



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Phoenix Area Office  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001  
December 8, 2023

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Availability (NOA) – Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project, Coconino County, Arizona (Action by 30 days from the date of this letter)

Dear Interested Party:

The United States (U.S.) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a Final EA and FONSI describing the potential environmental effects of CO Bar Solar, LLC's proposed interconnection of the CO Bar Solar Complex to the Navajo Southern Transmission System (NSTS) at the Moenkopi to Cedar Mountain 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, referred to as the CO Bar Solar Interconnection Project. Reclamation is a part owner of the NSTS and must approve any interconnection requests.

The Final EA considers the impacts of Reclamation's approval of the interconnection at the Moenkopi to Cedar Mountain 500-kV transmission line. Reclamation has determined that the proposed project does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is recorded in a FONSI. The Final EA and FONSI can be viewed at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html>. A paper copy or CD can be obtained by calling Reclamation at (623) 773-6250 or by emailing Mr. Dominic Graziani at [dgraziani@usbr.gov](mailto:dgraziani@usbr.gov).

Reclamation initially solicited input from the public on the proposed project to assist in identifying key issues and defining the scope of the project and environmental analysis. On March 10, 2023, Reclamation sent scoping letters to 96 potentially interested individuals, stakeholders, tribes, and organizations and announced public scoping via a newspaper notice and internet publications. Within the 30-day scoping period, Reclamation received four comment letters.

Following scoping, Reclamation issued a Draft EA that presented the proposed project, existing conditions in the project area, and the environmental effects that would be reasonably expected from implementing the Proposed Action (Selected Alternative) and No Action alternative. The Draft EA was published on August 8, 2023, initiating a 30-day public comment period. Reclamation sent a NOA for the Draft EA to all entities on the mailing list and any commenters from scoping. The NOA and Draft EA were also advertised in the *Arizona Daily Sun*, on

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INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

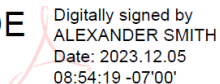
\* PARTIAL

Reclamation’s website, and on the U.S. Forest Service’s website (a cooperating agency). Four comment letters were received during the Draft EA comment period, which did not result in changes to the Final EA.

For any additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office, at (623) 773-6250 or via email at [dgraziani@usbr.gov](mailto:dgraziani@usbr.gov). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunication relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point of contact in the United States.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDE  
R SMITH

A digital signature block containing the text "Digitally signed by ALEXANDER SMITH" and "Date: 2023.12.05 08:54:19 -07'00'". A red scribble is present over the signature area.

Alexander B. Smith  
Area Manager