



# United States Department of the Interior



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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
PXAO-1500  
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: Notice of Public Scoping for an Environmental Assessment on the Gila River Indian Community (Community) Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project (Project) (Action by 15 days from the digital signature date of this letter)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the potential impacts associated with Reclamation's proposed funding of the Community's reclaimed water pipeline project (Project). The Community proposes to construct, operate, and maintain approximately 19.2 miles of pipeline to transport reclaimed water to surrounding agricultural lands within the Gila River Indian Reservation (Reservation) in northwestern Pinal County, Arizona. The reclaimed water pipeline would enable up to 15,700 acre-feet of Chandler A plus (+) reclaimed and 29,400 acre-feet of Mesa A + reclaimed water to the Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) system where it would be gravity fed and/or pumped upstream and south of the Gila River, for recharge and for use by existing agricultural customers.

The Project corridor is bounded on the north by the Pinal-Maricopa County line (Reservation boundary), on the south by the Four Mile Post Lift Station, on the east by the Pima Lateral, and on the west by Gila River Farms and Community farmland located west of Interstate 10 in District 5 of the Community (Figure 1).

Figure 1 shows the location of the major components of the proposed Project, which would include the following:

## **Mesa Reclaimed Water Pipeline, Segment A**

- Installation of approximately 2.5 miles of new 42-inch-diameter pipeline
- Installation of the Spur Drop Pump Station with three vertical turbine pumps
- Installation of two Rubicon SlipMeter gates
- Acquisition of a use right for approximately 63,883 square feet (1.46 acres) of Community trust land for crossing the East Maricopa Floodway (EMF)
- Directional drilling underneath the following feature: EMF

## **Mesa Reclaimed Water Pipeline, Segment B**

- Installation of approximately 8.1 miles of 48-inch-diameter pipeline
- Directional drilling underneath the following features: Saint Road, Sacaton Road, River Road, Olberg Road, Sacaton Flats Road, Akimel Road, and SR 87

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

### **Chandler Reclaimed Water Pipeline**

- Installation of approximately 8.6 miles of 36-inch-diameter pipeline
- Installation of the Memorial Pump Station with two vertical turbine pumps
- Directional drilling underneath the following features: SR 587, Stotonic Road, Santan Road, Lower Santan Road, and Santan Day School Road

Reclamation has concluded that an EA is the appropriate level of review under the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91-190). The purpose of an EA is to allow Reclamation to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. The EA will evaluate the impacts of the proposed Project on the human and natural environments. As part of this EA process, Reclamation is seeking your participation in identifying any potential issues with or effects of the proposed action.

Comments should be submitted via traditional mail to: Bureau of Reclamation, ATTN: GRIC Reclaimed Water Pipeline EA, 6150 West Thunderbird Road, Glendale, AZ, 85306, or via email to: [jennifer.jennings@tierra-row.com](mailto:jennifer.jennings@tierra-row.com) no later than 15 days from the digital signature.

For additional information regarding this memorandum, please contact Dominic Graziani, Environmental Protection Specialist, Phoenix Area Office via email at [dgraziani@usbr.gov](mailto:dgraziani@usbr.gov) or by telephone at (623) 773-6216. Individuals who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services.

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.

Sincerely,

Alexander B. Smith  
Area Manager

Figure 1: General Project Overview

