

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD), Sewer Collection and Treatment
Phases 2 and 3: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utility Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) of Claypool, Arizona. The proposal is for the installation of the expansion of the Phase 1 WRF as well as new sewer collection system, encompassing sewer main lines and residential laterals and the abandonment in place of existing onsite septic systems to serve residential communities of Central Heights-Midland City within Gila County, Arizona. The proposed improvements are needed to provide a reliable wastewater system and meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. TRSD has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rural Development (RD), Loretta Orona, Community Programs Specialist, 928-532-2270 x104; loretta.orona@usda.gov. Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available for review:

- Rural Development: loretta.orona@usda.gov
- Posted on website: TRSDWastewater.org

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) proposes wastewater system improvements to expand of the Phase 1 WRF as well as new sewer collection system, encompassing sewer main lines and residential laterals and the abandonment in place of existing onsite septic systems

Logan Simpson, Environmental Consultants, prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. If implemented, the proposed project will not affect the floodplain, as outlined in the EA. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to Rural Development (RD) office at the address provided. RD will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 30 days from the initial date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A project map of the proposal is shown below

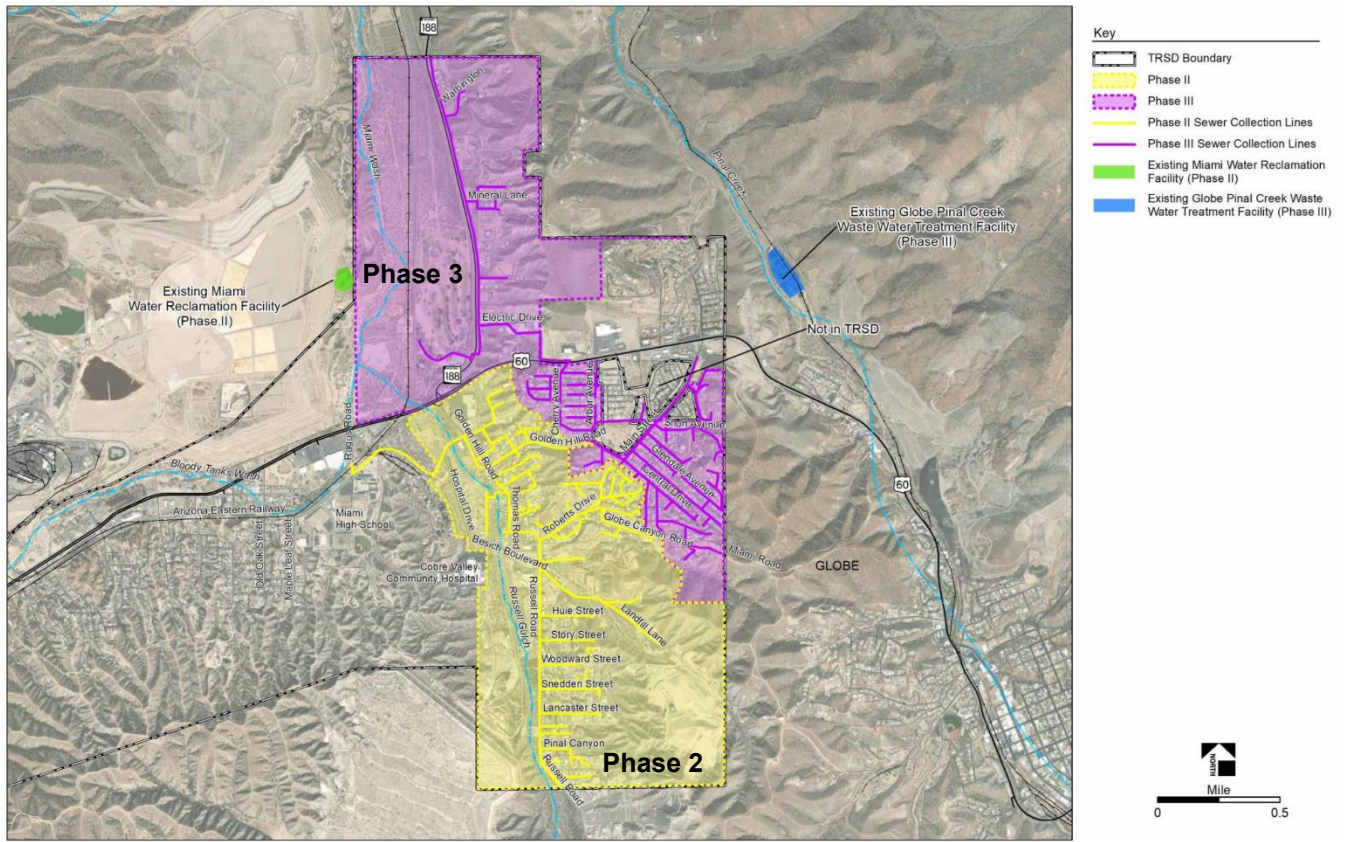


Figure 2. Proposed Action Map

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