the proposed title transfer. The
33 District is a cooperating agency under NEPA for this EIS.

1 1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

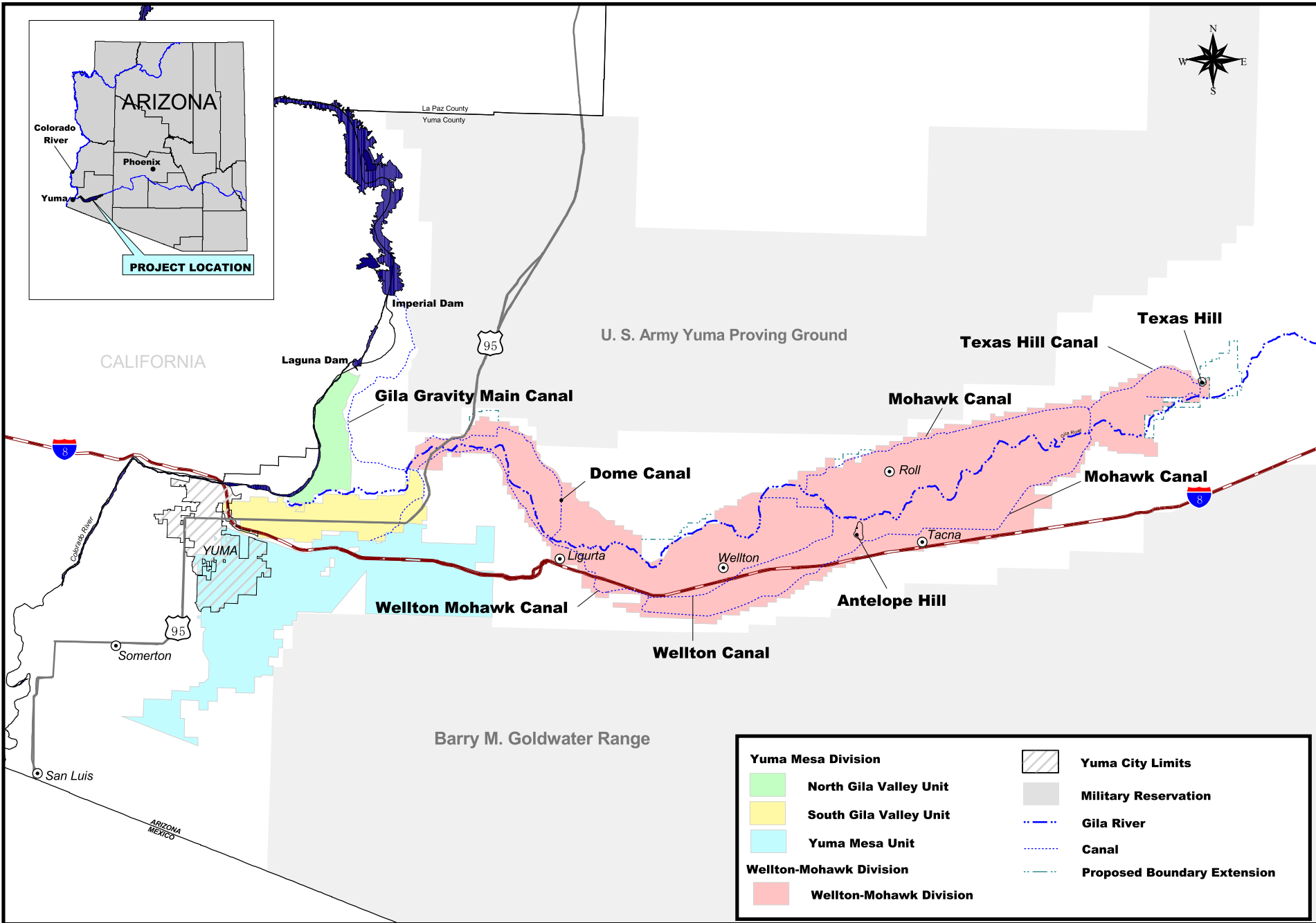
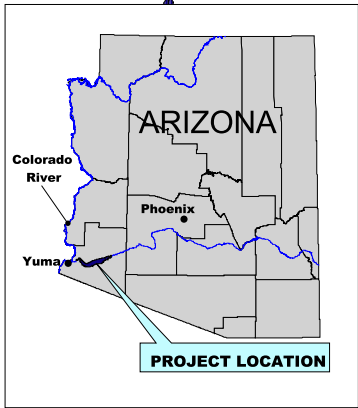
2 As part of the second phase of the National Performance Review (REGO II), Reclamation is
3 undertaking a program to transfer title of facilities that could be efficiently and effectively
4 managed by nonfederal entities and that are not identified as having national importance.
5 This effort recognizes Reclamation's commitment to a federal government that works better
6 and costs less, in concert with the goals of the REGO II. The transfer of title will divest
7 Reclamation of the responsibility for the operation, maintenance, management, regulation
8 of, and liability for the project facilities and appurtenant lands to an entity that has
9 demonstrated its ability to best manage the project.










10 Under REGO II, Reclamation intends to transfer title and responsibility for certain facilities
11 to entities that are currently operating and maintaining the facilities and managing the lands.
12 The transfer of title would consolidate management responsibility with the District, and
13 thereby allow the District to have greater authority in the management of growth in the
14 Wellton-Mohawk Valley, protect against encroachment on agriculture, and consolidate
15 ownership of lands, facilities, and the Gila River Flood Channel. This consolidation of
16 management obligations with the District is consistent with the intent of REGO II, and
17 achieves the purposes of the federal action by transferring title to an entity suited to
18 accepting such responsibilities (DOI, 1996).

19 1.3 BACKGROUND

20 Congress approved the Gila Project, originally known as the Parker-Gila Project, on
21 December 21, 1928. The Gila Project is divided into two divisions: the Yuma Mesa Division
22 and the Wellton-Mohawk Division (Map 1-1). The Yuma Mesa Division is further
23 subdivided into three units: the Mesa Unit, the North Gila Valley Unit, and South Gila
24 Valley Unit. Construction in the Yuma Mesa Division was initiated during the late 1930s,
25 which included construction of the Gila Gravity Main Canal (GGMC) between 1936 and
26 1939. Congress passed the Gila Project Reauthorization Act in 1947, to provide funding for
27 the Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project. In 1952, water deliveries via the newly
28 constructed Wellton-Mohawk Canal arrived in the area. The remaining features of the
29 Wellton-Mohawk canal system were completed by 1957.

30 The Wellton-Mohawk Division of the Gila Project receives Colorado River water from a
31 turnout on the GGMC at the western end of the District. From this point, water is carried
32 approximately 18.5 miles east parallel to the Gila River through the Wellton-Mohawk
33 Canal, from which it is diverted into the Dome, Wellton, and Mohawk Canals. From these
34 three canals, the water is released to distribution laterals and disseminated to farms and other
35 water users. The irrigation system layout today remains largely the same as its original
36 construction. Neither the GGMC nor any portion of the Yuma Mesa Division property and
37 lands is proposed as part of the Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer.



| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|  | North Gila Valley Unit |  | Yuma City Limits |
|  | South Gila Valley Unit |  | Military Reservation |
|  | Yuma Mesa Unit |  | Gila River |
| | |  | Canal |
| | Wellton-Mohawk Division |  | Proposed Boundary Extension |
|  | Wellton-Mohawk Division | | |

Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer
Map 1-1 Location Map

DRAFT



Not to scale. For illustrative purposes only.

1 1.3.1 Wellton-Mohawk Division Facilities

2 The federal facilities owned by Reclamation lie within the boundaries of the District, which
3 covers an area approximately 45 miles long by as much as seven miles wide and
4 encompasses an area of approximately 130,000 acres. The facilities include irrigation and
5 drainage systems, various administrative buildings, and flood control facilities. The
6 irrigation and drainage systems serve 62,875 acres of irrigable land. The flood control
7 facilities consist of the Gila River Flood Channel, which protects against river floods, and
8 numerous protective dikes and floodway channels that protect against overland runoff
9 during rainstorms. Small portions of the Gila River Flood Channel rights-of-way are located
10 outside the current District boundary at the eastern end of the project. These federal
11 facilities, which the District operates, are further described in Section 2.2.1.

12 1.3.2 Wellton-Mohawk Division Lands

13 The federal lands owned by Reclamation considered in the proposed title transfer include the
14 federal rights-of-way and easements for the facilities, plus other lands and rights secured by
15 Reclamation for various purposes related to the Division. The federal rights-of-way and
16 easements for Division facilities comprise approximately 29,091 acres within the District
17 boundary. The other lands and rights comprise approximately 28,327 acres located both
18 within and outside the District boundary. These lands and rights, aggregating to
19 approximately 57,418 acres, are further described in Section 2.2.2.

20 1.4 TITLE TRANSFER PROCESS

21 Reclamation policy requires title transfers to be carried out in an open and public manner. In
22 addition to satisfying NEPA requirements, this DEIS evaluates the proposed title transfer
23 using the following six broad public interest criteria, as defined by Reclamation:

- 24 1. The Federal Treasury, and thereby the taxpayer's financial interest, must be
25 protected.
- 26 2. The title transfer must comply with all applicable state and federal laws.
- 27 3. Interstate compacts and agreements must be protected.
- 28 4. The Secretary of the Interior's Native American trust responsibilities must be met.
- 29 5. Treaty obligation and international agreements must be fulfilled.
- 30 6. The public aspects of the project must be protected.

31 The title transfer program is being implemented throughout the western states in which
32 Reclamation has developed water and power projects. To date, Reclamation has completed
33 title transfers for lands, facilities, and other assets associated with a number of federal

1 projects such as the Robert B. Griffith Water Project in Nevada and the Palmetto Bend
2 Project in Texas, among others.

3 **1.5 SCOPE OF THIS EIS**

4 The proposed title transfer is limited to the change in ownership of federal facilities and
5 lands from Reclamation to the District. Because the District plans to make no significant
6 changes in the structure or operation of the irrigation, drainage, and flood control facilities
7 following the title transfer, an evaluation of these activities is not within the scope of this
8 EIS. The transfer of title to lands currently in federal ownership is an administrative action;
9 however, changes in ownership could result in changes in land use. Consequently, the focus
10 of this EIS is on the effects of future District activities on lands within the District and
11 within two or three miles of District boundaries.

12 One specific future land use change is the proposed transfer of title of a 120-acre parcel
13 adjacent to the Ligurta substation (see Map 1-2). This parcel is being considered as the site
14 of a natural gas-fired combined cycle electric generating facility, and as such, it is one of
15 multiple federal agency actions being evaluated in a separate NEPA review by the Western
16 Area Power Administration (Western). Reclamation is participating in Western's NEPA
17 review as a cooperating agency (see Section 1.6.5).

18 Section 3.1 describes the approach used in this EIS to define changes in land use that may
19 occur within the District following title transfer and to analyze potential impacts to natural
20 resources. A comprehensive analysis of the impacts of the generating facility proposed to be
21 sited on transferred Reclamation land will be presented in the EIS being prepared by
22 Western.

23 **1.5.1 Public Involvement/Scoping Process**

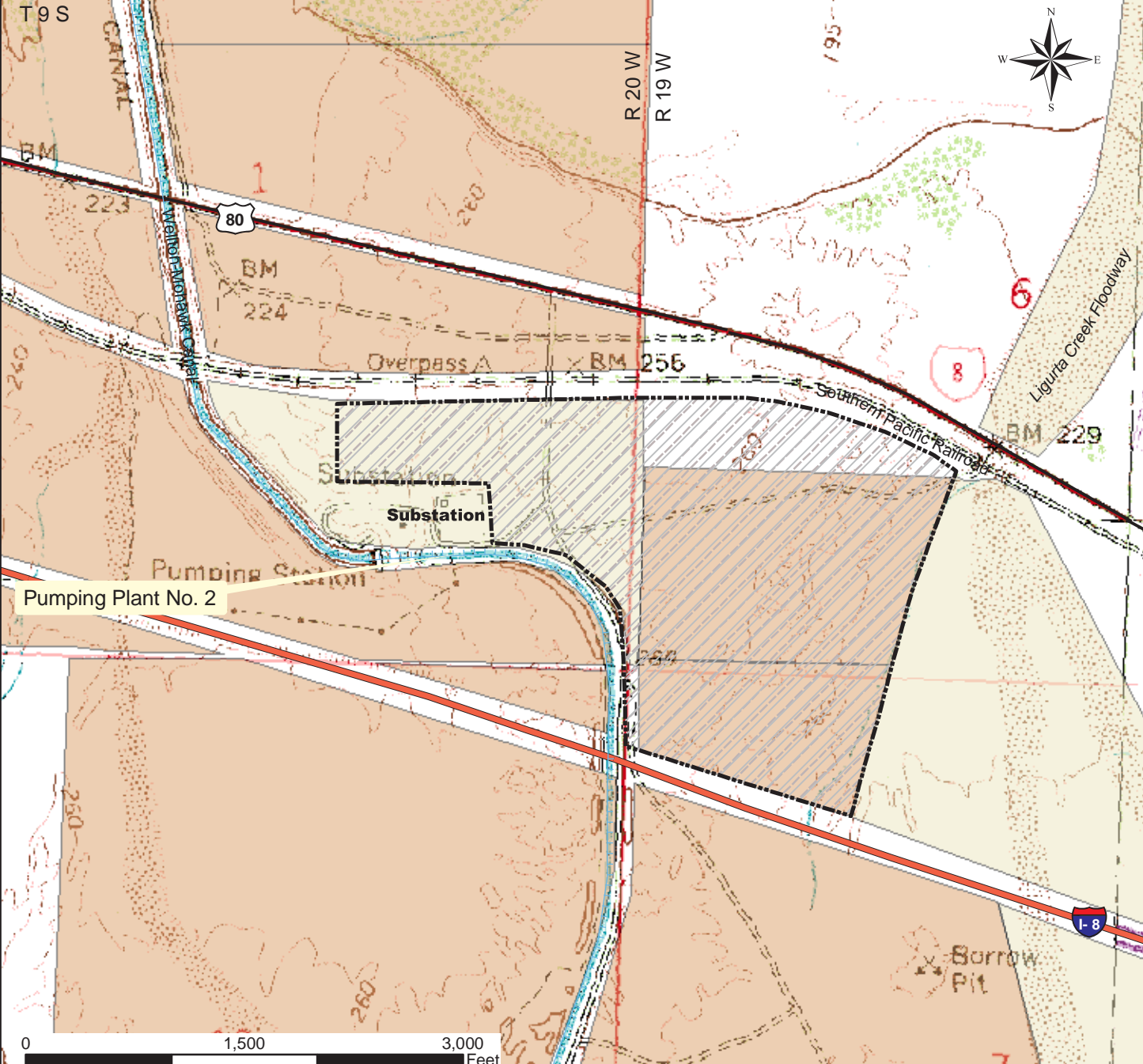
24 In accordance with CEQ requirements and DOI NEPA guidelines, public meetings were
25 held for the Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer in the summer of 2001. Scoping activities were
26 conducted to obtain information on significant issues related to the title transfer, to inform
27 the public about the proposed title transfer, and to invite public comment on the scope and
28 content of the environmental review (see Chapter 5 for further details).

29 Four comment letters were received during the scoping period. The letters were from the
30 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies (on
31 behalf of itself, the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental
32 Defense, Friends of Arizona Rivers, Sierra Club, and Southwest Rivers), the Yuma Valley
33 Rod and Gun Club, and a private individual. Copies of the comment letters are included in
34 Appendix B.

T 9 S






R 20 W
R 19 W



Pumping Plant No. 2

Legend

-  Proposed Wellton-Mohawk Generating Facility Location
(Includes Parts of Sec's 6 & 7, 9S, 19W; & Sec 1, 9S, 20W, Gila and Salt River Baseline & Meridian)
-  Lands Proposed for Transfer or Purchase
-  Facilities Proposed for Transfer *

* Facilities include canals, laterals, floodways, and associated rights-of-way

Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer

Map 1-2 Proposed Location of the Wellton-Mohawk Generating Facility



1 Table 1-1 summarizes the issues raised during the scoping process and a determination of
2 their relevance to this NEPA review. The issues raised in public comments included various
3 aspects of water supply and drainage in the Yuma-Transboundary area of the Colorado
4 River system, including future water supply for the Cienega de Santa Clara in the Colorado
5 River Delta area of Mexico. Some comments suggested the DEIS should address water
6 resources management within the District and in the Yuma area and that the project should
7 include some planning for future water supply contingencies. A review of the federal
8 financial program under which the facilities of the Division were constructed and repaid was
9 also requested. After reviewing the public scoping comments, Reclamation determined that
10 water supply and wildlife issues whose focus was external to the District were not relevant
11 to the title transfer project or the analyses required in the DEIS. Issues raised during the
12 scoping process applicable to the title transfer project are addressed within this DEIS. In
13 addition, some of the physical, contractual, and other institutional relationships discussed in
14 this document may serve to clarify issues of concern that were found to be irrelevant to the
15 proposed title transfer.

16 **1.6 ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND RELATED ACTIONS**

17 This section describes other activities that are ongoing in or near the Division, or that are
18 reasonably anticipated to occur in the future. Their relationships to the ownership of the
19 facilities and lands proposed for transfer establishes a context for analyzing future
20 conditions under the proposed title transfer and No Action Alternatives.

21 **1.6.1 Operation and Maintenance of the Irrigation System**

22 The District has operated and maintained the irrigation and drainage systems of the Division
23 since the first water delivery from the system occurred in 1952. It currently has a
24 consumptive use entitlement (diversion minus return flow) to Colorado River water for
25 278,000 acre-feet per year, diverted at Imperial Dam and conveyed to the District through
26 the GGMC. Up to 5,000 acre-feet of the District's entitlement are designated for domestic
27 use for communities and other commercial and residential areas of the District. The District
28 has submitted a formal request to amend to its water supply contract with Reclamation to
29 increase its domestic allotment to 10,000 acre-feet per year. Under its water delivery
30 contract with Reclamation, as amended, the District is permitted to provide irrigation water
31 to a maximum of 62,875 acres of irrigable land.

32 Operation of the irrigation system involves pumping water at three pumping plants on the
33 Wellton-Mohawk Canal with a combined lift of 170 feet. Additional pump lifts necessary to
34 reach lands at higher elevations result in a maximum pump lift of approximately 250 feet.
35 Maintenance activities include repairs to canals and other structures, cleanup of flood
36 damage, and servicing pumps, motors, and other mechanical equipment.

1 **TABLE 1-1 SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED IN PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS**

| Issue/Suggestion | Relevance to the Title Transfer Project |
|---|--|
| Identify the facilities and lands proposed for transfer | This issue is relevant to the Proposed Action. The facilities and lands have been identified in Chapter 2. |
| Analyze future land use in the District | As a relevant issue, land use projections under the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives are presented in Section 3. |
| Analyze the effect on Colorado River water supply and water quality | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action would not change the water supply or drainage regime of the District. Section 3.5 discusses water supply issues. |
| Analyze the effect on Yuma Desalting Plant operation | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action does not change the agricultural return flows (ARFs) from the District, nor alter Reclamation's obligations pursuant to the U.S.-Mexico Water Treaty of 1944, Minute 242, and P.L. 93-320, and other options regarding the future operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant. |
| Analyze the effect on water supply for the Colorado River Delta in Mexico | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action would not change the ARFs from the District or affect Reclamation's national obligations and handling of drainage water in the Yuma-Transboundary area. |
| Analyze the establishment of additional controls on ARFs from the District | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action would not change the operations of the District. Current agreements between the District and Reclamation provide sufficient goals regarding the ARFs delivered to Reclamation's Main Outlet Drain at Station 0+00. |
| Analyze the effect on power contracts and the Western Area Power Administration system | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action would not change the provisions of the District's power contracts. |
| Evaluate the effect on the Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) | This issue is not relevant because the Proposed Action would not affect the relationship between the MSCP planning effort and the Gila River corridor in the District. Lands in the District are included in the MSCP analyses and the District is a member of the MSCP Steering Committee. |
| Analyze the future maintenance of habitat along the Gila River corridor in the District | This issue is relevant to the Proposed Action. The Gila River Flood Channel and adjacent mitigation areas are managed by the District under the terms of its Section 404 permit issued by the Corps for the Gila River Flood Channel. The habitat management program is described in Section 3.6. |
| Analyze the application of the Endangered Species Act after the proposed title transfer | This issue is relevant to Proposed Action lands outside of the Gila River Flood Channel. The flood channel lands require compliance with the Endangered Species Act for the life of the Gila River Flood Channel Restoration Project as discussed in Section 3.6. |
| Present the current value of the facilities and lands to be transferred | This issue is not relevant. The construction of the Wellton-Mohawk Division involved a financial commitment by the District when it executed its repayment contract with Reclamation. The repayment obligation has been discharged, and the current value of the facilities and lands to be transferred to the District has no bearing on the Proposed Action. |
| Present the current value of the lands to be purchased | This issue is relevant to the Proposed Action. A proprietary appraisal is being prepared to establish the fair market value of the lands to be purchased. |

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3

1 The District also operates and maintains the drainage system for the management of
2 groundwater. The drainage system includes groundwater wells and various open and closed
3 drains, and the Main Conveyance Channel. The Main Conveyance Channel is a collector
4 drain that delivers agricultural return flows (ARFs) to Reclamation's Main Outlet Drain
5 (MOD) at Station 0+00 located at the western end of the District. Drainage wells are
6 operated as needed to control groundwater depth and meet Reclamation goals on the annual
7 amount of ARFs delivered to MOD by the District.

8 The District has also submitted a request for a boundary extension to include the eastern end
9 of the Gila River Flood Channel within the District boundary and to encompass District
10 facilities and operational areas (e.g., protective dikes and adjacent flowage easements along
11 the northern perimeter of the District). The proposed boundary extension is depicted on
12 maps in this EIS for informational purposes only. A NEPA process was completed by
13 Reclamation for its action of granting the boundary extension (Reclamation, 2002).

14 **1.6.2 Operation and Maintenance of the Gila River Flood Channel**

15 The District operates and maintains the 56.3-mile Gila River Flood Channel as prescribed by
16 a mitigation plan developed with the Corps as part of the Clean Water Act, Section 404
17 Permit for the flood channel.

18 The present flood channel is the result of a major rehabilitation project during the mid-1990s
19 to correct the damage caused by Gila River flooding that occurred in 1993. This flooding
20 destroyed the previous flood channel and drastically altered the alignment of the river. The
21 new flood channel was constructed to be 50 percent wider than the previous channel to
22 better control flood flows. To compensate for habitat disturbances during construction and to
23 contribute to the general conservation of habitat along the river, numerous mitigation
24 measures were included in the project. The armored slopes of the levees and the rock grade
25 control structures were covered with soil, and a low flow channel was formed to promote the
26 growth of marsh vegetation. Also, seven marshes, referred to as "oxbow ponds", were
27 developed from remnants of the old river channel that were severed by the flood flows.

28 The operation and maintenance (O&M) of the flood control project includes furnishing
29 water to the marshes from drainage wells and diversion structures. The flood control project
30 also required the District to purchase approximately 2,000 acres of land in and adjacent to
31 the river channel. These lands were dedicated to the development of the floodway and
32 adjacent wildlife habitat. The 404 Permit requires the District to operate and maintain this
33 habitat for the life of the project.

34 **1.6.3 Power Supply and Distribution**

35 In addition to its other functions, the District serves as an electric power utility for the
36 irrigation facilities and to agricultural, commercial, and residential customers in the Mohawk

1 Valley, the Yuma Proving Ground, and in the Martinez Lake area near the Colorado River.
2 Power is obtained from hydroelectric generation at the Parker and Davis Dams through the
3 Parker Davis Project and from other sources. The District may obtain additional power from
4 the proposed Wellton-Mohawk Generating Facility, described below in Section 1.6.5.

5 Power from the existing sources is supplied to the District through Western's power
6 transmission and distribution system of the and delivered to the District at the Ligorita
7 Substation adjacent to Wellton-Mohawk Canal Pumping Plant No. 2. The District's existing
8 federal power contracts will be unaffected by the title transfer.

9 **1.6.4 Agency Land Management Activities**

10 Federal lands administered for various purposes by different federal agencies surround the
11 District. Two large military reservations frame the Wellton-Mohawk Valley on the north and
12 south. The Yuma Proving Ground is managed by the U.S. Army and occupies a block of
13 land extending northward from the north side of the Wellton-Mohawk Valley for more than
14 20 miles. The Barry M. Goldwater Range is managed by the U.S. Air Force and occupies a
15 block of land extending from the south side of the Wellton-Mohawk Valley to the
16 international boundary with Mexico. The lands in these reservations are managed to provide
17 ordnance testing and training exercises and have restricted public access.

18 There are approximately 77,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in the
19 project area. A large tract of BLM land north of the District contains the Muggins
20 Mountains Wilderness Area. Another large BLM tract of land blankets the Gila Mountains
21 near the west end of the District. An area of BLM land along the Gila River at the eastern
22 end of the District is designated as the Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt (BLM, 2002). Parts of this
23 area contain sections of the Gila River Flood Channel, for which Reclamation has easements
24 covering approximately 1,000 acres for the O&M of the flood channel. Generally, the BLM
25 lands are managed for multipurpose uses in accord with the Yuma District Resource
26 Management Plan and its Record of Decision, as amended (BLM, 1985).

27 Portions of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, designated by Congress in
28 1990, extend through BLM administered lands and other locations in the project area. The
29 National Park Service has developed the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan and a
30 Long Range Interpretive Plan which coordinate activities associated with the interpretation
31 of this historic trail and the establishment of recreational routes and facilities along the trail.

32 Approximately 31,000 acres of Arizona State Trust lands lie in the valley, within and
33 outside the District boundary. State Trust lands are administered by the Arizona State Land
34 Department. Over a third of the acreage is currently being leased for agricultural purposes.
35 The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) administers other state land for wildlife

1 habitat purposes. The District's current water and land operations are coordinated with the
2 programs of these agencies.

3 **1.6.5 Dome Valley Partners Wellton-Mohawk Generating Facility**

4 On May 19, 2003, Western published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* announcing
5 its plans to prepare an EIS for multiple federal agency actions related to a proposal by Dome
6 Valley Energy Partners, LLC, to construct and operate the Wellton-Mohawk Generating
7 Facility (WMGF) east of Yuma, Arizona. The power project partners, collectively referred
8 to as Dome Valley, include the District, Dome Valley Energy Partners LLC, and the Yuma
9 County Water Users' Association. Western is the lead agency conducting the DEIS and both
10 Reclamation and BLM are cooperating agencies in Western's NEPA review of the Dome
11 Valley project.

12 The WMGF is proposed to be located on approximately 120 acres of Reclamation land
13 adjacent to Western's existing Ligurta Substation, approximately 25 miles east of Yuma,
14 Arizona, nine miles west of Wellton, Arizona, and north of Interstate 8 (see Map 1-2). In
15 addition to the proposed land transfer, Western's EIS will address the construction of a new
16 natural gas pipeline, high-voltage transmission line upgrades, additions needed to support
17 the WMGF, a no-action alternative, and any other action alternatives defined as a result of
18 the EIS scoping process.

19 Reclamation has two options upon which to base its decision to transfer the 120-acre parcel
20 for siting the WMGF.

21 1. Reclamation may choose to base its Record of Decision to transfer the parcel from
22 federal ownership to the District on the findings of Western's EIS, rather than the
23 Wellton-Mohawk Title Transfer EIS, given the known intended use of the parcel,
24 even though the proposed site is among the estimated 57,418 acres earmarked for
25 title transfer.

26 Should Western's EIS be completed prior to the Wellton-Mohawk EIS, Reclamation
27 may choose to transfer title to the 120-acre parcel prior to transferring the remaining
28 land and facilities that are the subject of this Title Transfer EIS.

29 2. If this Title Transfer EIS is completed first and a Record of Decision is issued
30 supporting the transfer, title to the land could be transferred to the District prior to
31 the completion of Western's EIS. If this occurs, however, construction of the WMGF
32 could not occur until the NEPA review of the Dome Valley proposal is completed
33 and a favorable Record of Decision is issued. Dome Valley would only be able to
34 construct the WMGF pending the outcome of Western's NEPA review.

1 1.7 DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

2 Since the inception of the Gila Project, several environmental reports and contractual
3 documents have been developed that are related to the proposed action. Much of the
4 information contained in the various documents has been previously distributed to interested
5 agencies and private parties. To avoid duplication and undue paperwork, this draft DEIS
6 incorporates by reference several documents in part or in whole.

7 1.7.1 Environmental Documents

8 ~~Wellton-Mohawk Gila River Flood Channel Restoration Project, Final~~
9 ~~Environmental Assessment~~, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, March 1995.

10 ~~Final Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact~~
11 ~~Statement, as amended~~. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management,
12 August 1985.

13 ~~Yuma County 2010 Comprehensive Plan~~, Yuma County Department of Development
14 Services, 2001.

15 ~~Comprehensive Management and Use Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement~~
16 ~~Juan Bautista de Anza, National Historical Trail~~, U. S. Department of the Interior,
17 National Park Service, 1996.

18 1.7.2 Contracts

19 In 1952, the District entered into a contract with Reclamation (acting on behalf of the
20 Secretary) addressing the construction of Division facilities, repayment of costs, delivery of
21 water, and power supply. By 1988, the District's annual payments on its construction debt to
22 the Federal Treasury ended, and in November 27, 1991, Reclamation issued the District a
23 repayment certificate. The contracts and amendments most closely associated with the
24 proposed title transfer include:

25 ~~Contract No. 1-07-30-W0021, July 17, 1981~~. Amendatory and Supplemental
26 Consolidated Contract with the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District for
27 Delivery of Water, Construction of Works, Repayment, and Project Power Supply.
28 This contract consolidates all prior contracts between Reclamation and the District. It
29 addresses the entire range of construction, operation and maintenance, power supply,
30 and repayment aspects of the Division, and recites the irrigable acreage changes
31 authorized by P.L. 93-320.

32 ~~Contract No. 6-07-30-W0117, January 3, 1986~~. Supplemental and Amendatory
33 Contract for the Construction of Drainage Facilities and Minor Construction

1 Pursuant to the Amendatory and Supplemental Consolidated Contract with the
2 Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District for Delivery of Water,
3 Construction of Works, Repayment, and Project Power Supply [Contract No. 1-07-
4 30-W0021, cited above]. This contract addresses the construction of the Gila River
5 Flood Channel and drainage system improvements.

6 ~~§~~ Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 1-07-30-W0021, February 9, 1990. Supplemental
7 and Amendatory Contract between the United States and the Wellton-Mohawk
8 Irrigation and Drainage District. This contract amendment addresses the federal
9 purchase of farmland to be retired from agricultural production from willing sellers
10 in the District and changes in the District's irrigable acreage and Colorado River
11 water entitlement. This was implemented as a part of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa
12 Indian Water Rights Settlement.

13 ~~§~~ Repayment Certificate, November 27, 1991. Certificate of Discharge of Repayment
14 Obligation and Exemption from Acreage Limitation and Full Cost Pricing Provisions
15 of Federal Reclamation Law. This document certifies that the District's contractual
16 repayment obligation for the Wellton-Mohawk Division irrigation and drainage
17 facilities has been met. It also relieves the District of requirements to limit the
18 amount of land irrigated by a single landowner and applicable pricing provisions.

19 ~~§~~ Contemporaneous Power Contracts. Power Management Agreement (Reclamation's
20 and Western's Contract Numbers 6-CU-30-P1136, 6-CU-30-P1137, AND 6-CU-30-
21 P1138) including any amendments, supplements, or extensions thereof.

22 1.7.3 Public Laws

23 ~~§~~ Salinity Control Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-320). This act of Congress authorized the
24 Secretary to reduce the irrigable acreage of the District in order to reduce the return
25 flows from the District. Reclamation achieved the acreage reduction in two ways.
26 Approximately 6,200 acres were acquired from private landowners that had or were
27 in the process of developing farm units. The remaining acreage reduction was
28 achieved by rescinding the "irrigable" designation of approximately 3,600 acres of
29 withdrawn land that had not yet been developed into farm units. The return flow
30 reduction was an economic factor in determining the capacity of the Yuma Desalting
31 Plant, whose construction was authorized under this Act. The 10,000 acres of
32 acquired lands were selected based on willing sellers and because their irrigation
33 water requirement was relatively high, as was their potential contribution to the
34 amount of saline return flow from the District that the Yuma Desalting Plant was
35 designed to treat.

1 ~~§~~ Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988
2 (P.L. 100-512). This act of Congress authorized the Secretary to reduce the irrigable
3 acreage of the District in order to reallocate a portion of the District's Colorado
4 River water entitlement for use in the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
5 water rights settlement. The reduction in the District's consumptive use entitlement
6 was 22,000 acre-feet. The action was concluded with the acquisition of
7 approximately 2,225 acres of irrigable land from private landowners.

8 1.8 OTHER AGENCIES WHO MAY USE THIS DOCUMENT

9 This Draft EIS may be used by other federal, state, and local agencies in conjunction with
10 ongoing or future activities in the project area. At present, Western has issued a Notice of
11 Intent to construct and operate the natural gas-fired combined cycle electric Wellton-
12 Mohawk Generating Facility, and may use this document to support their environmental
13 compliance efforts. In addition, the National Park Service may use this document to support
14 their Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for portions of the proposed Juan Bautista
15 de Anza trail that extend through lands within the District boundary. Additional agencies
16 may also use this document in support of their specific needs.