Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PHASES 1, 2 & 3

GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

JULY 2024

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DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT
WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PHASES 1, 2 & 3
GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

PREPARED FOR:

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - RURAL DEVELOPMENT

230 NORTH FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 206

PHOENIX, AZ 85003

AND

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 2198

CLAYPOOL, ARIZONA 85532

PREPARED BY:

LOGAN SIMPSON

51 WEST THIRD STREET, SUITE 450

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

JULY 2024

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A.R.S	Arizona Revised Statute
AAC	Arizona Administrative Code
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
APP	Aquifer Protection Permit
APP	Aquifer Protection Permit
ASM	Arizona State Museum
AZPDES	Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
BE	Biological Evaluation
BHP	BHP Billiton
BMP	Best Management Practice
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGP	Construction General Permit
CLOMR	Conditional letter of map revision
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQ	Environmental Quality
FEMA	Federal Emergency Land Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMI	Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
Globe	City of Globe
IO	Isolated occurrence
LF	Linear feet
LOMR	Letter of map revision
MBR	Membrane Bioreactor
MGD	Million gallons per day
Miami	Town of Miami

NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity unit
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PACE	Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering
RD	Rural Development
ROI	Resolution of Intention
ROW	Right-of-way
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SR	State Route
SR 188	State Route 188
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TRSD	Tri-City Regional Sanitary District
U.S.	United States
U.S. 60	United States Route 60
USC	United States Cod
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WRF	Wastewater reclamation facility

1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) has applied for financial assistance from the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Program to provide a wastewater collection and treatment system to its users for Phases 1, 2, and 3. Phase l includes the areas along U.S. Route 60 (U.S. 60) near Claypool and along State Route (SR) 188. Phase lll includes areas in Central Heights and Phase lll includes the area north of Central Heights, south of U.S. 60. The three-phased approach is based on direction from the USDA regarding the funding process and availability of funds (Figure 1). The Project is located approximately 80 miles east of Phoenix between the Town of Miami (Miami) and City of Globe (Globe) in Gila County, Arizona. The three phases are generally defined by geography and Project activities consist of the installation of sewer collection lines throughout the TRSD service area and the construction of a wastewater reclamation facility (WRF). The Phase 1 Project area is located in the western portion of the TRSD and includes portions of the southern extent of the TRSD and portions of SR 188 on the northern part of the TRSD. Phase 2 is located in the central and southeastern portion of TRSD and Phase 3 is located in the northern portion of TRSD. The Phase 2 and 3 areas include the neighborhoods of Midland City, Central Heights, Little Acres, and U.S. Route 60.

The USDA-RD/Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. This Loan and Grant Program also assists small financially distressed rural communities in extending and improving water and waste treatment facilities that serve local households and businesses (USDA 2015).

1.2 History Leading to the Supplemental Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for Phase 1 and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on April 25, 2018 (Appendix I). Phase 1 funding was issued by the USDA-RD/RUS in August 2018 and the Phase 1 design is currently underway. TRSD has also applied for federal financial assistance under the USDA RD/Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program for Phases 2 and 3. An EA was prepared for Phases 2 and 3 in August 2022, and a FONSI was obtained in October 2022 (Appendix I). Since the time that the EAs were completed for Phase 1, 2, and 3, several changes have occurred that affect all Phases. The Phase 1 EA documented the wastewater reclamation facility (WRF) that would be located on the BHP Billiton (BHP) property approximately 0.34 mile south of the Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center. An access route was planned from the north and discharge was to occur within Russell Gulch. This WRF documented within the Final Phase 1 EA was to be expanded to handle wastewater flows associated with Phases 2 and 3 (as documented within the Phase 2 and 3 EA). In approximately 2020, the landowner had to make modifications to the solitude tailing dam which is located immediately south of the proposed WRF. As a result of the modifications, the proposed site became unavailable. Thus efforts were made to investigate several additional potential WRF locations. In early 2023, a suitable location was identified immediately west of SR 188 (at milepost 216.65) (Figure 2 and Appendix C). For all three phases, additional area for wastewater collection would be needed to carry flows to the new proposed WRF location (Figure 3). Lastly, new lift station locations were determined necessary for Phase 1 (Figure 3) Therefore, this Supplemental EA has been prepared to document Project changes (referred to as the

Proposed Action Modifications) which have occurred since completion of the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA and resulting environmental impacts. Since all three phases require the WRF to function, this EA is necessary supplemental documentation for all three phases.

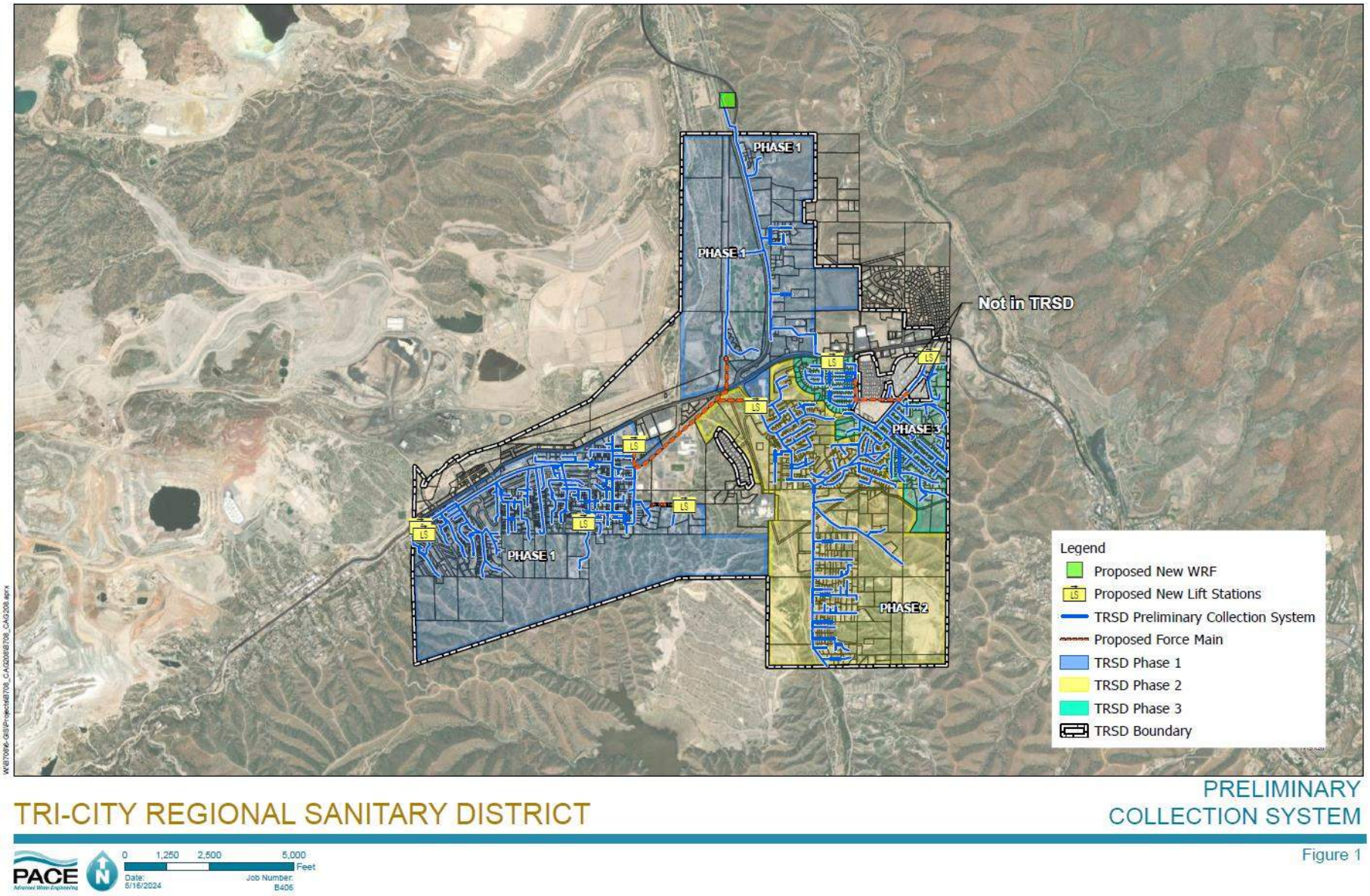

Figure 1. State Location and Project Vicinity Map

1.3 Project Background

Globe and Miami each operate their own wastewater collection and treatment systems that serve their populations. Sanitation in the area between these communities has been historically handled with outhouses and cesspools[1] constructed on an as-needed basis. The TRSD was formed in 2011 when the Pinal Sanitary District and the Cobre Valley Sanitary District merged to better manage wastewater treatment and disposal across both districts. The goal of the merger was to improve the quality of life for the Tri-City area of southern Gila County, Arizona by developing a plan to provide a new wastewater collection and treatment system. The TRSD service area encompasses approximately 5.3 square miles and lies within the Salt River Basin Watershed.

Currently, the majority of wastewater collection and treatment in the TRSD is achieved through individual on-site septic systems[2] and cesspools. No wastewater collection or treatment infrastructure physically exists at this time. The construction of cesspools was prohibited in the U.S. in the 1970s due to their inability to treat wastewater before discharge; regulations to improve septic system processes were established in 1990. The majority of homes in the TRSD were constructed prior to 1990. Numerous public complaints and Notices of Violation were recorded between 2007 and 2012. Complaints and violations included situations where cesspools had collapsed and raw sewage was ponding or flowing off the property. Other issues occurred where greywater (e.g., washing machine water) was being actively pumped onto the surface of an adjoining property, or where greywater from failing cesspools was pumped onto the surface to prevent the cesspool from overflowing. It is estimated that nearly 90 percent of residential systems within the TRSD are currently in violation of federal and state regulations. Gila County has discontinued the process of actively seeking out properties in violation as the net outcome may result in a large portion of the community being disconnected from water services (Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc. [PACE] 2022). In addition to outdated and poorly functioning septic systems, the majority of the homes within the TRSD do not have enough usable land to install a replacement septic system. In situations where violations have been reported and property owners cannot afford to replace their septic systems, some properties within TRSD have been abandoned or used for storage because of the water service being turned off (PACE 2022).

1.4 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to provide permanent wastewater collection and treatment to properties within Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the TRSD service area in order to address the public health issues associated with the current onsite wastewater treatment methods. Based on a 2012 Sewage Treatment Study conducted by the Gila County Wastewater Department, there are very few permitted septic systems within the TRSD service area that do not have a high risk of failure (Gila County 2012).

The need for the Project is based on concerns over the protection of public health and safety and the environment. The majority of wastewater collection and treatment in the TRSD service area is achieved through onsite individual septic systems and cesspools, of which nearly 90 percent are in violation of

[1] A cesspool is an excavation or non-watertight unit that receives untreated, water-carried, liquid human waste from a home or business allowing direct discharge into the soil. The use of cesspools in Arizona has been prohibited since 1976 (http://www.gilacountyaz.gov/government/community_development/wastewater_faqs.php).

[2] A septic system is a two-part sewage treatment and disposal system buried in the ground. It is composed of a septic tank and a soil drain field. The sewage flows by gravity into the septic tank where the solids settle out of the liquid. The liquid, called effluent, then flows to the drain field where it soaks into the ground and oxygen breathing bacteria consume and/or kill the remaining sewage, bacteria, and viruses so that the water is clean and ready to re-enter the fresh water supply (http://www.gilacountyaz.gov/government/community_development/wastewater_faqs.php#QUESTION1).

the Clean Water Act (CWA), Arizona Administrative Code (AAC), and/or Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulations. Although these types of systems can be capable of adequately treating wastewater, environmental and human health consequences can arise if the systems are not designed, installed, and maintained properly over time. Many of the existing septic tanks are more than 40 years old—twice their estimated normal functioning life. As these systems age, the effects of improper design and maintenance considerations are exacerbated, thereby increasing the magnitude of system failures and the resultant risks to human health and the environment.

The diminishing wastewater conditions and the number of abandoned properties and/or the properties with disconnected water due to on-site wastewater management violations has negatively impacted the community. This has led to low property values and less-than-favorable living conditions. The problems that affect TRSD also affect the neighboring municipalities. In summary, potential public health, sanitation, and environmental issues arise from the failing wastewater disposal systems within Phases 2 and 3, making it crucial to implement changes to the current methods of wastewater treatment within the TRSD service area (PACE 2022).

1.5 Statutory and Regulatory Authority

Due to the relocation of the WRF site, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires the USDA-RD/RUS to amend the previously completed EA to analyze potential environmental impacts as a result of funding and constructing the proposed new WRF site.

Federal agencies are also directed to prepare supplementals to a federal action if the agency makes substantial changes to the Proposed Action relevant to environmental concerns (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1502.9). This Supplemental EA documents the Proposed Action Modifications which have occurred since completion of the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA and resulting environmental impacts. This EA is not a standalone document; it is intended to supplement the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA.

1.6 Decision to be Made

The USDA-RD/RUS will make a decision based on the information provided in this Supplemental EA and provide the financing assistance to the TRSD for the new WRF location and additional lift station locations. The information presented and the analyses performed in this Supplemental EA will allow the USDA-RD/RUS to determine if any significant environmental impacts associated with the changes may occur. If potential significant impacts are identified, the agency will determine whether the impacts can be mitigated or whether a higher level of environmental documentation is necessary, i.e., an Environmental Impact Statement. The agency will issue a FONSI if there are no significant impacts to the human environment.

1.7 Public and Agency Involvement

The TRSD publicly issued a Resolution of Intention (ROI) to introduce proposed improvements, engineer’s best cost estimate, Project financing, and estimated user rates and assessment costs. The ROI process required that the TRSD post signs conspicuously along the proposed improvements not more than 300 feet apart for all three Project phases. Property owners within the TRSD area had an opportunity to protest the Project. In early 2019, the protest results came back with only 4.6% protesting. The TRSD also carried out voluntary community outreach efforts conveying the current

wastewater treatment within TRSD and the need for the Project via presentations, meetings, open discussion meetings, handouts, posters, articles and flyers.

Additionally, TRSD did further public outreach regarding the new wastewater reclamation facility which included one meeting which was held on November 16, 2023. The meeting was advertised via a posting at the Clay Pool Post Office. Additionally, TRSD provided an email to numerous recipients and an advertisement on the local radio was announced.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION MODIFICATIONS

This chapter describes the changes made to the Proposed Action (referred to as Proposed Action Modifications) since completion of the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA/FONSI. This chapter compares how the modifications to the Proposed Action continue to meet the Project purposes.

WRF

A new WRF location for Phases 1, 2, and 3 would be located immediately west of SR 188 (at milepost 216.65) (Figure 2 and Figure 3 and Appendix C). Specifically, the WRF would be between SR 188 and the Arizona Eastern Railway on approximately 7.7 acres of land (Gila County Assessor parcel number 205-03-010 owned by BHP Copper Inc.) (Gila County 2023). This location is outside of the original TRSD boundary just north of Phase 3. Thus, the TRSD is seeking approval to amend the Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan and the TRSD boundary to include the new WRF location.

As documented in the Phase 2 and 3 EA, the TRSD WRF would be designed to have a final treatment capacity of 0.50 million gallons per day (MGD) for all three phases and would accommodate the necessary residential and nonresidential connections within Phases 1, 2, and 3. The WRF would be a package plant using a Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) process[3]. When used for domestic wastewater, this process can produce a high-quality effluent that meets ADEQ's Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology and Class A+ Reclaimed Water Standards[4]. Since the effluent would meet Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) Title 18 Environmental Quality standards, it would allow the potential for effluent to be reused for mining operations and unrestricted irrigation of public landscape and common areas. Effluent would largely be reused. If all wastewater cannot be reused, percolation on site would be done as a secondary measure. Percolation would occur within the WRF area in basins.

If needed, effluent would be discharged into Miami Wash approximately 1,000 feet west. The anticipated permitting required for discharge would be an ADEQ Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit. Approximately 0.50 MGD per day of biosolids[5] are anticipated to be produced by the WRF. The biosolids would be dewatered for disposal in a landfill.

All processes of treatment, handling, and selection of the disposal facility would be properly permitted under the ADEQ APP program and carried out according to the associated regulations. The new WRF would be designed with an open treatment process, process ventilation and some odor, and noise and aesthetic controls. Waivers for odor and noise control have been obtained for the setback requirements. The treatment facility would eventually include an Operations and Maintenance (O&M)

[3] A membrane bioreactor process is a hybrid of the conventional activated sludge system for wastewater treatment. The membrane bioreactor is a membrane, such as a microfiltration or ultrafiltration membrane, that is integrated with a biological process. While the activated sludge process uses a secondary clarifier or settlement tank for solid/liquid separation, a membrane bioreactor process uses a membrane for this function (http://www.thembrsite.com/).

[4] ADEQ's Class A+ Reclaimed Water is wastewater that has undergone secondary treatment, filtration, nitrogen removal treatment, and disinfection. It is the is the highest effluent quality classification for the State of Arizona detailed in Arizona Administrative Code Title 18 Environmental Quality (ACC Title 18 EQ). Standards refers to a class of reclaimed water quality that allows for open public access and water that is pathogen-free, denitrified, and has been filtrated to meet turbidity levels of less than two nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs) (http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/WaterManagement/documents/ARTICLE3ReclaimedWaterQualityStandards.pdf).

[5] Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials that result from domestic sewage treatment. When treated and processed, these residuals can be recycled and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth (https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/basic-information-about-biosolids).

building. The building would include areas for operations and maintenance duties, including storage and a maintenance/repair shop. It is estimated that this building would be between 2,500 and 3,000 square feet in floor space.

Force Main to Gravity Line

Additional area would be needed for approximately 13,500 linear feet (LF) of wastewater collection to transfer flows associated with Phases 1, 2, and 3 to the proposed WRF location (Figure 3). This includes approximately 7,900 LF of 15-inch-wide gravity line to be installed at a depth and 7 to 10 feet and approximately 5,600 LF of 10-inch-wide force main to be installed at a minimum depth of 4 feet.

The collection system would begin at a connection to Lift Station D then extend south crossing under the Arizona Eastern Railway. An Arizona Eastern Railway right-of-entry is expected to be needed to bore under the tracks. The collection system would then extend northeast parallel with the railroad. The collection system would cross U.S. 60 and Russell Gulch via direction boring. Directional boring would allow the collection system to be installed under U.S. 60 and Russell Gulch and therefore no CWA Section 404 permit would be needed. The collection system may also require boring to cross under SR 188 at two locations before terminating at the WRF. Installation would occur within existing right-of-way (ROW) and easements as feasible, but new ROW and easements may be necessary.

Lift Stations

Five new lift station locations would be needed (Figure 3). Lift Station A would be located south of U.S. 60 and east of Mill Street on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-11-107 owned by the Arizona Eastern Railway Company. A new easement would be obtained for this Lift Station A. Lift Station B would be located at the north end of Mackeys Hill within a residential area on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-03-176A which is owned by Freeport-McMoRan, Inc. (FMI). Lift Station C would be located at the eastern end of Starview Drive within TRSD ROW on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-07-008M owned by the State of Arizona. Lift Station D would be located at the southeast corner of the baseball field on Gila County Assessor's parcel number 206-04-007N owned by Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation. Lift Station E would be located at the intersection of Obscure Way and Board Drive within TRSD/Gila County ROW. Of the Lift Stations A through E, only lift station D is of significant size (approximately 10 feet by 10 feet) as it pumps all flows from Phase 1 to the WRF. It would also be built above the 500-year flood plain. The remaining lift stations are very small in size, pumping for 5 to 10 homes.

Summary

Upon completion of Phases 1, 2, and 3, including the Proposed Action Modifications, approximately 4,200 residents would directly benefit from this new collection and treatment system and the entire community would begin to see some environmental and economical improvements in the area (PACE 2022). The TRSD would use USDA-RD/RUS Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program funding for the Project. The changes documented in this Supplemental EA would be consistent with the Gila County Comprehensive Plan, which discourages the use of individual septic systems and encourages the formation of service districts to provide regional and community-wide treatment facilities (Gila County 2003). The Proposed Action would help reduce residential and commercial properties from becoming vacant over time because it would provide functional wastewater collection and treatment.

Figure 2. Proposed Action Modifications - WRF

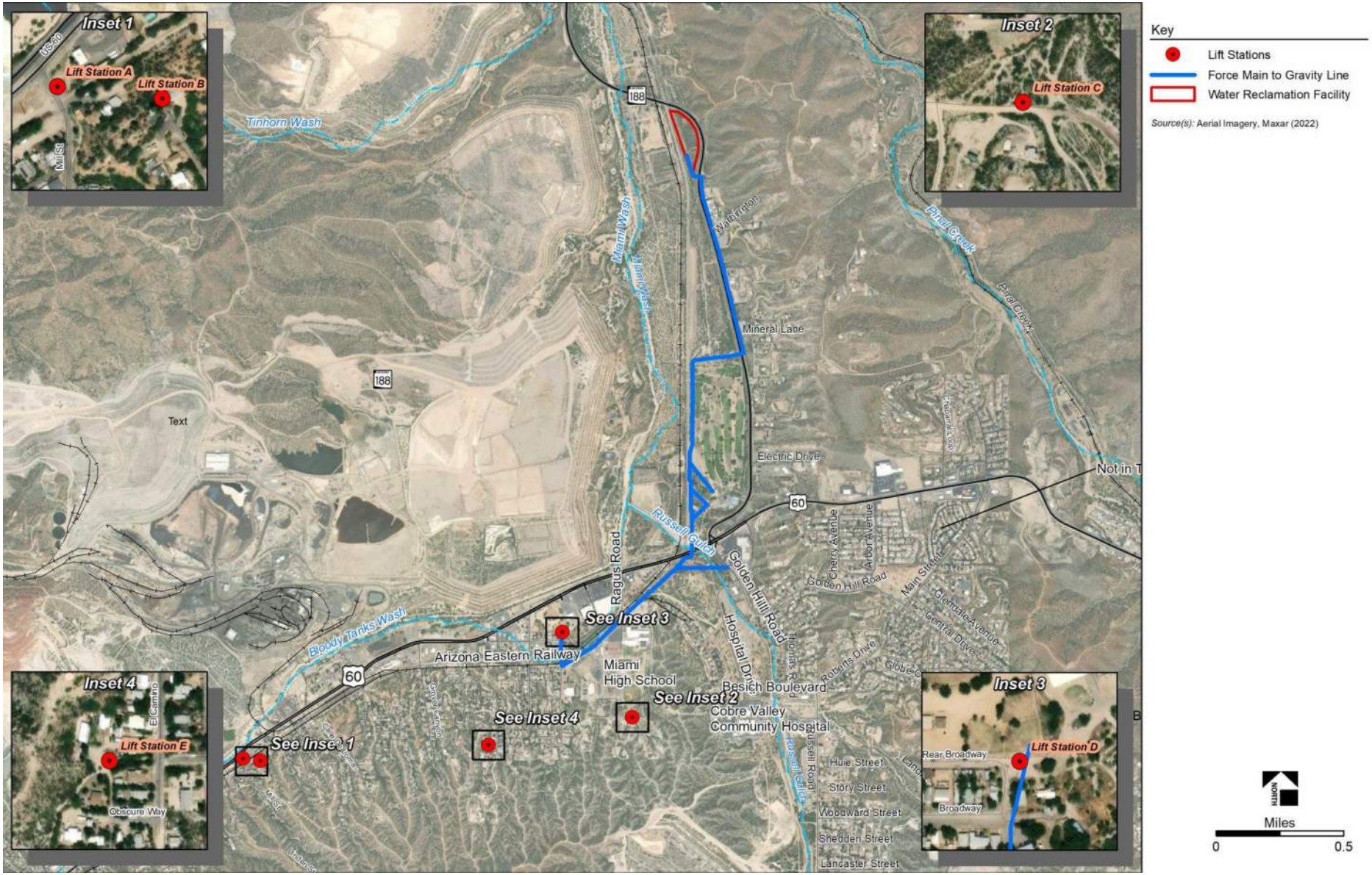

Figure 3. Proposed Action Modifications – Five Lift Stations and Force Main to Gravity Line

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter provides a summary of the environmental impacts that may result from the changes discussed in Section 2.0 PROPOSED ACTION MODIFICATIONS. The proposed changes within this Supplemental EA would not result in any additional impacts which were not already discussed within the Final Phase 1 EA or Phase 2 and 3 EA for the following resources: air quality, visual resources, transportation, groundwater, environmental justice, socioeconomics, and public health and safety. Therefore, these resources are not analyzed in this Supplemental EA.

3.1 Land Use and Ownership/Jurisdiction

WRF

The WRF would require 7.7 acres of land which is currently vacant and owned by TRSD (Gila County Assessor's parcel number 205-03-010A formerly owned by BHP Copper Inc.). There are no residential structures within this area and this site has been zoned as industrial which allows for construction of the treatment plant (refer to Appendix F for rezoning documentation). SR 188, an Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)-operated roadway and its associated ROW, is located immediately to the east. SR 188 consists of four travel lanes (two lanes in each direction) and one dedicated center turn lane. The Arizona Eastern Railway makes up the western boundary of the site. The area does not have the adequate land size to satisfy ADEQ setback requirements, therefore several waivers have been obtained from nearby landowners. Land adjacent to the site is privately owned. This land is currently highly vegetated as it is formerly associated with the Burch Pumping Station Complex and contains two previously used retention basins from past mining activities. As part of the Proposed Action Modifications, the TRSD would acquire the 7.7 acres to accommodate the WRF. The WRF would require some O&M and the site would be accessed from SR 188. An access route would be constructed on the eastern end of the site connecting to SR 188 and an ADOT encroachment permit would be required for any work within the ADOT ROW.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The approximately 13,500 LF of force main to gravity line would be installed within existing TRSD/Gila County ROWs and easements where feasible. However, installation would be required outside of existing ROWs on privately owned lands, including lands owned by Arizona Eastern Railway and FMI An ADOT encroachment permit would be needed for work that may need to occur within U.S. 60 or SR 188 including construction/installation and O&M. New ROW and easements may be needed, particularly where the system would cross private lands or privately owned roads. Construction impacts would be limited largely to previously disturbed areas, as the force main to gravity line would be installed within or adjacent to the existing roadway ROW (TRSD/Gila County ROW) along Railroad Avenue, SR 188, and private lands. Adverse impacts may occur if new ROW/easements are needed from landowners. Land ownership consists largely of businesses and lands owned by the mining companies, Arizona Eastern Railway, and ADOT. New easements may be needed from privately owned lands, but no residential relocations would occur. However, due to the nature of the Project, ROW and easement acquisition is expected to have a minor, adverse impact. The impact would be long-term as any new ROWs or easements would be needed for the life of the Project. Construction activities would need to be coordinated with Gila County, ADOT, adjacent residents, and local businesses.

Lift Stations

Lift Station A would be located south of U.S. 60 and east of Mill Street on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-11-107 owned by the Arizona Eastern Railway Company (Figure 3). An easement would be obtained for Lift Station A. The land in this area is previously disturbed. The TRSD would acquire land from the Arizona Eastern Railway to accommodate the lift station. There would be no additional impacts to land use and ownership/jurisdiction based on the new lift station location.

Lift Station B would be located at the north end of Mackeys Hill within a residential area on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-03-176A owned by FMI (Figure 3). TRSD would acquire an easement from this private parcel to accommodate the lift station. This 0.29-acre parcel is currently developed for residential and there would be no residential relocations. There would be a minor impact to land use and ownership/jurisdiction based on the new lift station location as a new easement would be required from a residential property.

Lift Station C would be located at the eastern end of Starview Drive on Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-07-008M owned by the State of Arizona (Figure 3). Lift Station C would be located within TRSD ROW. The land in this area is currently undeveloped. There would be no additional impacts to land use and ownership/jurisdiction based on the new lift station location.

Lift Station D would be located at the southeast corner of the baseball field (Gila County Assessor's Parcel number 206-04-007N) (Figure 3) within TRSD easement. This area is currently disturbed and there are no structures present. The lift station would not interfere with the recreational field. There would be no additional impacts to land use and ownership/jurisdiction based on this new lift station location.

Lift Station E would be located at the intersection of Obscure Way and Board Drive within TRSD/Gila County ROW (Figure 3). There is currently a vacant trailer in this area that would need to be moved to accommodate the lift station. There would be no additional impacts to land use and ownership/jurisdiction based on this new lift station location.

Summary of Impacts to Land Use and Ownership/Jurisdiction

Effects associated with the Proposed Action Modifications would include the potential to encourage new development as a result of the improved wastewater treatment. This would help reduce declining property values so that Phases 1, 2, and 3 area land use would remain unchanged. No residential relocations would occur, but easements would be needed on privately owned lands. Gila County and ADOT encroachment permits and/or other authorizations would also be required. The Proposed Action Modifications are anticipated to have minor adverse and beneficial impacts on land jurisdiction and use. These impacts would be minor and adverse due to the amount of land needed for the WRF, force main to gravity line, and five lifting stations. However, this would be a long-term impact and the land would be needed for the duration of the Project. The changes would be consistent with Gila County Comprehensive Plan, which discourages the use of individual septic systems and encourages the formation of service districts to provide regional and community-wide treatment facilities (Gila County 2003). The WRF site has been rezoned for industrial use which allows for the construction of the treatment plant, thus the project does not conflict with Gila County planning and zoning requirements.

3.2 Floodplains

WRF

The WRF area would be located immediately east of the 100-year floodplain (Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] Flood Insurance Rate Map [FIRM] No. 04007C2104D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Appendix H). This adjacent floodplain is defined as Zone A which does not have a base flood elevation. The new WRF and equipment, including non-submersible pumps and other wastewater infrastructure, would be located outside the 100-year, but partially within the 500-year floodplain (approximately 0.95 acre). The Project would not impact the 100-year floodplain (base elevation) or 500-year floodplain (Appendix C). During construction, the WRF would be elevated so that it would be above the 500-year floodplain. No conditional letter of map revision (CLOMR) or letter of map revision (LOMR) is needed based on the floodplain use permit obtained (Appendix F). By implementing best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures per the 2018 Phase 1 EA, there would be no additional impacts to floodplains based on the new WRF location.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line would be located within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) and regulatory floodway associated with Russell Gulch, Blood Tanks Wash, and Miami Wash. Installation would occur underground and largely within the previously disturbed golf course, U.S. 60, and SR 188 ROW areas. Near washes, the line would be installed by boring under Russell Gulch; there would be no floodplain impacts. Once installation is completed, backfill would be compacted to the existing grade level. The 100-year floodplain would not be impacted since the line would be underground. Surface cover would be replaced to pre-construction conditions.

Lift Stations

Lift Station A would be located just outside of the 100-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2113D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Appendix B). This area is defined as Zone AE which has an established base flood elevation. There would be no impact to the 100-year floodplain and the base elevation would not be altered.

Lift Station B would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2113D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Appendix B). There would be no impact to the 100-year floodplain and the base elevation would not be altered.

Lift Station C would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2112D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Appendix B). There would be no impact to the 100-year floodplain and the base elevation would not be altered.

Lift Station D would be located entirely within the 100-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2112D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Appendix B). This area is defined as Zone AE which has an established base flood elevation. The station would be constructed so that the equipment is elevated to be protected from flood events. There would be no impact to the 100-year floodplain and the base elevation would not be altered based the floodplain analysis conducted. A Floodplain Use Permit and Grading permit has been obtained from Gila County Flood Control for construction of this lift station within the 100-year floodplain.

Lift Station E would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2114D, effective December 4, 2007). There would be no impact to the 100-year floodplain and the base elevation would not be altered.

Summary of Impacts to Floodplains

Project components including Lift Station D and the force main to gravity line would occur within the 100-year floodplain and a Floodplain Use Permit has been obtained from Gila County Flood Control. The WRF would be constructed outside of the 100-year floodplain, but partially within the 500-year floodplain (0.95 acre). However, the Proposed Action Modifications would not result in an increase in surface water flows that may cause flooding, nor would the construction-related activities alter the floodplain elevation either temporarily or permanently (refer to Appendix E for Eight-Step Decision Making Process regarding floodplain management). A 100- and 500-year floodplain analysis has been performed to confirm impact and elevations of the WRF are designed to be protected from both 100- and 500-year flood events. Additionally, BMPs outlined in the Phase 2 and 3 Final EA would be implemented to protect Project components and the vicinity.

3.3 Wetlands

WRF

A review of the online National Wetlands Inventory maintained by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicates that there are no wetlands within the WRF area (USFWS 2023). Since no wetlands have been identified in the Project area, no additional analysis or discussion has been included.

Force Main to Gravity Line

A review of the online National Wetlands Inventory maintained by the USFWS indicates that there are no wetlands within the area (USFWS 2023). Since no wetlands have been identified in the Project area, no additional analysis or discussion has been included.

Lift Stations

A review of the online National Wetlands Inventory maintained by the USFWS indicates that there are no wetlands within the five lift stations (USFWS 2023). Since no wetlands have been identified in the Project area, no additional analysis or discussion has been included.

Summary of Impacts to Wetlands

There are no wetlands present in areas of the Proposed Action Changes. Therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

3.4 Water Resources

WRF

There are no surface waters or wetlands present within the new WRF location. Wastewater would be treated and then reused. Percolation may occur on site as a secondary option. As a last option, effluent would be discharged into Miami Wash. Therefore, the new WRF location could result in the discharge of Class A+ effluent into Miami Wash (as opposed to Russell Gulch which was documented in the Phase 2 and 3 EA) located approximately 1,000 feet west. Once specific design plans for the TRSD WRF have been developed, the TRSD would coordinate with ADEQ to obtain the necessary permits/certifications for the operation of the WRF, including an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP), an AZPDES Permit for the discharge of effluent to Miami Wash and an Operator Certification for Water

and Wastewater Systems, if needed. The new WRF location would not result in adverse impacts to Waters of the U.S.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line would cross Russell Gulch to the north near U.S. 60 (Appendix B). The line would be installed under Russell Gulch and U.S. 60 via boring. No temporary impacts to surface waters are expected during boring activities since boring activities would install the line under washes. It is not anticipated that disturbance in these areas would exceed the 0.5-acre threshold allowed for at each crossing under CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit Number 58 (Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances). All construction activities would comply with the terms and conditions of the CWA Section 404 Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification, which, if necessary, would be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angelas District and ADEQ prior to construction.

In general, the installation of the force main to gravity line on disturbed and undisturbed lands would result in some minor increased runoff; the implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would minimize erosional impacts. To reduce soil erosion, vegetation cover disturbed during construction would establish relatively quickly. Design features outlined in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs would be implemented to minimize potential impacts and disturbances to surface waters. Therefore, the force main to gravity line would not result in adverse impacts to surface waters. As documented in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs,

Lift Stations

There are no surface waters present at any of the five lift station locations. Therefore, there would be no impacts to surface waters.

Summary of Impacts to Water Resources

The Proposed Action Modifications would not result in adverse impacts to surface waters since limited surface waters are present (Miami Wash and Russell Gulch). If discharging into Miami Wash is needed, as part of the AZPDES Construction General Permit, a SWPPP would be prepared and implemented to minimize potential sediment transport by requiring the use of stormwater and erosion control BMPs outlined in the Phase 2 and 3 Final EA. The Proposed Action Modifications would facilitate connecting existing septic users and potential future development to a municipal sewer collection system and would eliminate potential impacts to surface waters from septic fields and cesspools located in Phases 1, 2, and 3. This would result in long-term beneficial impacts to surface waters by eliminating the risk of septic failures. In summary, the severity of impacts to Waters of the U.S. would remain as described in the Phase 2 and 3 EA.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Since the proposed Project may receive financial assistance from USDA-RD/RUS's Water and Environmental Program, it is an action subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended (16 United States Code [USC] 470 et seq.).

WRF

An assessment of cultural resources titled, *A Cultural Resources Inventory of 7 Acres of BHP Arizona Legacy Assets Private Lands for a Proposed Water Treatment Facility in Gila County, Arizona* (Caroli 2023), was completed specifically for the WRF component of the Proposed Action Modification. The proposed WRF area is the former Burch Pumping Station Complex and includes two water retention

basins. A Class lll pedestrian field survey was conducted on January 26, 2023. Three isolated occurrences (IOs) and two eligible sites were recorded (AZ V:5:197[ASM]/State Route 188 and AZ V:9:512[ASM]/Burch Pumping Station). Two previously recorded sites (AZ V:9:56[ASM] and AZ V:9:392[ASM]) were previously mis-plotted and were relocated outside of the current Project area and thus no further work is recommended.

The historical eligible segment of SR 188 (AZ V:5:197[ASM]/State Route 188) was mitigated through data recovery (Pinter and Stokes 2009). No further work is recommended. The Burch Pumping Station Complex (AZ V:9:512[ASM]/Burch Pumping Station) served previous mining operations and has been mostly mitigated though archival research funded by ADOT (Pinter and Stokes 2009). Although further architectural documentation is still required for portions of the site where standing buildings are present, none of these buildings are located within the current survey area (Pinter and Stokes 2009). As such, no further work is recommended within this portion of the site.

Based on the above information, USDA-RD/RUS has determined that a finding of **[NO ADVERSE EFFECT] [PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION]** (Appendix A) is appropriate for the WRF.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line route was subject to Class lll survey on November 16 and 17, 2023 and was documented in the report, *A Class III Cultural Resources Survey of 27.048 Acres for a New Tri-City Regional Sanitary District Water Line in Claypool, Gila County, Arizona* (Cooper and Garraty 2023). Six cultural resources were documented in the report, five of which do not require any further action. Archaeological monitoring was recommended for one site (AZ V:9:55[ASM]) **[PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION]**.

Lift Stations

Lift Stations A through E: An assessment of cultural resources was completed for Phase 1 and documented in the report titled, *A Class lll Cultural Resources Survey and Historic Building Reconnaissance Survey for Phase l of the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District Project* (Howard 2017; Lewandowski et al. 2017). An assessment of cultural resources was completed separately for Phases 2 and 3 and documented in the report titled, *A Class III Cultural Resources Survey and Historic Building Reconnaissance Survey for Phases II and III of the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District Project, Gila County, Arizona* (Levstik et al. 2022). Lift Stations A, B, D and E were subject to a Class lll cultural resource survey on November 16 and 17, 2023. Lift Station C is located within an area that has been subject to a previous cultural resources survey surveyed to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) standards in 2008. No cultural resources were found within the area of Lift Station A through E. Therefore, Lift Stations A through E would have no adverse effect on cultural resources. **[PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION].**

Summary of Impacts to Cultural Resources and Historic Properties

The Proposed Action Modifications would result in **[NO ADVERSE EFFECT] [PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION]** (Appendix A). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred on **[DATE]** (see Appendix A). USDA-RD/RUS also consulted with the **[INSERT LIST OF TRIBES CONSULTED].** Therefore, no further cultural resources investigations are recommended for the Proposed Action Modifications.

- In the event that previously unreported cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 meters (100 feet) until a qualified

archaeologist has documented the discovery and evaluated its eligibility for the NRHP in consultation with the USDA-RD/RUS, the SHPO, and appropriate Tribes. Work must not resume in this area without USDA approval.

- If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 meters (100 feet) of the discovery and the area must be secured. The Arizona State Museum (ASM), USDA, SHPO, and appropriate Tribes must be notified of the discovery, per Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S., § 41-844 and 41-865, as appropriate), and work must not resume in this area without authorization from ASM and the USDA.
- Archaeological monitoring would be needed during all ground disturbance to minimize the potential for impacts to site AZ V:9:55(ASM). **(PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION).**

3.6 Biological Resources (Vegetation, Wildlife, Federally Listed Species, Migratory Birds)

A Biological Evaluation (BE) was previously prepared for all three phases of the Project to document impacts to biological resources (Logan Simpson 2017). There is a general lack of native vegetation within most of Phases 1, 2, and 3, as most of the proposed improvements are primarily located within previously disturbed urban areas such as roadway ROWs (TRSD/Gila County). The greatest impacts to vegetation would occur from the WRF which is located in an area with vegetation. Past mining operations in the area have resulted in alteration of the landscape and habitat of the area (Logan Simpson 2017).

Updated species lists were obtained from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and USFWS websites (Appendix D). The project area is largely unchanged from when the BE was completed. The updated species lists were reviewed and it was determined that there is no suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species, proposed species, or any designated or proposed critical habitats. The Proposed Action Modifications would not result in additional biological impacts.

WRF

Though the WRF is formerly associated with the Burch Pumping Station Complex and contains two previously used retention basins, it contains some vegetation including trees and shrubs. Native plants are expected to inhabit this area including foothills paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), soaptree yucca (*Ucca elata*), and velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*). Invasive plants found within the project area include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and buffelgrass *(Pennisetum ciliare*). Fauna typically in the biotic community associated with the Project area includes black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*), brush mouse (*Peromyscus boylii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), scaled quail (*Callipepla squamata*), roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*), and lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Migratory birds that may be found in this area include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Costa's hummingbird (*Calypte costae*), gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*). No perennial water occurs in the WRF area and no aquatic species are anticipated to be present. No bald or golden eagles are known to occur within the project area.

The construction of the WRF would result in the temporary and permanent removal of approximately 2.5 acres of vegetation within the area. Vegetation would reestablish relatively quickly in temporarily disturbed areas. Permanent impacts would occur where the WRF would be located. Notification to the

Arizona Department of Agriculture is required for the destruction or removal of plants protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law. Ground-disturbing construction activities may cause possible injury or death of reptiles and small burrowing mammals, temporary impacts to wildlife movement, temporary displacement of resident wildlife from the Project area, and disturbance from construction activities. Noise associated with the presence of construction workers and equipment may temporarily displace birds. If birds are active during construction activities, workers and their vehicles and/or equipment would create noise and visual disturbances that may cause birds to flush and leave the immediate area. The new WRF would have no effect on any federally listed species due to a lack of suitable habitat. Refer to the Biological Evaluation for a description of suitable habitats (Logan Simpson 2017). The WRF would result in negligible contribution to those impacts disclosed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs. No additional BMPs or mitigation would be necessary that is not already included in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs.

If clearing activities are scheduled during migratory bird breeding season (March 1 to August 31), the Contractor shall have a qualified biologist conduct a field survey to flag active bird nests to be avoided. TRSD's contractor would avoid and maintain a 20-foot buffer around any active bird nests. If the active nests cannot be avoided, the contractor should notify an approved and qualified biologist to evaluate the situation.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line would be installed largely with previously disturbed areas along the west side of the golf course. Vegetation is minimal, so this would not affect migratory birds. Impacts to biological resources would be temporary since the line would be installed underground and the land would be backfilled and restored to existing conditions. Revegetation would occur relatively quickly. The greatest impacts would occur where wildlife is most likely to be present near Russell Gulch and Miami Wash. However, impacts would still be minor as the line would be installed by boring under the washes. The force main to gravity line would result in negligible contribution to the impacts disclosed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs.

Lift Stations

Lift stations would all be located within previously disturbed areas. The five lift stations would result in negligible contribution to the impacts disclosed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs.

Summary of Impacts to Biological Resources (Vegetation, Wildlife, Federally Listed Species, Migratory Birds)

The Proposed Action Modifications would have no effect on any federally listed species because there is no suitable habitat within the area. As described in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs, wildlife would no longer be at risk of occasional exposure to untreated and improperly treated wastewater discharged into properties. This would be a long-term benefit. Short-term disturbance to wildlife and to surrounding habitat during construction could lead to temporary avoidance by species. Impacts to general wildlife habitat would not be measurable because of the abundance of habitat available in the vicinity and surrounding areas outside in the general vicinity. There would be no impacts to fish species or their aquatic habitat since there are no perennial waterbodies within the Proposed Action Modifications area.

The greatest adverse and long-term impact would occur to vegetation from the permanent impact associated with the WRF. However, this would be a minor contribution to the impacts already disclosed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs. The construction of the Proposed Action would not alter the

availability of prey populations. Direct contact with migratory birds would be unlikely due to their flight ability. It was determined that there is no suitable habitat within the WRF, force main to gravity line, or five lift stations for federally listed species. No coordination with the USFWS would be necessary.

3.7 Noise

WRF

The plant would generate the most noise from blowers and on-site generator, but both would include enclosure cabinets that will dampen noise. The cabinets for blowers typically have a decibel level of 80 at a distance of 3 feet. The generator will only run for approximately 30 minutes when tested monthly and when there is a power outage. The closest residence is nearly 1500 feet to the south. There are no residences near or adjacent to the WRF. The nearest structure is a commercial building located approximately 0.25 mile south along SR 188. Gila County Cattle Growers is located 0.07 mile west on the other side of the Arizona Eastern Railway. The new WRF location would not result in additional noise impacts due to the lack of sensitive noise receptors nearby.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line would be installed largely east of and along SR 188 and on private lands. Adverse impacts would be the greatest in areas where the line would be installed near sensitive receptors such as Miami High School, private residences, and businesses, but this would be a temporary impact and would cease once construction is completed. There would be no additional noise impacts beyond those disclosed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs.

Lift Stations

Each lift station would include an on-site generator that would run occasionally emitting noise of approximately 80 decibels at a distance of 3 feet. Generators would run once monthly for approximately 30 minutes as part of maintenance and also during any power outages. Lift Stations A, B, C, D, and E would be located on non-residential parcels. Lift Station A would be located in a relatively noisy area associated with vehicle traffic along U.S. 60. U.S. 60 consists of four travel lanes (two lanes in each direction) and once dedicated center turn lane. Lift Station B would be located on a parcel owned by FMI. There would be minor noise impacts resulting from an on-site generator running rarely (30 minutes per month plus during any power outages) located approximately 150 feet from a residence. Lift Station C would be located immediately north of a private residence on Arizona State Trust lands. Lift Station D would be located on a baseball field near several residences. Lift Station E would be located within TRSD/Gila County ROW. All five lift stations would be located in areas with nearby sensitive noise receptors. There would be temporary adverse noise impacts associated with construction. As stated in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs, no nighttime work would occur. Additionally, minor, long-term noise impacts would occur occasionally from on-site generators. The lift stations would result in minor, long-term impacts from noise due to the audible noise from generators.

Summary of Impacts to Noise

Noise impacts from the Proposed Action Modifications would largely be consistent with noise impacts documented in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs. There would be minor, adverse impacts that would be short-term and associated with construction. However, the Proposed Action Modifications would result in minor, long-term impacts from noise as a result of the lift stations located near private residences. The on-site generators operating occasionally are expected to be audible to some residences.

3.8 Hazardous Materials

A review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) NEPAssist (EPA 2023) and ADEQ eMaps databases (ADEQ 2023) were reviewed for the Proposed Action Modifications. Additionally, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was prepared for the WRF on March 14, 2024 (Appendix J).

WRF

The WRF would be located within the Pinal Creek Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) area encompassing much of the TRSD area (ADEQ 2010 and ADEQ 2012). The Pinal Creek WQARF site was designed in 1998 due to groundwater contamination from mining activities (as documented in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs). Wastewater would be reused as the primary option. Percolation may also occur on site, as needed. Discharging into Miami Wash would be a tertiary option. Thus the new WRF location could result in the discharge of Class A+ effluent into Miami Wash (as opposed to Russell Gulch which was documented in the Phase 2 and 3 EA), but this would not result in hazardous materials impacts. Informal consultation with ADEQ occurred on May 31, 2024, and it was identified that there is a low potential for the project to encounter acidic groundwater/soils (Appendix G). There would be BMPs incorporated to address concerns relating to the Pinal Creek site. Soil and groundwater that is encountered would be tested to determine acidity. Acidic soils and groundwater would then be treated or disposed of properly.

Force Main to Gravity Line

The force main to gravity line would also be located within the Pinal Creek WQARF area encompassing much of the TRSD area. However, the line would not result in impacts to the Pinal Creek WQARF site. There is one documented leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site near the line associated with the Miami Unified School District bus storage facility (Gila County Assessor parcel number 206-04-004A). However, this facility has a closed status and is not expected to be a concern (ADEQ 2023).

Lift Stations

Lift Station A: The new lift station would be located within the Pinal Creek WQARF area encompassing much of the TRSD area. However, the lift station would not result in impacts to the Pinal Creek WQARF site. A previous LUST was recorded in 1998 on the property located immediately northeast (Gila County parcel No. 206-03-054) (ADEQ 2023). This case has a “closed” status as of April 2000 and is not expected to be a concern. With this additional lift station, the risk of pollutants being released would not change. No additional adverse impacts to public health and safety or hazardous materials would occur based on the new lift station.

Lift Station B: The new lift station would be located within the Pinal Creek WQARF area encompassing much of the TRSD area. However, the lift station would not result in impacts to the Pinal Creek WQARF site. There are no other previously recorded hazardous waste sites within the vicinity. With this additional lift station, the risk of pollutants being released would not change. Since the lift station would be located in a residential area, there is some risk to the public, particularly during construction. However, by implementing BMPs and mitigation measures per the Phase 1 and the Phase 2 and 3 EAs, the additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would be negligible. No additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would occur based on the new lift station.

Lift Station C: The new lift station would be within or immediately adjacent to the Pinal Creek WQARF site. However, the lift station would not result in impacts to the Pinal Creek WQARF site and the risk of pollutants being released would not change. Since the lift station would be located near private

residences, there is some risk to the public, particularly during construction. However, by implementing BMPs and mitigation measures per the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs, the additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would be negligible. No additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would occur based on the new lift station location.

Lift Station D: The new lift station would be located within the Pinal Creek WQARF area encompassing much of the TRSD area. However, the lift station would not result in impacts to the Pinal Creek WQARF site. There are no other previously recorded hazardous waste sites within the vicinity. With this additional lift station, the risk of pollutants being released would not change. Since the lift station would be located in a residential area, there is some risk to the public, particularly during construction. However, by implementing BMPs and mitigation measures per the Phase 1 and the Phase 2 and 3 EAs, the additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would be negligible. No additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would occur based on the new lift station.

Lift Station E: The new lift station would be located to the south and outside of the Pinal Creek WQARF. There are no other previously recorded hazardous waste sites within the vicinity. With this additional lift station, the risk of pollutants being released would not change. Since the lift station would be located in a residential area, there is some risk to the public, particularly during construction. However, by implementing BMPs and mitigation measures per the Phase 1 and the Phase 2 and 3 EAs, the additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would be negligible. No additional adverse impacts to public health and safety would occur based on the new lift station.

Summary of Impacts to Hazardous Materials

The Proposed Action Modifications would occur within the mapped Pinal Creek WQARF site. However, none of the Proposal Action Modifications would impact the Pina Creek WQARF site given the additional BMPs.

Based on informal consultation with ADEQ on May 31, 2024, below are additional BMPs included as part of this Supplemental EA.

- Soils and/or groundwater encountered at the WRF site shall be tested to determine acidity.
    - Any groundwater encountered shall be tested to determine the acidity (pH). If the pH is greater than or equal to 6.5, then no treatment is required and the water can be discharged per the Construction General Permit (CGP). If the pH falls below the 6.5 threshold, then it will be conditioned to at least a pH of 6.5.
    - Acidic soils (below 6.5 pH) shall be removed and disposed of at the landfill.
- Stormwater BMPs will be part of the construction plans and specifications defined through the CGP and SWPPP Plan.
    - If the pH testing results indicate that the site surface contains acidic soils then the stormwater will remain on site. In addition, in either case the excavations will be protected from all surface flows entering the excavation. If testing shows that the surface soil is not acidic then the SWPPP and CGP will provide the typical stormwater protection as required with a CGP and SWPPP.

4.0 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

As part of the Proposed Action, the contractor(s) will adhere to all federal, state, and local requirements and provide appropriate compliance documentation. Additionally, the contractor would adhere to all requirements within the Project specifications. The Project BMPs are within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs. The below additional BMPs are needed as part of the Proposed Action Modifications.

- Soils and/or groundwater encountered at the WRF site shall be tested to determine acidity.
    - Any groundwater encountered shall be tested to determine the acidity (pH). If the pH is greater than or equal to 6.5, then no treatment is required and the water can be discharged per the CGP. If the pH falls below the 6.5 threshold, then it will be conditioned to at least a pH of 6.5.
    - Acidic soils (below 6.5 pH) shall be removed and disposed of at the landfill.
- Stormwater BMPs will be part of the construction plans and specifications defined through the CGP and SWPPP Plan.
    - If the pH testing results indicate that the site surface contains acidic soils then the stormwater will remain on site. In addition, in either case the excavations will be protected from all surface flows entering the excavation. If testing shows that the surface soil is not acidic then the SWPPP and CGP will provide the typical stormwater protection as required with a CGP and SWPPP.

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

Additional measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts are listed in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 and 3 EAs.

- Archaeological monitoring would be needed during all ground disturbance to minimize the potential for impacts to site AZ V:9:55(ASM). **(PENDING SHPO CONSULTATION).**

6.0 COORDINATION, CONSULTATION, AND CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Tribal Consultation

Previous tribal consultation occurred on August 19, 2022. The USDA RD/RUS also consulted with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni.

Additional consultation as part of this Supplemental EA occurred on [PENDING].

6.2 Agency Consultation

TRSD publicly issued a Resolution of Intention (ROI) created to introduce proposed improvements, engineer's best estimate of cost, project financing and estimated user rates and assessment costs. The ROI process required TRSD to post signs conspicuously along the proposed improvements and not more than 300 feet apart for all three phases of the project. Property owners within the TRSD area had an opportunity to protest the project. In early 2019, the protest results came back with only 4.6% protesting. TRSD also carried out voluntary community outreach efforts conveying the current wastewater treatment within TRSD and the need for the project via presentations, meetings, open discussion meetings, handouts, posters, articles and flyers.

6.3 Public Involvement

Public involvement is an integral part of the NEPA process. A local newspaper advertisement announcing the availability of the EA was published in the [newspaper name] in [Month Year]. A copy of the EA is available for public review at [URL] and a hardcopy of the EA was made available at [Location, address, city, state, and zip code]. The comment period for the EA was 14 days from publication of the notice of availability.

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8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

USDA, Rural Development/Rural Utilities Services

Lam Ho, Civil Engineer

Logan Simpson

Marshall Hayes, Environmental Planner

Devin McAllister, Environmental Planner

Chris Garraty, Cultural Resources Director

Ian Tackett, Senior Biologist

Nate Basch, GIS Analyst

Victoria Niedzielski, Technical Editor

Zach Cooper, Archaeologist

Marybeth Pike, Archaeologist

PACE | Advanced Water Engineering

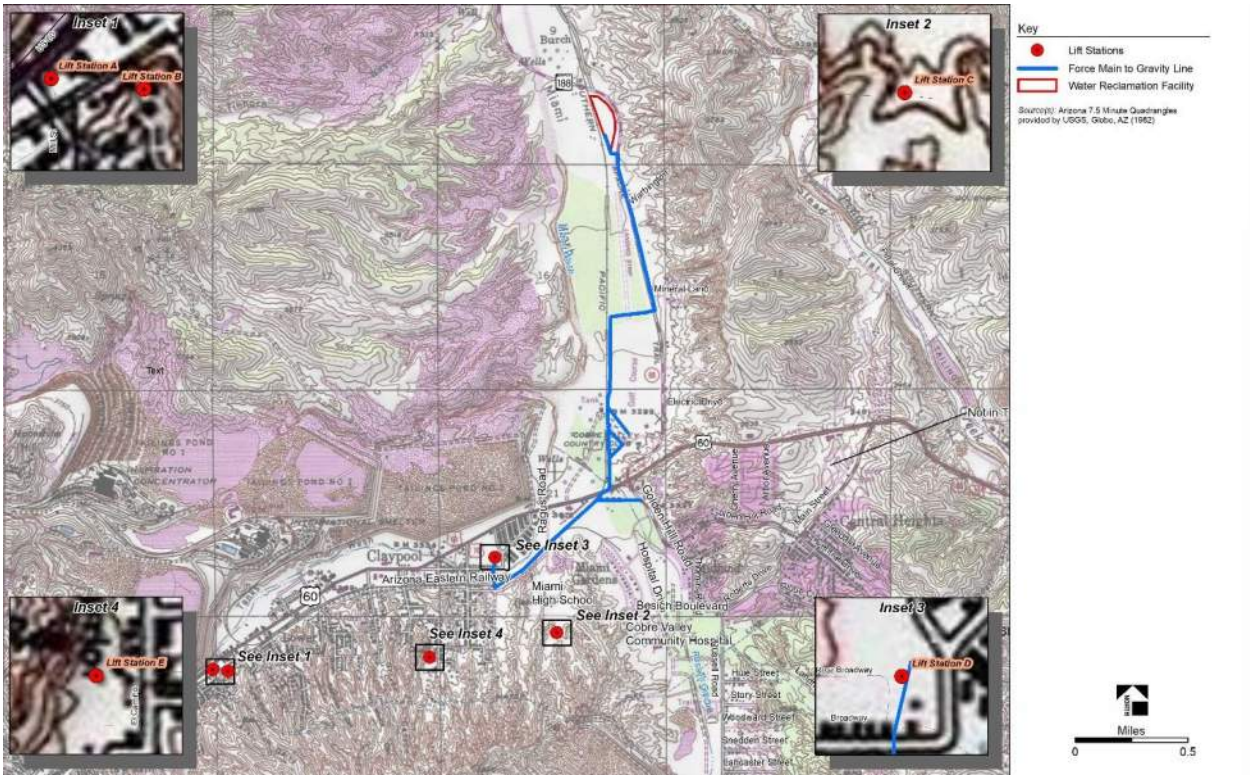
Mike Krebs, Vice President – Environmental Water Division

Andrea Jaycox, Project Coordinator

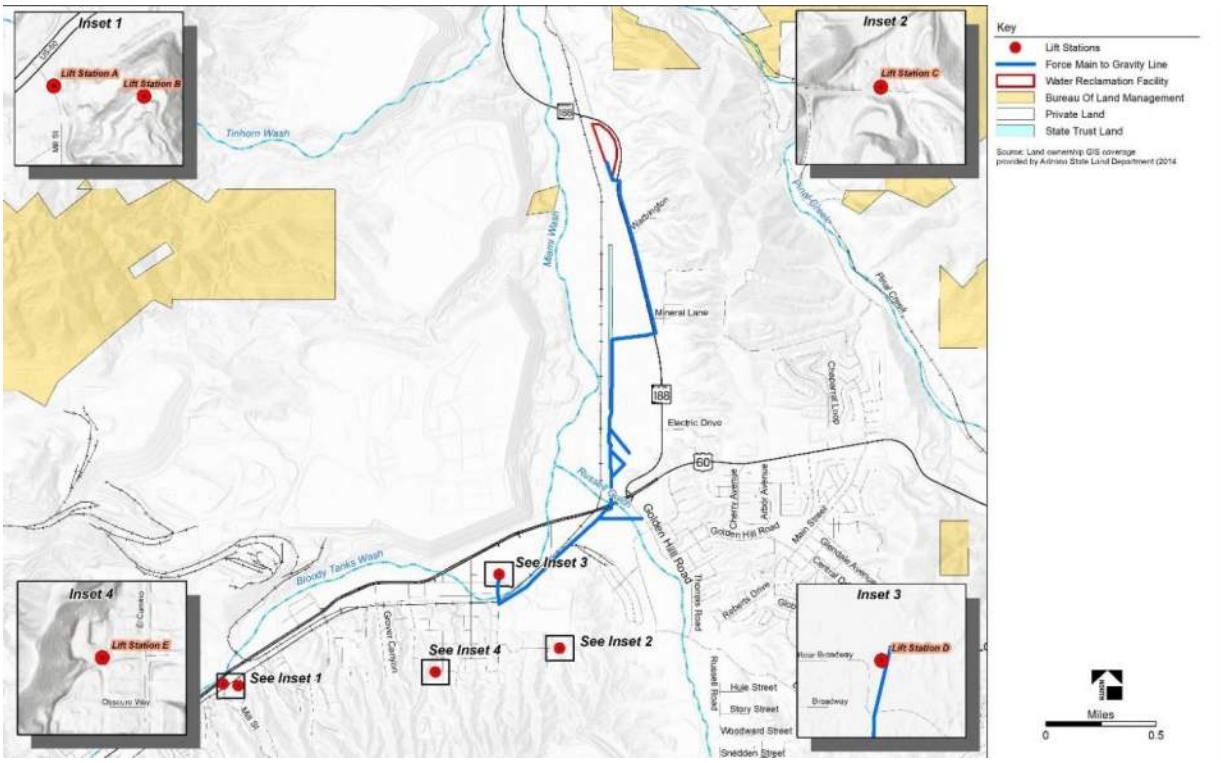
APPENDIX A – SHPO CONCURRENCE [PENDING]

APPENDIX B – ADDITIONAL PROJECT MAPS

Floodplain Map



Topographic Map



Vicinity Map

APPENDIX C – WRF DESIGN

W:\B708\6-GIS\Projects\TRSD_SewerAtlas\TRSD_SewerAtlas.aprx - B708 WRF Site Plan

TRSD WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY (PHASE I)

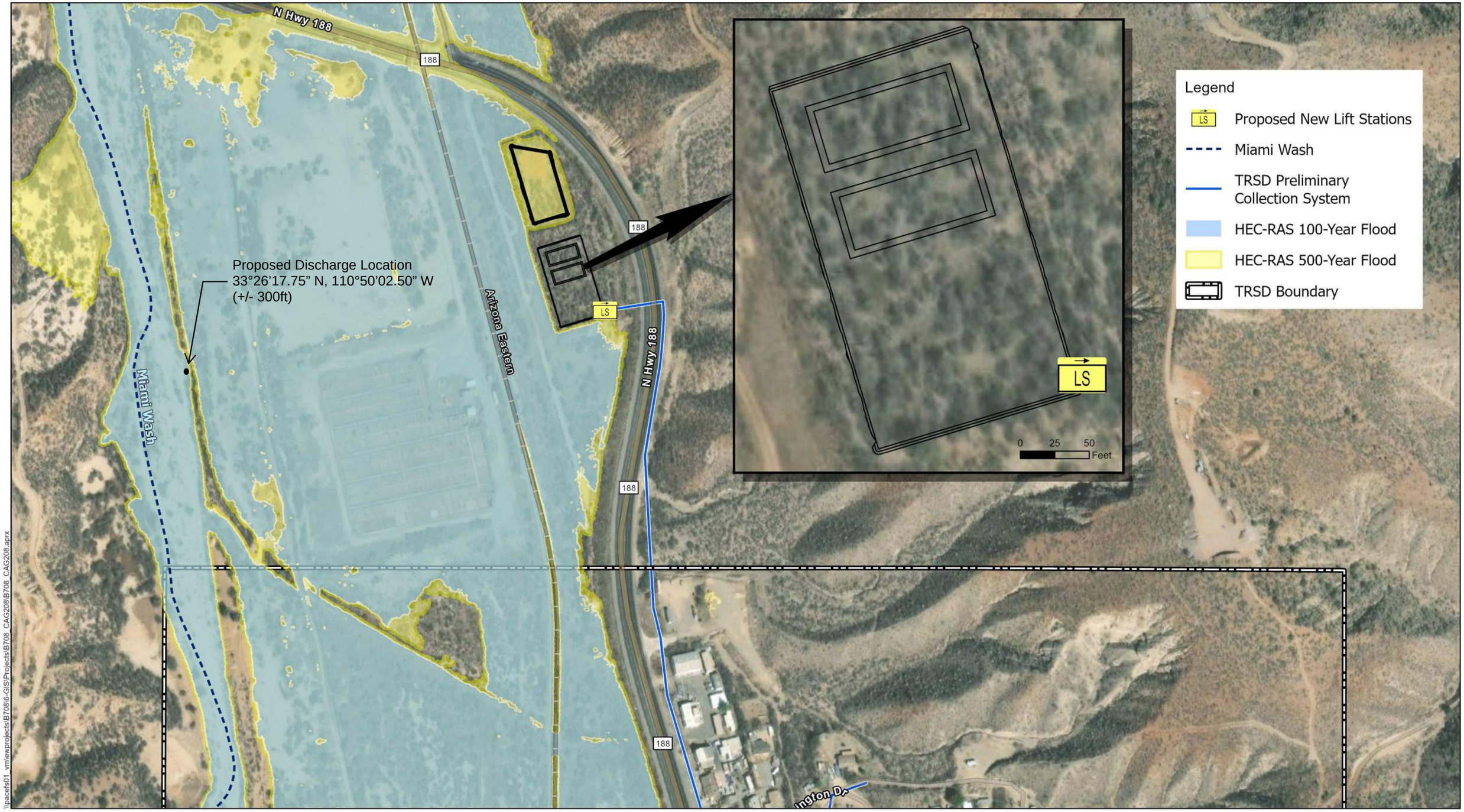
PROPOSED WRF SITE PLAN

PACE Advanced Water Engineering

0 50 100 200 Feet

Date: 6/24/2024

Job Number: B708



TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT

PROPOSED PROJECT WRF

PACE Advanced Water Engineering

0 150 300 600 Feet

Date: 3/24/2023

Job Number: B406

Exhibit 8

APPENDIX D – UPDATED SPECIES LIST

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
9828 North 31st Ave
#c3
Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517
Phone: (602) 242-0210 Fax: (602) 242-2513

In Reply Refer To: 04/11/2024 19:03:29 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0076040
Project Name: TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PHASES 1, 2 & 3

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing this list under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The list you have generated identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and designated and proposed critical habitat, that *may* occur within the One-Range that has been delineated for the species (candidate, proposed, or listed) and it's critical habitat (designated or proposed) with which your project polygon intersects. These range delineations are based on biological metrics, and do not necessarily represent exactly where the species is located. Please refer to the species information found on ECOS to determine if suitable habitat for the species on your list occurs in your project area.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the habitats upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of Federal trust resources and to determine whether projects may affect federally listed species and/or designated critical habitat. A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.
If the Federal action agency determines that listed species or critical habitat *may be affected* by a federally funded, permitted or authorized activity, the agency must consult with us pursuant to 50 CFR 402. Note that a "may affect" determination includes effects that may not be adverse and

that may be beneficial, insignificant, or discountable. An effect exists even if only one individual or habitat segment may be affected. The effects analysis should include the entire action area, which often extends well outside the project boundary or "footprint." For example, projects that involve streams and river systems should consider downstream affects. If the Federal action agency determines that the action may jeopardize a *proposed* species or may adversely modify *proposed* critical habitat, the agency must enter into a section 7 conference. The agency may choose to confer with us on an action that may affect proposed species or critical habitat.

Candidate species are those for which there is sufficient information to support a proposal for listing. Although candidate species have no legal protection under the Act, we recommend that they be considered in the planning process in the event they become proposed or listed prior to project completion. More information on the regulations (50 CFR 402) and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in our Endangered Species Consultation Handbook at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf.

We also advise you to consider species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*). The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when authorized by the Service. The Eagle Act prohibits anyone, without a permit, from taking (including disturbing) eagles, and their parts, nests, or eggs. Currently 1,026 species of birds are protected by the MBTA, including the western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*). Protected western burrowing owls can be found in urban areas and may use their nest/burrows year-round; destruction of the burrow may result in the unpermitted take of the owl or their eggs.

If a bald eagle or golden eagle nest occurs in or near the proposed project area, our office should be contacted for Technical Assistance. An evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb or harm eagles. The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines provide recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles (see https://www.fws.gov/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act and https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management).

The Division of Migratory Birds (505/248-7882) administers and issues permits under the MBTA and Eagle Act, while our office can provide guidance and Technical Assistance. For more information regarding the MBTA, BGEPA, and permitting processes, please visit the following web site: https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for communication tower projects (e.g. cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at https://www.fws.gov/media/recommended-best-practices-communication-tower-design-siting-construction-operation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may regulate activities that involve streams (including some intermittent streams) and/or wetlands. We recommend that you contact the Corps to determine their interest in proposed projects in these areas. For activities within a National Wildlife Refuge, we recommend that you contact refuge staff for specific information

about refuge resources, please visit this link or visit https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wildlife-refuge-system to locate the refuge you would be working in or around.

If your action is on tribal land or has implications for off-reservation tribal interests, we encourage you to contact the tribe(s) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to discuss potential tribal concerns, and to invite any affected tribe and the BIA to participate in the section 7 consultation. In keeping with our tribal trust responsibility, we will notify tribes that may be affected by proposed actions when section 7 consultation is initiated. For more information, please contact our Tribal Coordinator, John Nystedt, at 928/556-2160 or John_Nystedt@fws.gov.

We also recommend you seek additional information and coordinate your project with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Information on known species detections, special status species, and Arizona species of greatest conservation need, such as the western burrowing owl and the Sonoran desert tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*) can be found by using their Online Environmental Review Tool, administered through the Heritage Data Management System and Project Evaluation Program (https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/planning-for-wildlife/project-evaluation-program/).

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office. If we may be of further assistance, please contact our Flagstaff office at 928/556-2118 for projects in northern Arizona, our general Phoenix number 602/242-0210 for central Arizona, or 520/670-6144 for projects in southern Arizona.

Sincerely,
/s/

Heather Whitlaw
Field Supervisor
Attachment

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Arizona Ecological Services Field Office
9828 North 31st Ave
#c3
Phoenix, AZ 85051-2517
(602) 242-0210

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0076040

Project Name: TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PHASES 1, 2 & 3

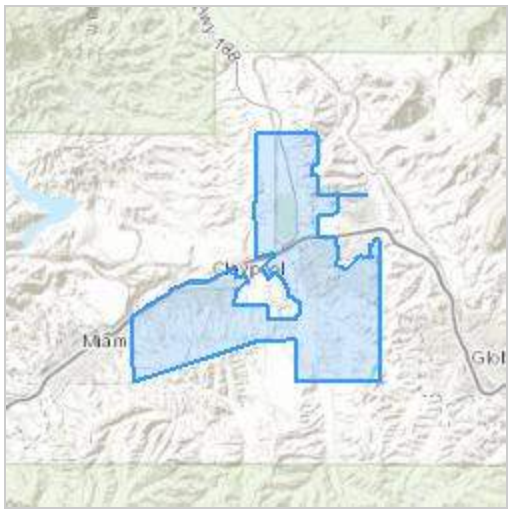
Project Type: Wastewater Facility - New Construction

Project Description: The Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) has applied for financial assistance from the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Program to provide a wastewater collection and treatment system to its users for Phases 1, 2, and 3. The Project is located approximately 80 miles east of Phoenix between the Town of Miami and City of Globe in Gila County, Arizona. It has an overall three-phased approach based on direction from the USDA regarding the funding process and availability of funds. The three phases are generally defined by geography and Project activities consist of the installation of sewer collection lines (with lift stations) throughout the TRSD service area and the construction of a wastewater reclamation facility (WRF). Phase 1 is located in the western portion of the TRSD and includes portions of the southern extent of the TRSD and portions of State Route 188 (SR 188) on the northern part of the TRSD. Phase 2 is located in the central and southeastern portion of TRSD and Phase 3 is located in the northern portion of TRSD. The Phase 2 and 3 areas include the neighborhoods of Midland City, Central Heights, Little Acres, and U.S. Route 60 (U.S. 60).

A Phase 1 EA was previously completed in March 2018 and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the USDA in April 2018. An EA was prepared for Phases 2 and 3 in August 2022, and a FONSI was obtained in October 2022. Since the time that the EAs were completed for Phase 1, 2, and 3, several changes have occurred that affect all Phases. A Supplemental EA has been prepared to document Project changes (referred to as the Proposed Action Modifications) which have occurred since completion of the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA and resulting environmental impacts. Since all three phases require the WRF to function, the Supplemental EA is necessary documentation for all three phases.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@33.41499345,-110.8237168132653,14z



Counties: Gila County, Arizona

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

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1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Mexican Wolf *Canis lupus baileyi* Population: U.S.A. (portions of AZ and NM)see 17.84(k) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3916	Experimental Population, Non-Essential
Ocelot *Leopardus (=Felis) pardalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4474	Endangered

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl *Glaucidium brasilianum cactorum* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1225	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus* Population: Western U.S. DPS There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Gila Topminnow (incl. Yaqui) *Poeciliopsis occidentalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1116	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

---

1. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
2. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper

Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

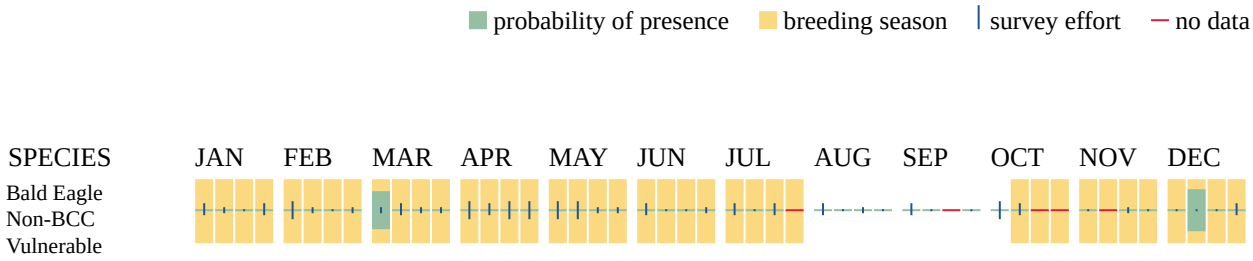
Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

---

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Jul 31
Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9447	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 31
Mexican Whip-poor-will *Antrostomus arizonae* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10680	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20
Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
Phainopepla *Phainopepla nitens lepida* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11973	Breeds Mar 1 to Aug 20
Plumbeous Vireo *Vireo plumbeus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11933	Breeds May 10 to Aug 5

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Scott's Oriole *Icterus parisorum* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11968	Breeds May 21 to Aug 15

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

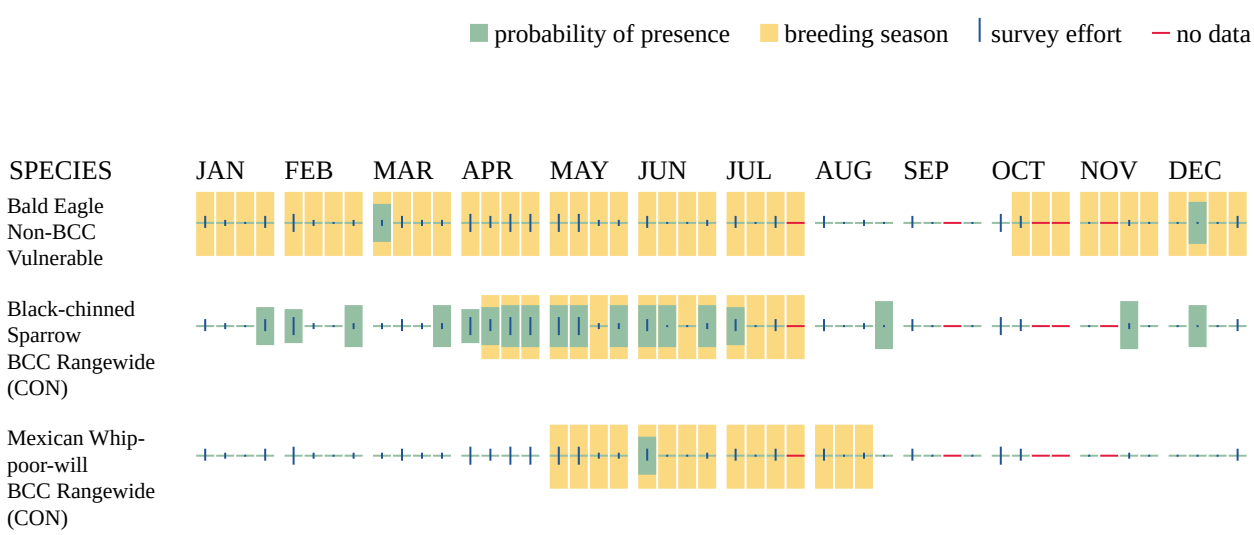
Probability of Presence (■)

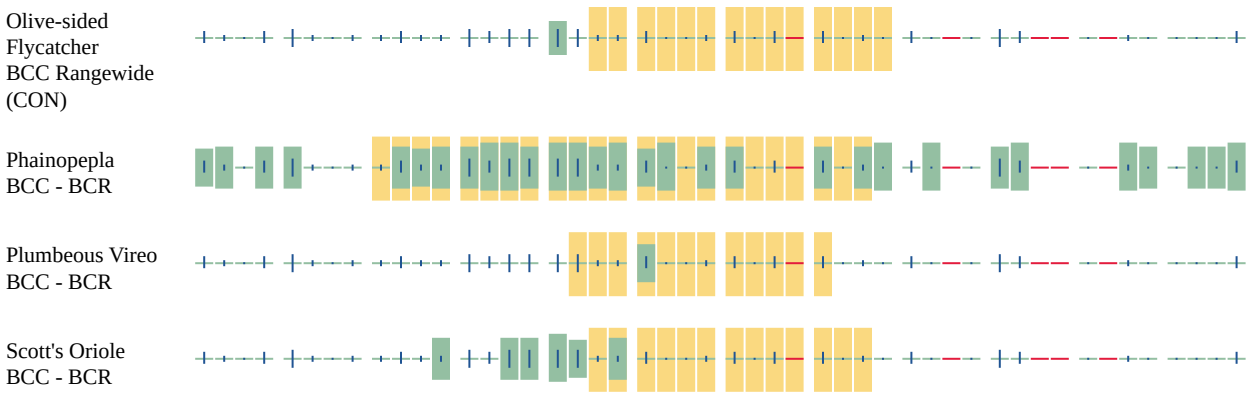
Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.





Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

WETLANDS

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBF

RIVERINE

- R4SBC
- R5UBH

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Ian Tackett
Address: 51 W Third Street
Address Line 2: Suite 450
City: Tempe
State: AZ
Zip: 85281
Email itackett@logansimpson.com
Phone: 4809671343

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Department of Agriculture

Arizona Environmental Online Review Tool Report

To conserve Arizon ***outdoor recreation***

Project Name:

TRI-CITY REGI TREATMENT – PHASES 1, 2 & 3

Project Description:

The Tri-City Re om the United States (U.S.) Department of A astewater collection and treatment system tely 80 miles east of Phoenix between the T verall three-phased approach based on dir of funds. The three phases are generally c of sewer collection lines throughout the TR facility (WRF). Phase 1 is located in the west it of the TRSD and portions of State Route in the central and southeastern portion of TRSD and Phase 3 is located in the northern portion of TRSD. The Phase 2 and 3 areas include the neighborhoods of Midland City, Central Heights, Little Acres, and U.S. Route 60 (U.S. 60). A Phase 1 EA was previously completed in March 2018 and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by the USDA in April 2018. An EA was prepared for Phases 2 and 3 in August 2022, and a FONSI was obtained in October 2022. Since the time that the EAs were completed for Phase 1, 2, and 3, several changes have occurred that affect all Phases. A Supplemental EA has been prepared to document Project changes (referred to as the Proposed Action Modifications) which have occurred since completion of the Final Phase 1 EA/FONSI and the Phase 2 and 3 EA and resulting environmental impacts. Since all three phases require the WRF to function, the Supplemental EA is necessary documentation for all three phases.

Project Type:

Waste Transfer, Treatment, and Disposal, Liquid waste/effluent, New Sewage treatment plant

Contact Person:
Ian Tackett

Organization:
Logan Simpson Design Inc.

On Behalf Of:
CONSULTING

Project ID:
HGIS-21714

Please review the entire report for project type and/or species recommendations for the location information entered. Please retain a copy for future reference.

Disclaimer:

1. This Environmental Review is based on the project study area that was entered. The report must be updated if the project study area, location, or the type of project changes.
2. This is a preliminary environmental screening tool. It is not a substitute for the potential knowledge gained by having a biologist conduct a field survey of the project area. This review is also not intended to replace environmental consultation (including federal consultation under the Endangered Species Act), land use permitting, or the Departments review of site-specific projects.
3. The Departments Heritage Data Management System (HDMS) data is not intended to include potential distribution of special status species. Arizona is large and diverse with plants, animals, and environmental conditions that are ever changing. Consequently, many areas may contain species that biologists do not know about or species previously noted in a particular area may no longer occur there. HDMS data contains information about species occurrences that have actually been reported to the Department. Not all of Arizona has been surveyed for special status species, and surveys that have been conducted have varied greatly in scope and intensity. Such surveys may reveal previously undocumented population of species of special concern.
4. Arizona Wildlife C ervation Need (SGCN), represent potentia ect to ongoing change, modification and r the availability of new data will necessitate a r

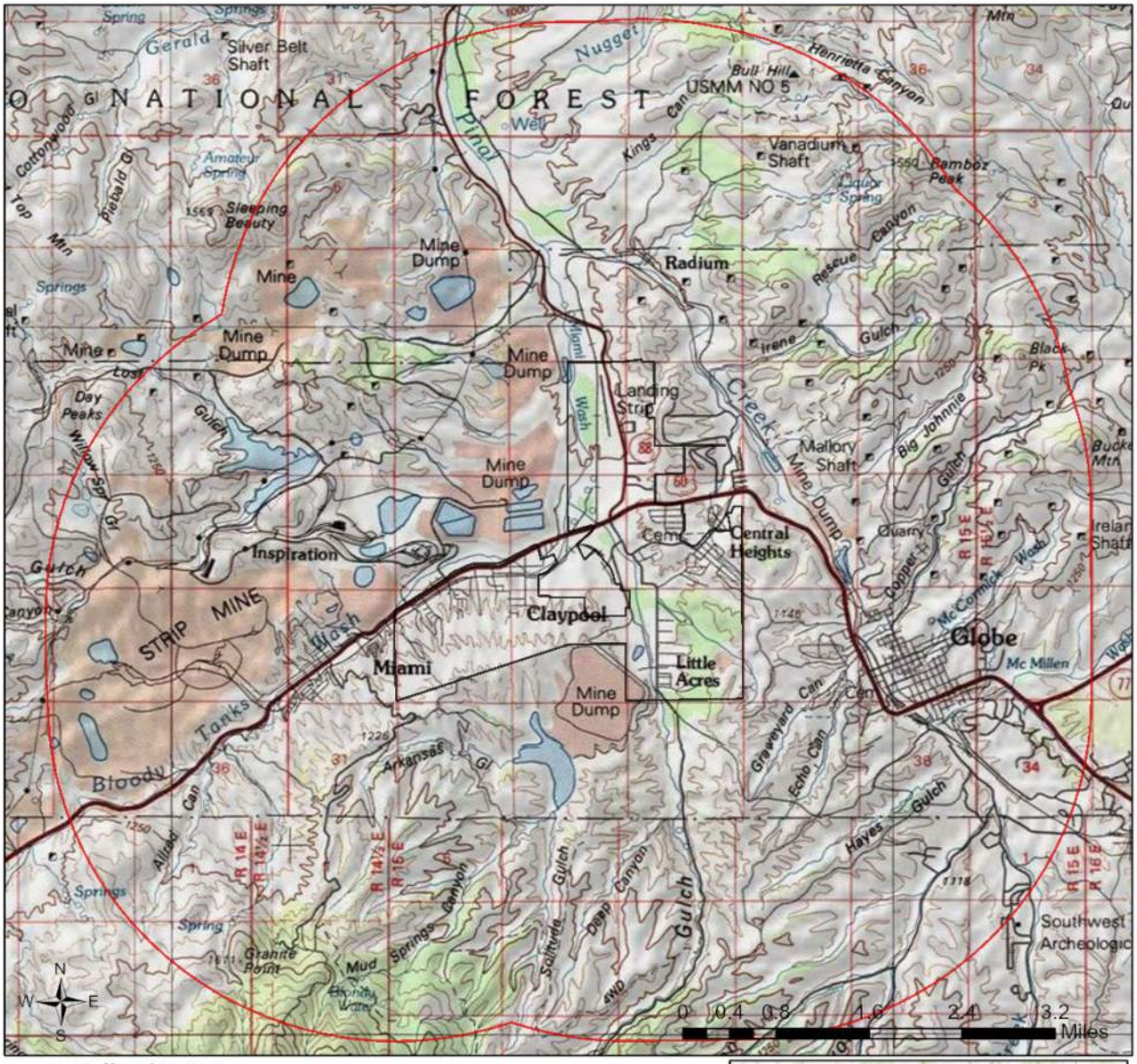
Locations Accuracy Dis
Project locations are assu ntal review. The creator/owner of the Proje ius the correctness of the Project Review Report co

Recommendations Disclaimer:

1. The Department is interested in the conservation of all fish and wildlife resources, including those species listed in this report and those that may have not been documented within the project vicinity as well as other game and nongame wildlife.
2. Recommendations have been made by the Department, under authority of Arizona Revised Statutes Title 5 (Amusements and Sports), 17 (Game and Fish), and 28 (Transportation).
3. Potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources may be minimized or avoided by the recommendations generated from information submitted for your proposed project. These recommendations are preliminary in scope, designed to provide early considerations on all species of wildlife.
4. Making this information directly available does not substitute for the Department's review of project proposals, and should not decrease our opportunity to review and evaluate additional project information and/or new project proposals.
5. Further coordination with the Department requires the submittal of this Environmental Review Report with a cover letter and project plans or documentation that includes project narrative, acreage to be impacted, how construction or pro on (including site map). Once AGFD had r ect reviews. Send requests to:
   Project Evaluatio
   Arizona Game an
   5000 West Carefr
   Phoenix, Arizona
   Phone Number: (
   Fax Number: (62
   Or
   PEP@azgfd.gov
6. Coordination may PA) and/or Endangered Species Act (ESA) PA/ESA analysis or through coordinati

GIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PH

USA Topo Basemap With Locator Map



Buffered Project Boundary

Project Boundary

Project Size (acres): 2,723.46

Lat/Long (DD): 33.4037 / -110.8472

County(s): Gila

AGFD Region(s): Mesa

Township/Range(s): T1N, R15E

USGS Quad(s): GLOBE

GIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PH

Web Map As Submitted By User

Buffered Project Boundary

Project Boundary

Project Size (acres): 2,723.46

Lat/Long (DD): 33.4037 / -110.8472

County(s): Gila

AGFD Region(s): Mesa

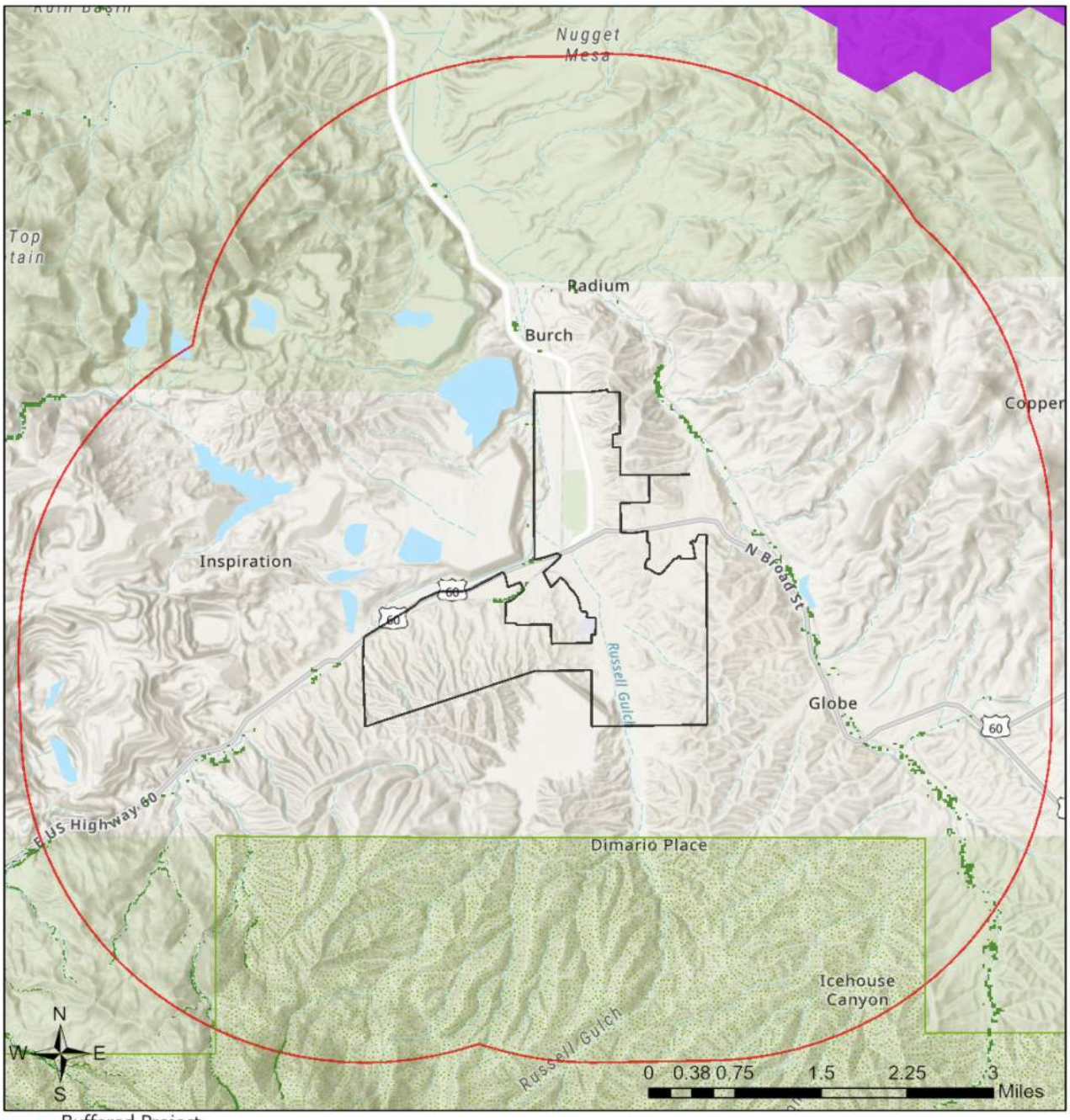
Township/Range(s): T1N, R15E

USGS Quad(s): GLOBE

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS

GIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PH

Important Areas



- Buffered Project Boundary
- Project Boundary
- Important Bird Areas
- Critical Habitat
- Pinal County Riparian
- Important Connectivity Zones
- Wildlife Connectivity

Project Size (acres): 2,723.46

Lat/Long (DD): 33.4037 / -110.8472

County(s): Gila

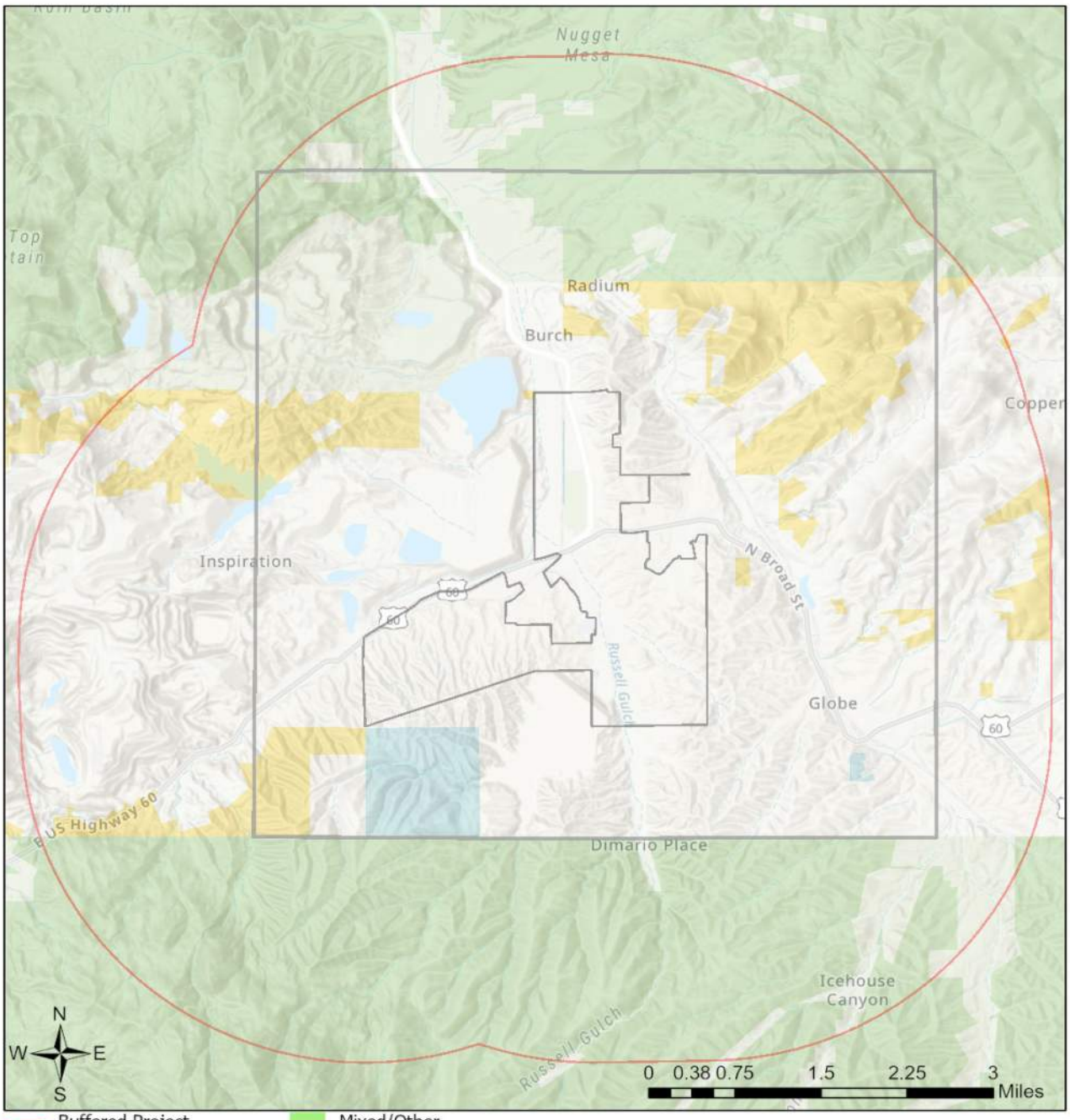
AGFD Region(s): Mesa

Township/Range(s): T1N, R15E

USGS Quad(s): GLOBE

GIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT – PH

Township/Ranges and Land Ownership



- Buffered Project Boundary
- Project Boundary
- AZ Game & Fish Dept.
- BLM
- BOR
- Indian Res.
- Military
- Mixed/Other
- National Park/Mon.
- Private
- State & Regional Parks
- State Trust
- US Forest Service
- Wildlife Area/Refuge
- Township/Ranges

Project Size (acres): 2,723.46

Lat/Long (DD): 33.4037 / -110.8472

County(s): Gila

AGFD Region(s): Mesa

Township/Range(s): T1N, R15E

USGS Quad(s): GLOBE

Special Status Species Documented within 3 Miles of Project Vicinity

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Agave delamateri	Tonto Basin Agave	SC	S		HS	
Danaus plexippus	Monarch	C		S		
Echinocereus santaritensis	Santa Rita Hedgehog Cactus				SR	
Myotis velifer	Cave Myotis	SC		S		2
Phrynosoma solare	Regal Horned Lizard					2
Rana yavapaiensis	Lowland Leopard Frog	SC	S	S		1

Note: Status code definitions can be found at https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/on-the-ground-conservation/state-wildlife-action-plan/state-wildlife-action-plan-status-definitions/.

Special Areas Documented that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn

Scientific Name	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Pinal Creek (Pinal Creek)			
Riparian Area			

Note: Status code definiti[illegible] the-ground-conservation/state-wildlife

Species of Greatest C[illegible]nt as Drawn, based on

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Accipiter gentilis				S		2
Anaxyrus microscaphus				S		2
Anthus spragueii						2
Aquila chrysaetos				S		2
Artemisiospiza nevadens						
Asio otus						2
Aspidoscelis sonorae						2
Auriparus flaviceps						2
Baeolophus ridgwayi						
Botaurus lentiginosus	American Bittern					2
Buteo regalis	Ferruginous Hawk	SC		S		2
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's Hawk					2
Buteogallus anthracinus	Common Black Hawk					2
Calypte costae	Costa's Hummingbird					2
Camptostoma imberbe	Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet		S			2
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus	Cactus Wren					2
Catharus ustulatus	Swainson's Thrush					2
Chaetodipus baileyi	Bailey's Pocket Mouse					2
Chordeiles minor	Common Nighthawk					2
Coccyzus americanus	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Western DPS)					

Species of Greatest Conservation Need Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn, based on Predicted Range Models

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Colaptes chrysoides	Gilded Flicker			S		2
Coluber bilineatus	Sonoran Whipsnake					2
Columbina inca	Inca Dove					2
Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens	Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat	SC	S	S		1
Crotalus cerberus	Arizona Black Rattlesnake					2
Elgaria kingii	Madrean Alligator Lizard					2
Empidonax wrightii	Gray Flycatcher					2
Euderma maculatum	Spotted Bat	SC	S	S		2
Eugenes fulgens	Rivoli's Hummingbird					2
Eumops perotis californic						
Falco mexicanus						2
Falco peregrinus anatum						
Falco sparverius						2
Glaucidium gnoma califor						
Gopherus morafkai				S		1
Gymnorhinus cyanocepha				S		2
Haemorhous cassinii						2
Haliaeetus leucocephalus				S		1
Icterus bullockii						2
Icterus cucullatus						2
Icterus parisorum						2
Incilius alvarius						2
Kinosternon sonoriense s						
Lanius ludovicianus						2
Lasiurus blossevillii						2
Lasiurus cinereus						2
Lithobates yavapaiensis				S		1
Megascops kennicottii	Western Screech-owl					
Melanerpes uropygialis	Gila Woodpecker					2
Melospiza lincolnii	Lincoln's Sparrow					2
Melozone aberti	Abert's Towhee		S			2
Micrathene whitneyi	Elf Owl					
Micruroides euryxanthus	Sonoran Coralsnake					2
Myadestes townsendi	Townsend's Solitaire					2
Myotis auriculus	Southwestern Myotis					2
Myotis thysanodes	Fringed Myotis	SC				2
Myotis velifer	Cave Myotis	SC		S		2
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma Myotis	SC				2
Neotamias cinereicollis	Gray-collared Chipmunk					

Species of Greatest Conservation Need Predicted that Intersect with Project Footprint as Drawn, based on Predicted Range Models

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWS	USFS	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Neotamias minimus	Least Chipmunk					
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed Free-tailed Bat					2
Nyctinomops macrotis	Big Free-tailed Bat	SC				2
Parabuteo unicinctus	Harris's Hawk					2
Passerculus sandwichensis	Savannah Sparrow					2
Phrynosoma solare	Regal Horned Lizard					2
Pooecetes gramineus	Vesper Sparrow					2
Progne subis hesperia	Desert Purple Martin					
Setophaga graciae	Grace's Warbler					2
Setophaga nigrescens						2
Sonorella galiurensis						2
Spizella breweri						2
Strix occidentalis lucida						1
Tadarida brasiliensis						
Vireo vicinior						

Species of Economic ct Footprint as Drawn

Scientific Name	BLM	NPL	SGCN
Callipepla gambelii			
Odocoileus hemionus			
Patagioenas fasciata			
Pecari tajacu			
Puma concolor			
Zenaida asiatica			
Zenaida macroura			

Project Type: Waste Tra age treatment plant

Project Type Recommendations:
Consider impacts of outdoor lighting on wildlife and develop measures or alternatives that can be taken to increase human safety while minimizing potential impacts to wildlife. Conduct wildlife surveys to determine species within project area, and evaluate proposed activities based on species biology and natural history to determine if artificial lighting may disrupt behavior patterns or habitat use. Use only the minimum amount of light needed for safety. Narrow spectrum bulbs should be used as often as possible to lower the range of species affected by lighting. All lighting should be shielded, canted, or cut to ensure that light reaches only areas needing illumination.

Minimize the potential introduction or spread of exotic invasive species, including aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, insects and pathogens. Precautions should be taken to wash and/or decontaminate all equipment utilized in the project activities before entering and leaving the site. See the Arizona Department of Agriculture website for a list of prohibited and restricted noxious weeds at https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/az.shtml and the Arizona Native Plant Society https://aznps.com/invas for recommendations on how to control. To view a list of documented invasive species or to report invasive species in or near your project area visit iMapInvasives - a national cloud-based application for tracking and managing invasive species at https://imap.natureserve.org/imap/services/page/map.html.

- To build a list: zoom to your area of interest, use the identify/measure tool to draw a polygon around your area of interest, and select “See What’s Here” for a list of reported species. To export the list, you must have an account and be logged in. You can then use the export tool to draw a boundary and export the records in a csv file.

Minimization and mitigatic ality, quantity, chemistry, temperature, and alteratio ods) should be evaluated. Minimize impacts to sprin water use. If dredging is a project component, consi and other aquatic species (include spawning seasor early direct coordination with Project Evaluation Pr ams, springs, and/or riparian habitats.

The Department recomme ve species occur within the project area. Avoidance o outside of breeding seasons.

Based on the project type y be required (http://www.epa.gov/).

Based on the project type e required (https://azstateparks.com/

Trenches should be cover ditches or fencing along the perimeter to deter small m ditches.

Consider incorporating pr ce, create, or restore wildlife habitat. Contact P PEP@azgfd.gov or (623) 236-7600 or https://www.

Based on the project type entered, coordination with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality may be required (http://www.azdeq.gov/).

Based on the project type entered, coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may be required (http://www.usace.army.mil/).

The Department requests further coordination to provide project/species specific recommendations, please contact Project Evaluation Program directly at PEP@azgfd.gov.

Project Location and/or Species Recommendations:
HDMS records indicate that one or more native plants listed on the **Arizona Native Plant Law and Antiquities Act** have been documented within the vicinity of your project area. Please contact:
Arizona Department of Agriculture
1688 W Adams St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602.542.4373
https://agriculture.az.gov/sites/default/files/Native%20Plant%20Rules%20-%20AZ%20Dept%20of%20Ag.pdf starts on page 44

Analysis indicates that your project is located in the vicinity of an identified **Conservation Opportunity Area (COA)**. While there are many areas in Arizona that present abundant conservation opportunities, COAs are specific areas on the landscape that the Department identified as having the greatest potential for conservation efforts. COAs were identified using species and habitat data, the presence of unique landscape features, and Departmental expertise. COAs range in size, scope, and focal species and/or habitats and are strictly a non-regulatory conservation tool for the public and our conservation partners to consider. For more information regarding this particular COA near your project area and the Department's suggestions
https://awcs.azgfd.com/cc

This review has identified g stage of your project, avoid, minimize, or mitiga arian areas play an important role in maintaini tural drainages that convey water through an area, the rtant movement corridors and habitat for fish and wi at least part of the year. Riparian areas also includ convey water following rain events. All types of ri for wildlife. The Pinal County Comprehensive P Plan, Drainage Ordinance, and Drainage Design Mar Guidelines to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impa at https://www.azgfd.com/ e-friendly-guidelines/. Based on the project type rtment and Pinal County may be warranted.

APPENDIX E – EIGHT-STEP DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Eight-Step Decision Making Process

Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management

TRSD Wastewater Collection and Treatment – Phases 1, 2 & 3

INTRODUCTION

Executive Order (EO) 11988 Floodplain Management requires federal agencies "…to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative." EO 11988, in Section 2(a), outlines an eight-step decision-making process for floodplain impacts. The Rural Utilities Service follows this eight-step decision-making process for all actions involving new construction or substantial improvement in the floodplain.

The Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) has applied for financial assistance from the United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Program to provide a wastewater collection and treatment system to its users for Phases 1, 2, and 3. The Project is located approximately 80 miles east of Phoenix between the Town of Miami (Miami) and City of Globe (Globe) in Gila County, Arizona. It has an overall three-phased approach based on direction from the USDA regarding the funding process and availability of funds.

The Project includes construction of a new wastewater reclamation facility (WRF) and collection system to provide permanent wastewater collection and treatment to properties within Phases 1, 2, and 3 of the TRSD service area in order to address the public health issues associated with the current onsite wastewater treatment methods.

The Proposed Action involves the construction of critical wastewater facilities and USDA requires critical facilities to be located above the 500-year water surface elevation. Environmental Assessments (EAs) were prepared for Phase 1 and for Phases 2 and 3 and findings of no significant impact (FONSI) were issued for each EA. A Supplemental EA (SEA) was prepared to assess impacts from changes that have occurred since the completion of the previous EAs which included an alternative WRF location, an alternative force main route, and new lift stations. To ensure the Proposed Action is consistent with EO 11988, development in the floodplain is evaluated below using the eight-step decision-making process.

STEP 1 – DETERMINE WHETHER THE PROPOSED ACTION IS LOCATED IN A FLOODPLAIN

The base floodplain is the elevation of the 100-year floodplain, the area subject to a 1% chance of flooding in any given year. The area subject to a 0.2% chance of flooding in any given year is referred to as the 500-year floodplain.

Water Reclamation Facility

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] Flood Insurance Rate Map [FIRM] No. 04007C2104D, effective December 4, 2007 (FEMA 2023), the WRF is located within the 100-year floodplain (Figure 1). However, a Floodplain Impacts Analysis Report was prepared on May 26, 2023, and hydraulic modeling was conducted to refine existing conditions of the 100 and 500-year floodplain (Figure 2).

Based on the Floodplain Impacts Analysis Report, the WRF would be located near, but outside of the 100-year floodplain (Appendix H of SEA). This adjacent floodplain is defined as Zone A which does not have a base flood elevation. The new WRF and equipment, including non-submersible pumps and other wastewater infrastructure, would be located outside the 100-year, but partially within the 500-year floodplain (approximately 0.95 acre).

Force Main to Gravity Line
The force main to gravity line would be located within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) and regulatory floodway associated with Russell Gulch, Blood Tanks Wash, and Miami Wash (Figure 2). Installation would occur underground and largely within the previously disturbed golf course, U.S. 60, and SR 188 right-of-way (ROW) areas.

Lift Stations
Lift Station A would be located outside (adjacent) of the 100-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2113D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Figure 4). This area is defined as Zone AE which has an established base flood elevation.

Lift Station B would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2113D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Figure 4).

Lift Station C would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2112D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Figure 4).

Lift Station D would be located entirely within the 100-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2112D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Figure 4). This area is defined as Zone AE which has an established base flood elevation.

Lift Station E would not be located within the 100-year floodplain but would be within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRM No. 04007C2114D, effective December 4, 2007) (FEMA 2023) (Figure 4).

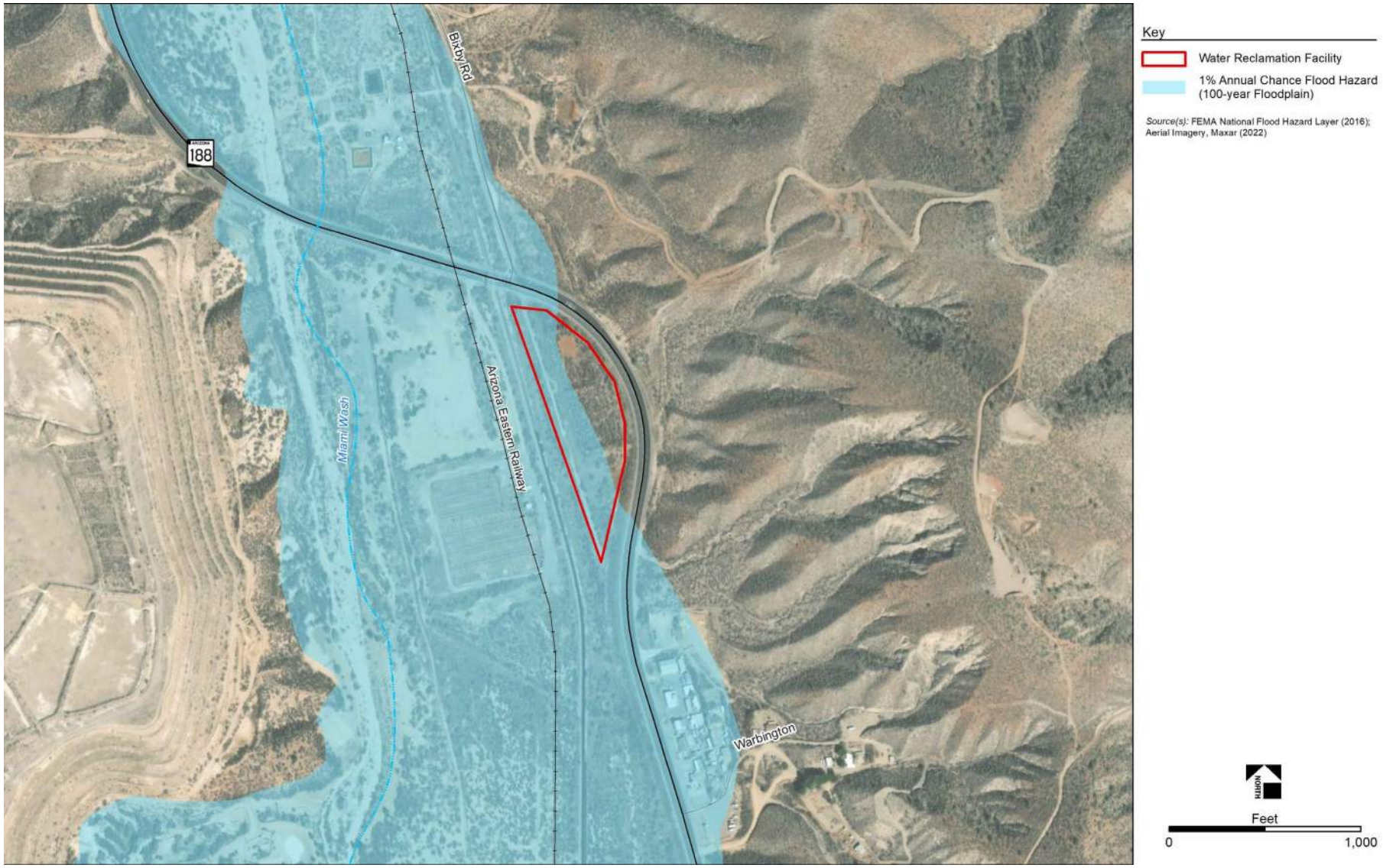


Figure 1. WRF Location

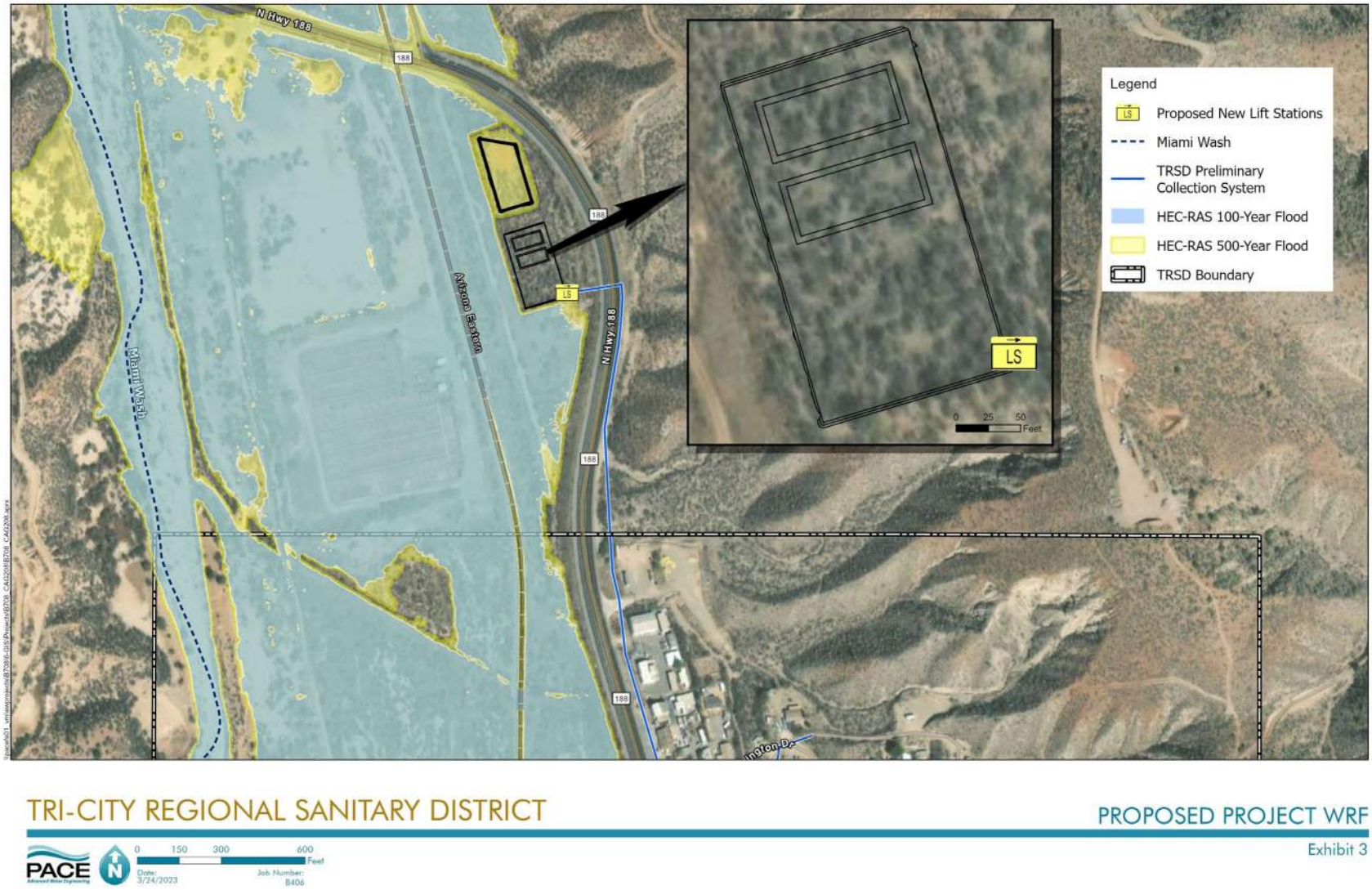


Figure 2. Floodplain Impacts Analysis Report Findings

Figure 3. Force Main to Gravity Line Location

Figure 4. Lift Station Locations

STEP 2 – PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE

The TRSD publicly issued a Resolution of Intention (ROI) to introduce proposed improvements, engineer's best cost estimate, Project financing, and estimated user rates and assessment costs. The ROI process required that the TRSD post signs conspicuously along the proposed improvements not more than 300 feet apart for all three Project phases. Property owners within the TRSD area had an opportunity to protest the Project. In early 2019, the protest results came back with only 4.6% protesting. The TRSD also carried out voluntary community outreach efforts conveying the current wastewater treatment within TRSD and the need for the Project via presentations, meetings, open discussion meetings, handouts, posters, articles, and flyers.

Additionally, TRSD did further public outreach regarding the new WRF which included one meeting held on November 16, 2023. The meeting was advertised via a posting at the Clay Pool Post Office. Additionally, TRSD provided an email to numerous recipients and an advertisement on the local radio was announced.

The publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the EA will serve as the Preliminary Public Notice of RUS intent to carry out an action in a floodplain and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process. Interested parties will be invited to submit comments to RUS during the 14-day public comment period following publication of the NOA.

STEP 3 – SEARCH FOR PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives Considered

A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Addendum was prepared as part of the project, including the most recent addendum in April 2024 (PACE 2024). The PER considered three alternatives to address the wastewater issues in the project area which included 1. No Action, 2. Conveying wastewater flows to the existing Miami WRF, and 3. Conveying wastewater flows to a newly constructed WRF. Alternative 2 was determined to not be viable due to requiring an intergovernmental agreement and unknown costs associated with this alternative. Thus, the PER recommended that a new WRF be constructed. Ten alternative new WRF sites (Sites 1-10) were evaluated before 2018 and three alternative sites (Sites 11-13) were evaluated after 2019. Table 1 summarizes each site, including location relative to floodplain and reason for dismissal.

Table 1. Alternative WRF Sites

Alternative Considered	Owner	Property Acreage	Location Relative to Floodplain	Final Determination
1	Mining property	9.51	Not within floodplain	Original site for the WRF. However, in April of 2013 the Owner advised the parcel was no longer available.
2	Mining property	83.3	Within floodplain	Owner advised the parcel was not available.
3	Private	16.38	Not within floodplain	Not feasible as location was too far north of project
4	Private	2.25	Within floodplain	Owner advised the parcel was not available.
5	Private	9.83	Not within floodplain	Property was not selected due to being located near residence,

Alternative Considered	Owner	Property Acreage	Location Relative to Floodplain	Final Determination
				narrow parcel width, and higher elevation which would increase operation cost.
6	Mining property	36.44	Within floodplain	Dismissed due to flooding characteristics (4-5 feet of water in a 100-yr storm events).
7	Mining property	19.4	Partially within floodplain	Property not ideal for a treatment facility due to close proximity to residential housing, public schools and commercial shopping.
8	Private	19.61	Not within floodplain	Dismissed as this location was not ideal for WRF due to uphill grade and setback issues.
9	Private	19.4	Not within floodplain	Dismissed as this location was not ideal for WRF due to uphill grade and setback issues.
10	Mining property	59.07	Partially within floodplain	In 2019, the mining company indicated that the site is no longer available because of the safety improvements needed for the tailings dam.
11	Mining property	108.31	Not within floodplain	Cultural survey and background research was conducted which identified cultural resources and high probability of additional subsurface cultural resources and potential for human remains.
12	Mining property	138.21	Within floodplain	Owner advised the parcel was not available.
13	Mining property (granted to TRSD)	7.9	Partially within floodplain	Chosen WRF site which has been assessed as part of the Supplemental EA.

Under the No Action Alternative, the WRF would not be built and Globe and Miami would continue to lack wastewater collection infrastructure. The on-site septic systems and cesspools would continue to be used by Globe and Miami and the nearly 90% of residential systems within the TRSD would remain in violation of state and federal laws and standards. The Proponent's purpose and need would not be met.

STEP 4 – IDENTIFY IMPACTS AND BENEFICIAL VALUES/FUNCTIONS

Natural floodplains provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing water. Floodplains are also areas of high biological productivity. Other benefits include fish and wildlife habitat protection, flood and erosion control, groundwater recharge, and surface water quality maintenance by filtering sediment and contaminants. There is a general lack of native

vegetation within most of the project limits as the proposed improvements are primarily located within previously disturbed urban areas such as roadway ROWs. Vegetation within the ROWs includes non-native landscape plantings in residential and commercial frontages and roadside weeds. The greatest impacts to vegetation would occur from the WRF which is located in an area with vegetation. Up to 2.5 acres of vegetation would be permanently removed. Native plants within the WRF area include foothills paloverde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*), blue paloverde (*Parkinsonia florida*), soaptree yucca (*Ucca elata*), and velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*). Invasive plants found within the project area include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), and buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*).

Notification to the Arizona Department of Agriculture is required for the destruction or removal of plants protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law. There are no species listed on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information and Planning and Consultation list for the area expected to occur in the project area. Therefore, the project would have no effect on these species. There is no designated or proposed critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act in the project area (Logan Simpson 2017). Therefore, this project would not affect critical habitat.

The WRF would require 7.7 acres of currently vacant land that is owned by TRSD. There are no residential structures within this area and the site is zoned as industrial, which allows for the construction of the WRF. The area does not have the adequate land size to satisfy Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) setback requirements, therefore several waivers have been obtained from nearby landowners. If needed, effluent would be discharged into Miami Wash approximately 1,000 feet west. No surface waters or wetlands are present within the WRF location. The anticipated permitting required for discharge would be an ADEQ Aquifer Protection Permit and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This land on which the WRF would be located is currently highly vegetated as it is formerly associated with the Burch Pumping Station Complex and contains two previously used retention basins from past mining activities.

The new WRF and equipment, including non-submersible pumps and other wastewater infrastructure, would be located outside the 100-year, but partially within the 500-year floodplain (approximately 0.95 acre). The WRF would not impact the 100-year floodplain (base elevation) or 500-year floodplain (Appendix C of SEA). During construction, the WRF would be elevated so that it would be above the 500-year floodplain. No conditional letter of map revision or letter of map revision is needed based on the floodplain use permit obtained (Appendix F of SEA). By implementing best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures per the 2018 Phase 1 EA, there would be no additional impacts to floodplains based on the new WRF location.

The collection system would cross U.S. 60 and Russell Gulch via direction boring. Directional boring would allow the collection system to be installed under U.S. 60 and Russell Gulch, therefore no Clean Water Act Section 404 permit would be needed. Installation would occur within existing ROW and easements as feasible, but new ROW and easements may be necessary. Once installation is completed, backfill would be compacted to the existing grade level. The 100-year floodplain would not be impacted since the line would be underground. Surface cover would be replaced to pre-construction conditions.

Only one of the five lift stations (Lift Station D) is located within the 100-year floodplain. Lift Station D would be approximately 10 feet-by-10 feet in size and would be constructed so that the equipment is elevated to be protected from flood events. This would involve approximately

0.11 acre of work within the 100-year floodplain. However, the base elevation would not be altered. A Floodplain Use Permit and Grading permit has been obtained from Gila County Flood Control for construction of this lift station within the 100-year floodplain.

The Proposed Action is not anticipated to have adverse effects to socioeconomic resources, aesthetics, cultural resources, or land-use patterns from its location in the floodplain.

The Proposed Action would have beneficial effects to public health and the environment. The current wastewater management systems in Globe and Miami have a high risk of failure. Many of the existing septic tanks are more than 40-years-old—twice their estimated life. There are many public health impacts that arise from failing wastewater systems, such as the probability of illness. There are also many environmental concerns that come from failing wastewater systems, such as the release of pollutants to groundwater. The Proposed Action would provide Globe and Miami with a new wastewater collection system that would meet state and federal laws and standards and address public health and environmental issues.

STEP 5 – MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS

A Floodplain Impacts Analysis Report was prepared and hydraulic modeling conducted to determine that there would be no impacts to the floodplain. Additionally, Floodplain Use Permit and Grading permits have been obtained from Gila County Flood Control. The TRSD and their contractors will adhere to all federal, state, and local requirements and provide appropriate compliance documentation. The contractor will also adhere to all requirements within the Project specifications. The TRSD would ensure a stormwater pollution prevention plan is prepared to meet the requirements of the construction general permit, including sampling and analysis plan, as necessary.

Project components that would occur within the 100-year floodplain would be completed in accordance with the permit and Section 5.2 Standards for Construction of the Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance, as amended. These measures include, but are not limited to the following required standards in all areas of special flood hazard:

- All new construction and substantial improvements would be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure;
- All new construction and substantial improvements would be constructed using materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage;
- Adequate drainage paths around structures on slopes would be required to guide flood waters around and away from proposed or existing structures;
- Structures would be flood-proofed below the regulatory flood level; to be watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;
- Structural components would be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and effects of buoyancy; and,
- Construction would be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect (USDA 2022).

STEP 6 – REEVALUATE ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed Action and selected project area minimizes the extent of impacts to the base floodplain. Through mitigation measures and best management practices, the project would not adversely affect floodplains. The other project areas considered are infeasible due to effects to

floodplains, effects to cultural resources, cost, location, and availability. The Proposed Action location is the most practicable alternative and would help reduce residential and commercial properties from becoming vacant over time because it would provide functional wastewater collection and treatment.

The No Action Alternative is not practicable because it does not meet the purpose and need of the project and Globe and Miami would continue to lack wastewater infrastructure.

STEP 7 – FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

A final public notice would be published with the Notice of Availability for the FONSI. The final public notice would provide the public with the USDA's and TRSD's final decision that the Proposed Action is the only practicable alternative and an explanation for the need for the Proposed Action.

STEP 8 – IMPLEMENT PROPOSED ACTION WITH APPROPRIATE MITIGATION

Upon issuance of the FONSI/final public notice, the Proposed Action would be constructed and operated according to applicable floodplain management procedures. Prior to construction, TRSD would obtain all required federal, state, and local building and site development permits for impacts to the base floodplain to preserve function and value.

Other implementation measures and mitigation are contingent on final permits/authorizations, Final SEA, and FONSI.

LITERATURE CITED

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2023. “Map Service Center Flood Insurance Rate Maps.” Accessed July 2024. https://msc.fema.gov/portal.

Logan Simpson. 2017. Biological Evaluation for Tri-City Regional Sanitary District.

Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering, Inc. (PACE). 2024. TRSD Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) Addendum. Prepared for Tri-City Regional Sanitary District.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Tri-City Regional Sanitary District. 2022. Wastewater Collection and Treatment Phases 2 & 3 Environmental Assessment.

APPENDIX F – PERMITS

	PARCEL NO:	205	-	03	-	010A
	PERMIT NO:	FP2311	-	001		

GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

ISSUED BY THE GILA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO ARS 48-3609

Date Prepared:	01/24/2024				
Application Receipt Date:	10/07/2023				
Floodplain Designation:	☑	Regulatory Floodplain (on Flood Insurance Rate Maps)	☐	Administrative Floodplain (County-Adopted Designation)	
PARCEL: Street address (if assigned):	To be determined				
City:		AZ	Zip:		
Legal Description:	Parcel 1, Minor Land Division, Record of Survey 5730, Records of Gila County, AZ				
OWNER: Owner Name:	Tri-City Regional Sanitary District				
Mailing Address:	PO Box 2198				
City:	Claypool	AZ	Zip:	85532	

A permit is hereby issued to the undersigned for the following purposes within a floodplain:

1) To construct compacted earthen berms to protect the treatment plant from the 500-year flood, as shown on the attached conceptual site/grading plan. 2) Also to construct, maintain and update any facilities and equipment within those berms.

Any grading, facilities or equipment outside of the berms, or any significant deviations from the grading shown will require a separate floodplain use permit prior to construction.

THIS PERMIT IS INVALID UNLESS ALL 3 **PAGES ARE ATTACHED.**

The undersigned, their successors, and assigns do hereby hold harmless, Gila County and the Gila County Floodplain Board, its successors, assigns, their employees, officers, and agents from any and all claims for damages related to the use of the property depicted in the Floodplain Use Permit Application submitted to Gila County now and in future by reason of flooding, flowage, erosion, or damage caused by water, whether surface, flood or rainfall. **By signing this Permit, the undersigned hereby agrees to faithfully abide by all of the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions contained or referred to herein.**

ISSUED PERMIT IS NON-TRANSFERABLE.

SIGNATURES:

PERMITTEE: Permit issued to:	Tri-City Regional Sanitary District, c/o Robert Jacques TRSD Board President			
Signature (Original):	Robert B Jacques	Date:	01/31/24	
Current Mail Address:	PO Box 2198, Claypool, AZ 85532			
Phone(s):	512-468-6957	E-Mail:	robertbjacques@gmail.com	

(THIS PERMIT IS INVALID UNTIL SIGNED BY THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE)

APPROVAL: (Floodplain Administrator or Designee)		Date:	2/1/2024

Note: Neither a CLOMR or LOMR is required for this permit. 2/1/2024

RECEIVED
FEB 01 2024
GILA CO FLOOD CTRL ENGR

GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

 Permit Stipulations

PARCEL NO:	205	-	03	-	010A
PERMIT NO:	FP2311	-	001		
PERMIT DATE:	01/24/2024				

REGULATORY FLOOD ELEVATION (RFE) REQUIREMENT

Applicable if Checked:	Elevation or Depth, in Feet	Datum
		Referenced to NAVD 1988 Datum
		Above the flowline of the watercourse known as:
		And above the flowline of the watercourse known as:
	An ORIGINAL Elevation Certificate (using the current FEMA standard form) signed & sealed by a registered Arizona land surveyor, must be submitted to Gila County prior to final inspection. PLUS prior to construction, submit to Gila County an ORIGINAL signed & sealed letter from a surveyor stating that the above "Bench Mark Elevation" has been set at the proposed construction site, and describing the temporary benchmark.	

THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AND/OR RESTRICTIONS, AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT GILA COUNTY ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR WORK COVERED BY THIS PERMIT.

Applicable if Checked:	Regulatory Flood Elevation (RFE) Related Stipulations
	Manufactured home lowest floor to be one foot above RFE or higher
	Manufactured home bottom of frame to be at RFE or higher
	Site-built building. Lowest floor to be at RFE or higher.
	Attached parking and storage area with lowest floor below RFE. Must meet all wet-floodproofing provisions of Section 5.2C.3 of the Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance (as amended October 6, 2015).
	Detached parking and storage building with lowest floor below RFE. Must meet all wet-floodproofing provisions of Section 5.2.C.5 of the Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance (as amended October 6, 2015).
	Not a building. Site work only (see plans and other stipulations). No minimum RFE requirement.
	Electrical and mechanical equipment are to be elevated at or above RFE. This includes all **air conditioning** components installed with original construction or installed later.

Applicable if Checked:	Other Stipulations
	The erosion setback, in feet, measured from the top of the nearest bank, is:
	On non-habitable structures, stemwalls, and manufactured home skirting, flood vents shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exist of floodwaters. A minimum of two openings (on upstream and downstream sides) having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding shall be provided. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above grade. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices, provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of flood waters. The building shall be constructed of flood-resistant materials below the regulatory flood elevation.
	Since a floodway has not been delineated for this watercourse reach, the permitted structure shall be placed a minimum of twenty(20) feet back from the nearest channel bank, in accordance with Section 5.8.C of the Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance.
	Manufactured home tie-downs are required which meet the specifications in Section 5.6.B of the Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance.
✓	OTHER: All construction is to be per the conceptual site layout and grading plan prepared by Pace Engineering, shown on Page 3 of this permit (Received from Pace Engineering on January 24, 2024). Any significant deviations will require another floodplain use permit.

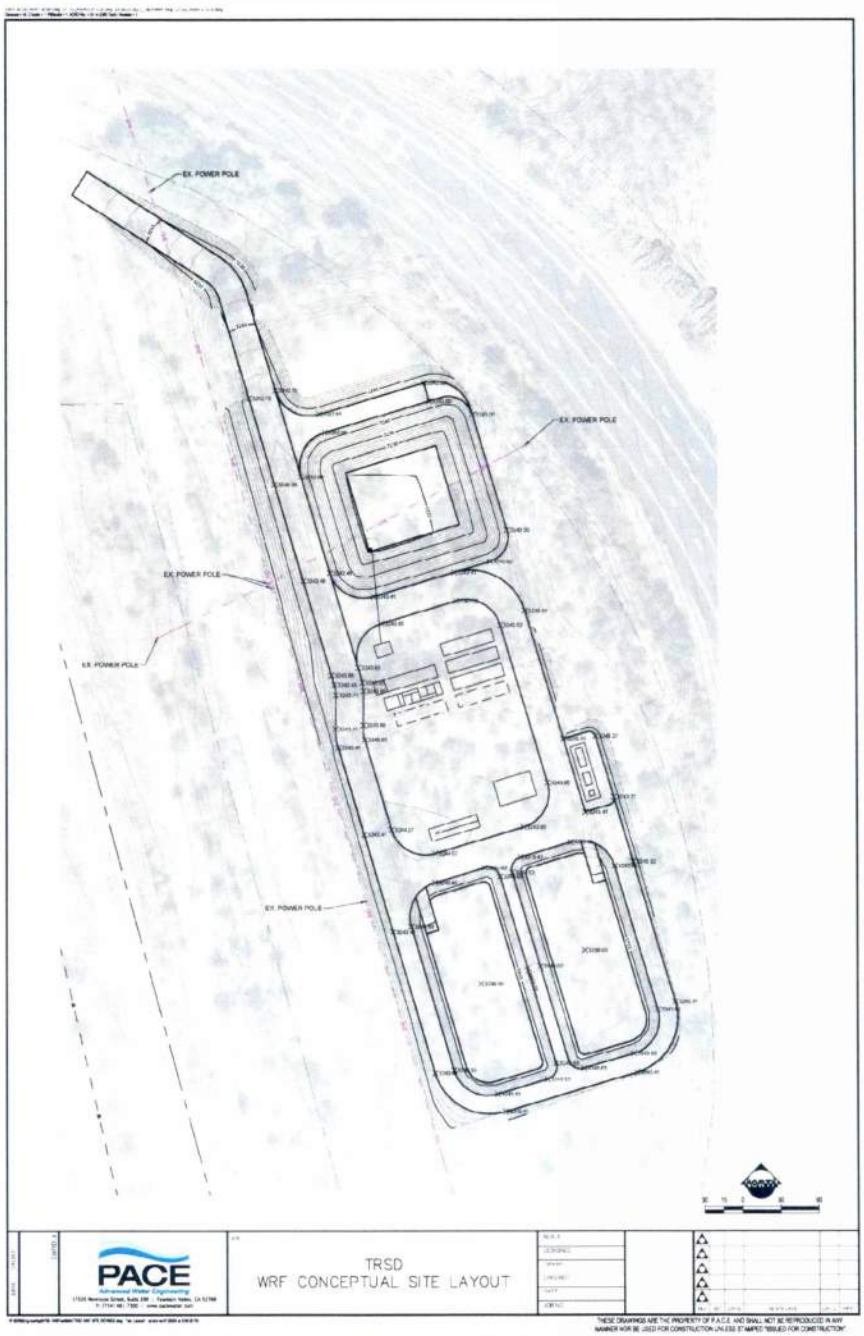
GENERAL PROVISIONS: Uses allowed under this Permit shall be confined to the uses described in this Floodplain Use Permit, and shall conform to the limits and/or uses shown in the attached Plot/Site Plan on Page 3. The permittee agrees to comply with all conditions and restrictions as stated in Gila County Floodplain Management Ordinance as recorded in the Office of the Recorder, Gila County, Arizona, Doc. Id: #2015-009874. This permit is invalid until all other applicable permits have been obtained, including, but not limited to Gila County Zoning requirements and US Army Corps of Engineers' permits for work in watercourses. This permit is automatically revoked after two years from the date of issuance if the permitted work has not been performed. This Permit may be revoked by the Gila County Flood Control District at such time that any of the Covenants and/or Restrictions contained herein have been violated as determined by the Gila County staff and/or the Gila County Floodplain Board. The natural drainage shall not be diverted, retarded, or obstructed other than as allowed under this Permit without the prior written approval of the Gila County Floodplain Board. *For manufactured homes,* the Community Development Dept. is responsible for verifying compliance with AZ Office of Manufactured Housing (OMH) requirements including provisions for manufactured homes in floodplains.

☐ If checked, this permit is for a manufactured home, and a site-specific engineered foundation plan designed by an Arizona Registered Engineer has been submitted and has been reviewed for floodplain ordinance compliance. The permitee should forward a copy of this permit to the Arizona Department of Housing, Manufactured Housing & Building Division for review.

GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

Page 3 of	3	Site and Conceptual Grading Plan

PARCEL NO:	205	-	03	-	010A
PERMIT NO:	FP2311	-	001		
PERMIT DATE:	01/24/2024				



745 N Rose Mofford Way
Globe Arizona 85501
(928)425-3231 Ext. 4224
FAX (928)425-0829

608 E. Hwy 260
Payson, Arizona 85541
(928)474-9276
FAX (928)474-0802

GILA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tri-City Regional Sanitary District
Attn: Robert Jacques
P.O. Box 2198
Claypool, AZ 85532

March 06, 2024

Sent Via Email and US Mail to Applicant (Tri-City Regional Sanitary District-Robert Jacques)

Re: Approval Letter REZONG2310-001
APN: 205-03-010A
Legal Description: Parcel 1 of Record of Survey No. 5730
Request: Rezone property from Transitional Residential District Density Two with Trailer District Overlay (TR-D2-T) to Industrial Three District (M3).

Dear Mr. Jacques,

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met on February 06, 2024, to consider your rezoning application to change the zoning designation on the property. At the public hearing, the Board voted unanimously to approve your request.

I have included a copy of Ordinance No. 2024-01, passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, related to the approval.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at (928) 402-8518 or via email at kmanfredi@gilacountyaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Kim Manfredi

Kim Manfredi
Planning and Zoning Coordinator
Gila County Community Development

Attachment: Ordinance 2024-01

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMENDING THE ZONING MAP FOR UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF GILA COUNTY TO CHANGE THE ZONING FOR ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 205-03-010A, CURRENTLY DESIGNATED AS TRANSITIONAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT DENSITY TWO WITH TRAILER DISTRICT OVERLAY (TR-D2-T) TO INUDSTRIAL THREE DISTRICT (M3).

WHEREAS, an application was filed by Tri-City Regional Sanitary District TRSD (hereinafter "Owner"), Gila County Community Development Department Case No. REZONG2310-001, to amend the Gila County Zoning Map for Unincorporated Areas of Gila County for Assessor's parcel number (APN) 205-03-010A; and,

WHEREAS, the Gila County Zoning Ordinance for Unincorporated Areas of Gila County, Arizona, was last amended on March 15, 2022, Ordinance No. 2022-02; and,

WHEREAS, the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 16, 2023, and unanimously recommended that the Gila County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "the Board") approve the requested amendment; and,

WHEREAS, the Board held a duly noticed public hearing on February 06, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the proposed rezoning is consistent with and conforms to the adopted comprehensive plan because it proposes land uses, densities, or intensities within the range of identified uses, densities, and intensities of the comprehensive plan according to A.R.S. §§ 11-811(A) and 11-814(A).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Gila County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01 modifying the Gila County Zoning Map for Unincorporated Areas of Gila County by changing the zoning for the Gila County APN 205-03-010A to M3. This approval of a change in zoning is subject to the following conditions:

1) The Owner of the subject property, APN 205-03-010A, must comply with all requirements for Industrial Three District (M3).
2) The Owner of the subject property, APN 205-03-010A, must comply with all Gila County Flood Control District requirements.
3) It is the responsibility of the Owner of the subject property, APN 205-03-010A to obtain all necessary federal, state, county, or local permits that may be required. The issuance of this Rezone does not relieve the Owner of the liability for failing to obtain required permits.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 06th day of February 2024, at Globe, Gila County, Arizona.

Attest:

James Menlove, Clerk of the Board

GILA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Stephen Christensen, Chairman

Approved as to form:

The Gila County Attorney's Office

GILA COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

Permit No	**GDG2403-001**	Parcel No.	**20503010A**
Permit Type	**ENGINEERING**	Applied	**03/27/2024**
Permit Subtype	**GRADE & DRAINAGE**	Issued	**03/29/2024**
Zoning		Porject Valuation	**$0.00**
Owner	**TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT**		
Owner Address	**PO BX 2198** **CLAYPOOL, AZ 85532**	Phone	
Applicant	**MICHAEL KREBS / PACE ENGR**		
Project Address	**PARCEL 1 OF ROS 5730**		
Lot and Subdivision			
Contractor	**TBD**	Lic No.	
Phone			
Project Description	**TRSD WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY**		

Square Footage 1	Square Footage 4
Square Footage 2	Square Footage 5
Square Footage 3	Square Footage 6

Fee Description	Amount
GRADING PLAN REVIEW	**$111.73**
GRADING PERMIT FEE	**$493.30**
Total Fee Amount	**$605.03**
Total Amount Paid	**$605.03**
Total Balance Due	**$0.00**

THIS PERMIT WILL BECOME VOID AND WILL EXPIRE IF ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY.

1. Work is not commenced within 180 days of the date of issuance.
2. Work is abandoned for more than 180 days.
3. An inspection is not performed within 180 days of the previous inspection.

I agree to the above conditions.
I certify the information contained herein is true and correct.

Applicant: _____

Issued By: _____

745 N Rose Mofford Way, Globe, AZ 85501
928-425-3231
608 E Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541
928-474-9276
communitydevelopment@gilacountyaz.gov

GILA COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

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BUILDING SAFETY DIVISION

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745 N Rose Mofford Way, Globe, AZ 85501
928-425-3231
608 E Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541
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GILA COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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I certify the information contained herein is true and correct.

Applicant: _____

Issued By: _____

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928-425-3231
608 E Highway 260, Payson, AZ 85541
928-474-9276
communitydevelopment@gilacountyaz.gov

	PARCEL NO:	206	-	04	-	007N
	PERMIT NO:	FP2404	-	012		

GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

ISSUED BY THE GILA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, PURSUANT TO ARS 48-3609

Date Prepared:	04/22/2024			
Application Receipt Date:	04/03/2024			
Floodplain Designation:	☑	Regulatory Floodplain (on Flood Insurance Rate Maps)	☐	Administrative Floodplain (County-Adopted Designation)

PARCEL:	**Street address** (if assigned):	Not assigned			
	City:	Claypool	AZ	Zip:	85532
	Legal Description:				
OWNER:	**Owner Name:**	Tri-City Regional Sanitary District c/o Robert Jacques, TRSD Board President			
	Mailing Address:	PO Box 2198			
	City:	Claypool	AZ	Zip:	85532

A permit is hereby issued to the undersigned for the following purposes within a floodplain:

Work to be performed in the SE part of Parcel # 206-04-007N for the TRSD Main Lift station (MLS). The site will be prepared by filling using excavation spoils to raise the MLS, per the plans, to above the 500-year flood elevation of 3321.7 for Bloody Tanks Wash. The 500-year water surface elevation is used since this is a critical facility.

THIS PERMIT IS INVALID UNLESS ALL 3 **PAGES ARE ATTACHED.**

The undersigned, their successors, and assigns do hereby hold harmless, Gila County and the Gila County Floodplain Board, its successors, assigns, their employees, officers, and agents from any and all claims for damages related to the use of the property depicted in the Floodplain Use Permit Application submitted to Gila County now and in future by reason of flooding, flowage, erosion, or damage caused by water, whether surface, flood or rainfall. **By signing this Permit, the undersigned hereby agrees to faithfully abide by all of the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions contained or referred to herein.**

ISSUED PERMIT IS NON-TRANSFERABLE.

SIGNATURES:

PERMITTEE:	Permit issued to:	Tri-City Regional Sanitary District c/o Robert Jacques		
	Signature (Original):	Robert B Jacques	Date:	04/25/24
	Current Mail Address:	PO Box 2198, Claypool, AZ ~~85532~~		
	Phone(s):	512-468-6957	E-Mail:	robertjacques@gmail.com

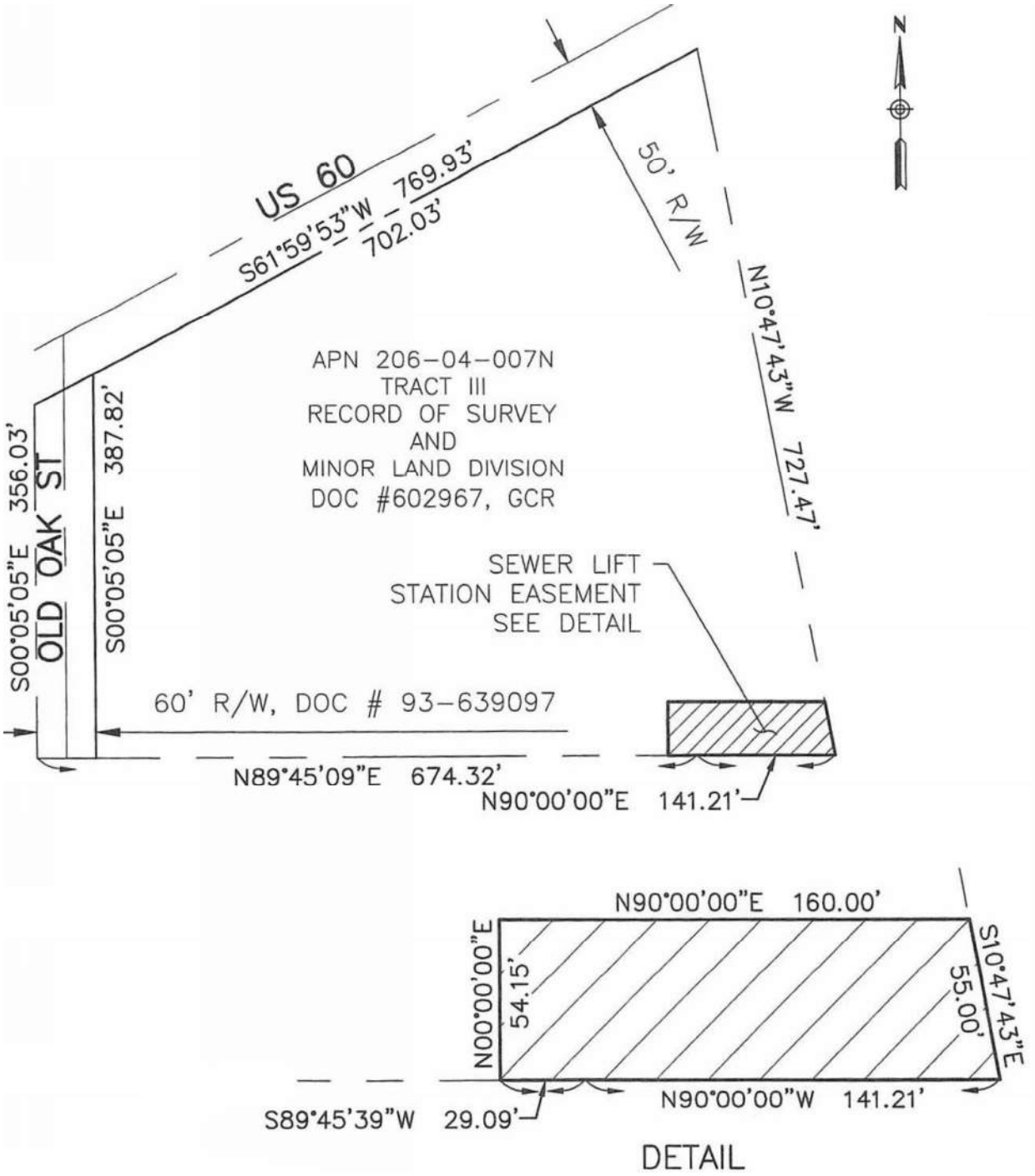
(THIS PERMIT IS INVALID UNTIL SIGNED BY THE FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR OR DESIGNEE)

APPROVAL: (Floodplain Administrator or Designee)		Date:	4/26/2024

GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

Page 2 of	3	Site Plan

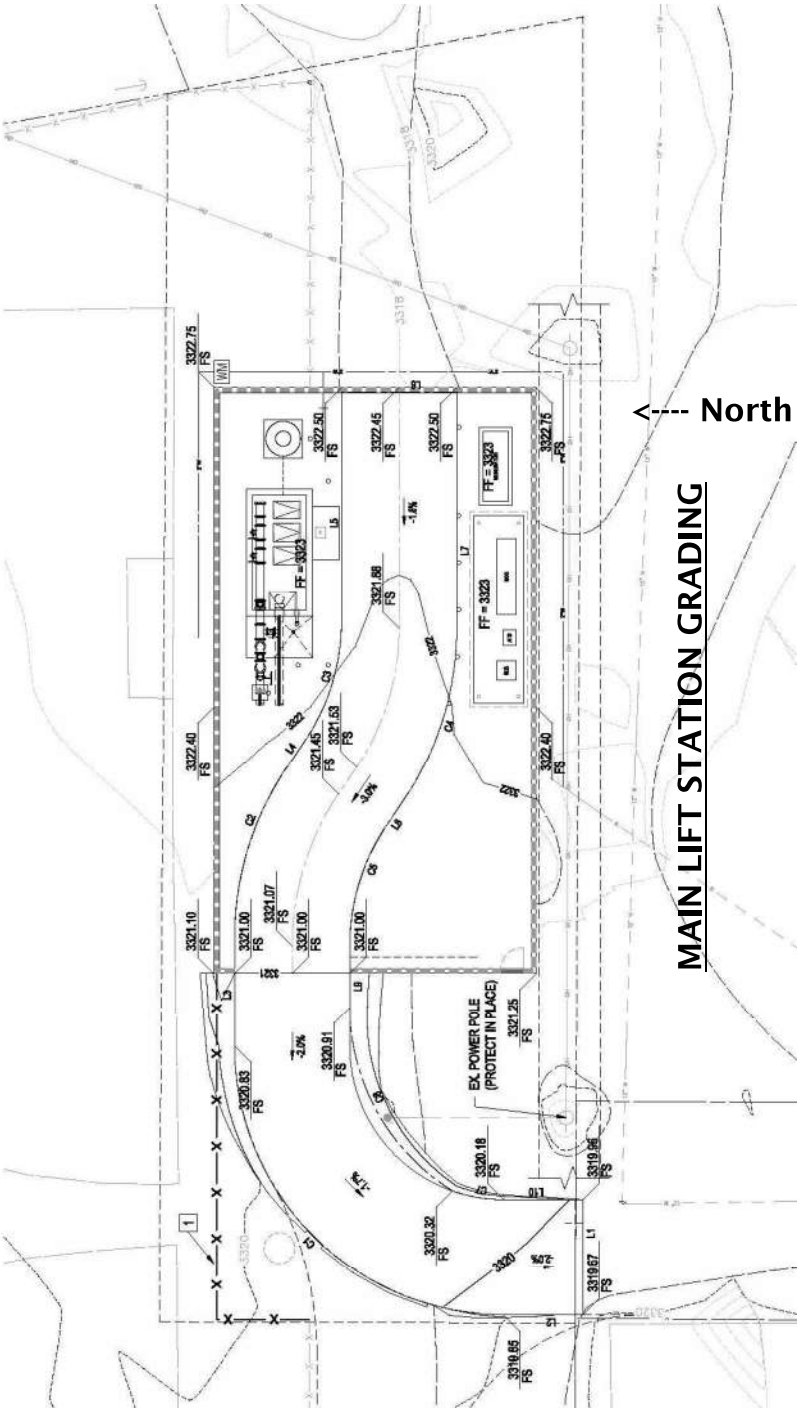
PARCEL NO:	206	-	04	-	007N
PERMIT NO:	FP2404	-	012		
PERMIT DATE:	04/22/2024				



GILA COUNTY FLOODPLAIN USE PERMIT

Page 3 of	3	MLS GRADING

PARCEL NO:	206	-	04	-	007N
PERMIT NO:	FP2404	-	012		
PERMIT DATE:	04/22/2024				



Gila County Engineering Permit Appli

Permit **APPROVED** by Gila County Engineering Dept.

Permit No. :
GDG2403-001 (G&D)

Globe Engineering Office
745 N. Rose Mofford Way
Globe, Arizona 85501

Payson Engin
610 E. Hwy 2
Payson, Arizo

Parcel No: 205-03-010A

Ste A.
541

Gila County Engineering and Floodplain Use Permit Application

Who would you like us to contact for the review comments?
Owner: ☐ Contractor: ☐ Engineer/Architect: ☒ Applicant: ☐

Permit Application For: Floodplain ☒ Grading/Drainage ☒ Right-of-Way ☐ Special Event ☐

Detailed Description of Work: Work to be performed in Parcel #205-03-010A for the TRSD Water Reclamation Facility. Site will be prepared for the TRSD WRF. A flood study has been completed. Fill will be brought in as spoils from the sewer line and lift station installation.

Project Location:

Physical Address: TBD, address not issued. APN 205-03-010A

Legal Description: PARCEL 1, MINOR LAND DIVISION, RECORD OF SURVEY NUMBER 5730, RECORDS OF GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA

Applicant's Information:

Applicant's Name: Michael Krebs (Project Engineer) Assessor's Parcel # 205-03-010A

Mailing Address: 8723 E Via de Commercio, Ste A-204 City: Scottsdale State: AZ Zip 85258

Phone: 602-741-2115 Cell Phone: 602-741-2115

Email: mikekrebs@pacewater.com

Owner's Information: TRSD is the Owner of the parcel 205-03-010A

Applicant's Name: Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) - Robert Jacques, TRSD Board President

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2198 City: Claypool State: AZ Zip 85532

Phone: 512-468-6957 Cell Phone: 512-468-6957 Email: robertbjacques@gmail.com

Contractor's Information: Building Contractor: ☐ Civil Contractor: ☐

Name: TBD

Mailing Address: City: State: Zip

License Class: License#: License Expiration Date:

Phone: Cell Phone: Email:

I hereby certify that the proposed work is authorized by the owner of property owner and that I have been authorized by the owner to make this application as his/her authorized agent, and we agree to conform to all applicable laws of this jurisdiction.

Owner's Signature: Robert B Jacques Date: 10/27/23

Office Use Only

Permit Issued By: Kendrick **Date:** 3/27/24 **Department:** Engineering
Permit Number: GDG2403-001 **In Floodplain?** Yes ☑ No ☐
Inspection Required? Yes ☑ No ☐ **Plans Reviewer:** Kendrick

Gila County Engineering Permit App

Globe Engineering Office
745 N. Rose Mofford Way
Globe, Arizona 85501

Payson Eng
610 E. Hwy
Payson, Ari

Permit **APPROVED** by Gila County Engineering Dept.

Permit No. :
GDG2403-001 (G&D)

Parcel No: 205-03-010A

t., Ste A.
5541

Gila County Grading and Drainage Permit Checklist

SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST FOR GRADING AND DRAINAGE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Does Flood Hazard Determination Sheet show the parcel to be in a floodplain or County regulated drainage? Yes [X] No [ ] (If "No", no further floodplain information is required).

This application MUST contain all of the elements noted for a PERMIT application, or it will be rejected, per ARS 48-3645.E. However, only a site plan is required to be included in the initial application.

FOR PERMITS, THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MUST BE ATTACHED WHEN THIS APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED
A DETAILED PROJECT SITE PLAN IS REQUIRED WITH ALL PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Grading and Drainage Checklist:

Information Type	*Check if Yes*
Will there be any excavating, grading or importing of fill material?	[X]
Is there a site plan included with the permit application?	[X]
Is there a grading plan submitted with the permit application?	[ ]
Is there a drainage plan submitted with the permit application?	[ ]
Will there be over 5,000 cubic yards of cut and fill material being disturbed?	[X]
Will any work require crossing or performing any work within Gila County Rights-of-Way?	[ ]

Information that may be required if you are a public/private utility or contractor.

Information Type	*Check if Included*
Traffic control plan that meets the latest MUTCD requirements.	[ ]
Site Plan, showing all parcel boundaries, all existing building and utilities, with building dimension and distance to property lines, and all development proposed in this application.	[ ]
Liability insurance that meets the county ordinance requirements.	[ ]
Engineered plans if excavation and fill exceeds 5,000 cubic yards.	[ ]
Scour calculations, engineered.	[ ]
Record of Survey, or Plat Map.	[ ]
Temporary Benchmark letter & elevation profiles through building location, form and sealed by a Land Surveyor.	[ ]

Permit Application General Questions:

Information Type	*Check if Yes*
Are you the property owner?	[X]
Do you have a contractor performing the work for you?	[ ]
Is the work in preparation for a structure to be placed on?	[X]
Description of the work to be done: The site will be prepared for the TRSD WRF. A flood study has been prepared for County Review. Fill will be brought in as spoils from the sewer line and lift station installation.	

COMMENTS: _____

Permit **APPROVED** by Gila County Engineering Dept.
Permit No. :
GDG2403-001 (G&D)

AFFIDAVIT FOR GRADING PERMITS

I Michael Krebs have read the Gila County Grading and Drainage Ordinance #08-01, March 12, 2008, and agree to perform all work within Gila County in accordance with the provisions of this code and all relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations including but not limited to the Gila County Zoning Ordinance, Arizona Revised Statutes, the Federal Clean Water Act. I also agree to perform all work within Gila County according to the latest version of the Maricopa Association of Governments' "Uniform Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction".

GRADING FEES (Based on IBC Standards)

TABLE A-33-B - GRADING PERMIT FEES (Permit Fees Are Based On Combined Total Of Cut And Fill)

50 cubic yards or less	$23.50
51 to 100 cubic yards	$37.00
101 to 1,1000 cubic yards -- $37.00 for the first 100 cubic yards, plus $17.50 for each additional 100 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
1,001 to 10,000 cubic yards -- $194.50 for the first 1,000 cubic yards, plus $14.50 for additional 1,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
10,001 to 100,000 cubic yards -- $325.00 for the first 10,000 cubic yards, plus $66.00 for each additional 10,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
1000,001 cubic yards or more -- $919.00 for the first 100,000 cubic yards, plus $36.50 for each additional 10,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
Other Inspection and Fees:	
1. Inspection outside of normal business hours (minimum charge – two hours)	$50.50 per hour[2]
2. Reinspection fees assessed under provision of Section 108.8	$50.50 per hour[2]
3. Inspection for which no fee is specifically indicated (minimum charge – one-half hour)	$50.50 per hour[2]

TABLE A-33-A - GRADING PLAN REVIEW FEES

50 cubic yards or less	No Fee
51 to 100 cubic yards	$23.50
101 to 1,1000 cubic yards	$37.00
1,001 to 10,000 cubic yards	$49.25
10,001 to 100,000 cubic yards -- $49.25 for the first 10,000 cubic yards, plus $24.50 for each additional 10,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
100,001 to 200,000 cubic yards or more -- $269.75 for the first 100,000 cubic yards, plus $13.25 for each additional 10,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
200,001 cubic yards or more -- $402.25 for the first 200,000 cubic yards, plus $7.25 for each additional 10,000 cubic yards or fraction thereof.	
Other Fees:	
Additional plan review required by changes, additions or revisions to approval plans (minimum charges – one-half hour)	$50.50 per hour*

Total cubic yards cut and fill:	<32,000 CYDs	Grading Fees:	493.30
Inspection Fees:		Plans Review Fees:	111.73
		Total Permit Fee:	605.03

Office Use Only

Permit Issued By: Kendrick **Date:** 3/27/24 **Department:** Engineering
Permit Number: GDG2403-001 **In Floodplain? Yes** ☑ **No** ☐
Inspection Required? Yes ☑ **No** ☐ **Plans Reviewer:** Kendrick

APPENDIX G – ADEQ CONSULTATION

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Arizona State Office
230 N. First Avenue
Suite 206
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Voice 602-280-8745
Fax 855-699-8035
TDD 602-280-8705

May 31, 2024

To: Eric Mannlein, Project Manager, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (e-mail)

From: Lam Ho, State Engineer, Phoenix, AZ

CC: Michael Dean, CP Director, Prescott, AZ (e-mail)
Alan Hachey, Environmental Protection Specialist, Washington D.C (e-mail)
Everett Bole, Environmental Protection Specialist, Washington D.C (e-mail)
Robert Jacques, Tricities Regional Sanitation District (e-mail)

RE: Tricities Wastewater Reclamation Facility to be Constructed on Pinal Creek Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) impact area

Dear Mr. Mannlein,

This letter serves to summarize the results of our recent informal consultation between representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) concerning the construction of the Tricities Wastewater Reclamation Facility on the Pinal Creek Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site.

During the informal consultation, PACE and USDA-RD provided details of the proposed construction project. USDA-RD stated that there were no practical alternatives for relocation.

The informal consultation resulted in the following understanding:

Groundwater and Historic Considerations: The Pinal Creek Project (owner and operator of the groundwater remediation systems for the Pinal Creek WQARF Site) captures all water produced from groundwater monitoring well activities in the alluvial zone for use within the mining operations without discharging to the ground or surface water course. The location of the wastewater treatment plant is proposed to be constructed near the historic Bixby Seep, which was observed in the early 1980s and daylighted at Pinal Creek. Generation of acidic water from construction or stormwater contact with the soils at depth is a potential concern.

Superfund Site Classification: It is our understanding that the Pinal Creek WQARF site does not currently qualify as a Superfund site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The site aforementioned has responsible parties identified and is managed by the ADEQ under the Pinal Creek WQARF.

Existing Available Environmental Information Documents: ADEQ does not currently require a Phase 1 or 2 Environmental Site Assessment for the Tricities Wastewater Reclamation Facility construction. A draft Phase 1 environmental site assessment was prepared by the TRSD on March 14, 2024. A draft supplemental

environmental assessment was prepared by TRSD in January 2024. Both of these documents are available for review and comment.

Discharge Permitting: Generation of acidic water from construction, operation; or stormwater contact with the soils at depth is a potential concern. There is a low potential for encountering alluvial groundwater at the two large excavation locations. There is, however, a potential for construction water reacting with acidic vadose soils; depths and reactivity may vary by location. USDA-RD understands that ADEQ will likely require an Arizona Pollution Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) permit in conjunction with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Aquifer Protection Permit: USDA-RD understands that an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) will be necessary, we acknowledge that ADEQ administers this permit through its Groundwater Protection Program.

General Construction Permit: USDA-RD recognizes that a General Construction Permit (CGP) will be necessary and that ADEQ administers this permit. The GCP permit will likely require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). As part of the SWPPP, encountering low pH soils and local groundwaters should be addressed as part of the Best Management Practices (BMPs). TRSD must develop a BMP to address treatment and handling of the soils and stormwater and appropriately document that BMP in their CGP's SWPPP. This requirement only applies if the intention is to discharge that stormwater under a CGP. The CGP allows for discharge of water produced from dewatering activities as an authorized non-stormwater discharge but only if the water is not contaminated. Stormwater and dewatering discharges covered under the GCP must meet the surface water quality standards (SWQS) prior to discharge. ADEQ's SWQS for pH are found in A.A.C. R-18-11-109(B).

BMPs and Receiving Zones: BMPs will be permit-specific to the receiving zone: APP for infiltration, AZPDES/CGP for Miami Wash discharge, and recycled water for effluent reuse.

Enclosed with this letter are the supplemental environmental assessment and the Phase 1 environmental site assessment for your review and reference. If there are additional documents or information needed to facilitate the regulatory review process, clarification of the salient points in this letter, or if further discussions are required, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. USDA-RD values the partnership with ADEQ and remains committed to transparent and cooperative efforts to achieve successful environmental compliance. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Enclosures:
Tricities Regional Sanitary District – Phase 1: Supplemental Environmental Assessment
Tricities Regional Sanitary District: Phase 1 - Environmental Site Assessment

The following signature serves to indicate that USDA-RD has performed informal consultation with ADEQ regarding the construction of the Tricities Regional Sanitary District Wastewater Project within the Pinal Creek WQARF area. ADEQ's responses to questions submitted by Pacific Advanced Water Engineering and USDA-RD shall not constitute or guarantee warranty as to any work Tri-Cities Regional Sanitation (Sanitary) District or its contractors or agents perform regarding this project. Liability for all work performed shall remain with the party performing the work.

Signature Date

Eric Mannelein, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Name, Title, Agency

Signature Date

Michael Dean, Program Director, USDA-RD AZ State Office

Name, Title, Agency

Signature Date

Lam Ho, State Environmental Coordinator, USDA-RD AZ State Office

Name, Title, Agency

Signature Date

Alan Hachey, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA-RD National Office

Name, Title, Agency

APPENDIX H – FLOODPLAIN IMPACT ANALYSIS REPORT

Floodplain Impacts Analysis Report

Date: May 26, 2023

Prepared by: Mike Krebs, PE, Jose Cruz, MS, PE, Jenny Robinet, MS, PE, Nicole Jimenez

Re: Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) Water Reclamation Facility #B708

Introduction

An alternate location for the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) within Gila County, Arizona is being proposed. The alternate site is located approximately 1,200 feet west of Miami Wash, approximately 7,600 feet downstream of the confluence of Russell Gulch and Bloody Tanks Wash, and approximately 4,600 feet upstream of the confluence of Pinal Creek with Miami Wash.

The alternate site is located west of the Apache Trail (Highway 188), and east of North Bixby Road. Currently, the proposed site is located partially within Zone A and partially within Zone D on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No. 04007C2104D, dated December 4, 2007. Zone A indicates a floodplain that is a result of a 1-percent-annual-chance (or 100-year) storm event in any given year. Zone D has no mapping determined yet. **Figure 1** shows the location of the alternative WRF site location.

The United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) requires that critical facilities must be above the 500-yr water surface elevation.

This report establishes the 100-yr and 500-yr water surface elevations for the alternate site location for the Water Reclamation Facility, so that it may be in compliance with USDA-RD requirements, while not having adverse impacts on the 100-yr floodplain.

The report presents the results of a technical assessment of the existing and proposed hydraulic conditions for the vicinity of the site, building on a HEC-RAS hydraulic model of Miami Wash provided by Gila County. Detailed reach characteristics and hydraulic modeling assumptions are described, and a summary of results is provided.

Hydraulic Modeling Refinements

The HEC-RAS hydraulic model for Miami Wash was obtained from Gila County. The provided model had input values for Manning's roughness and boundary conditions, hydrology flowrates, existing topography and ineffective flow areas.

Refinements were made to the provided model to be used for the floodplain analysis of existing conditions and proposed conditions. The refinements included (1) checking and changing Manning's roughness values; (2) checking boundary conditions values; (3) confirming 100-yr and 500-yr flowrates; and (4) refining ineffective flow areas.

The provided model uses topographic sources provided by Gila County Lidar. This topography was used to model the terrain under existing conditions. The existing conditions model was used to establish the water surface elevations for the 100-yr and 500-yr storm events. The 100-yr and 500-yr water surface elevations are required to design the pad elevation at the proposed site. As required by USDA-RD, critical facilities must be above the 500-yr water surface elevation. The proposed conditions model was prepared

by using the existing conditions of Miami Wash with the incorporation of the proposed site grading using excavation spoils, this included raising the existing basins on site above the 500-yr water surface elevation to the basin berm level. To account for potential future development, the existing ground south of the basins was also raised above the 500-yr water surface elevation. It should be noted that the raised basins will also include freeboard.

For a more detailed analysis around the site location, interpolated cross sections were added upstream of the existing basins and the extension for potential future development. These sections were used to determine any impacts upstream of the site location. The results from the proposed model were used to establish the minimum elevation for the Water Reclamation Facility site and to evaluate filling using excavation spoils from the project.

Manning's Roughness Coefficients

The Manning's roughness values for the HEC-RAS model are presented in **Table 1.a** and **Table 1.b**. These input values were provided in the model received from the county with the exception of XS 10719.34. The Manning's value for XS 10719.34 was changed from 0.065 to 0.05 for the right overbank to account for the roughness of the terrain at the golf course. The Manning's roughness values were used for both existing and proposed conditions.

Table 1.a – Manning's Roughness Values

Left Overbank	Main Channel	Right Overbank
0.065	0.04	0.065

Table 1.b – Manning's Roughness Values at Golf Course

(XS 10719.34 – XS 11868.01)

Left Overbank	Main Channel	Right Overbank
0.065	0.04	0.05

Boundary Conditions

The boundary condition for the downstream end of the Miami Wash reach was set to Normal Depth. The slope of the water surface profile corresponding to the slope of the channel bed was used to check the appropriateness of the slope input in the provided model. The slope of the water surface profile was calculated using the average of the channel bed slopes downstream. The slope input for the downstream boundary condition is summarized in **Table 2**; no changes were made to the slope input in the provided model. The boundary condition at the upstream end of the reach is unnecessary when performing subcritical flow regime calculations therefore it was not included in the model for analysis.

Table 2 – Miami Wash Boundary Conditions

Downstream Boundary Condition
Normal Depth, S = 0.006

Hydrology - Flow Rates

The flow rates in the provided model were obtained using Rapid Floodplain Delineator (RFD). RFD is an approximate floodplain modeling tool that is used with HEC-RAS to calculate water surface elevations. The flow rates for the 100-yr (Q_{100}) and the 500-yr (Q_{500}) storm events vary throughout each river station of the reach. The flow rates at the proposed site location and at the location for potential future expansion are listed in **Table 3**. No changes were made to the flow rates of the provided model.

Table 3 – Hydrologic Flow Data for Miami Wash at Site Location

HEC-RAS River Station	100-yr Flow Rate (cfs)	500-yr Flow Rate (cfs)	Location
4975.952	16382	29536	Proposed Site
5358.844	16221	29267	Proposed Site
5741.737	16216	29259	Potential Future Expansion

Ineffective Flow Areas

The provided model had ineffective flow areas placed along the river bank creating a narrow effective flow boundary. Ineffective flow areas represent areas that do not contribute to conveyance, whereas effective flow areas do contribute to conveyance. The stations of the ineffective flow areas in the model provided do not represent the channel's flow capacity at a bridge. The flow covers the full floodplain instead of remaining a narrow flow bounded within the river bank. To better define the effective flow boundary at a bridge, in this case HWY 188, the ineffective flow areas on either side of the bridge opening must be taken into account to allow for flow contraction and expansion (HEC-RAS Hydraulic Reference Manual). The ineffective flow areas were changed to represent the flow contraction and expansion. A 1:1 contraction ratio was used upstream of the bridge to represent rapid contraction and a 4:1 expansion ratio was used downstream of the bridge to represent flow expansion. The placement of the contraction and expansion ineffective flow areas were determined with respect to the provided ineffective flow areas at the river stations directly upstream and downstream the bridge. Along with the changes of the contraction and expansion ratios, changes and additions of ineffective flow areas were made to certain cross sections to represent the ineffective flow caused by the terrain. Although there are high points within the cross section geometry, there is still clear conveyance connection between cross sections along Miami Wash. **Table 4** displays the changes and additions made to the ineffective flow areas at each cross section.

Table 4 – Miami Wash Ineffective Flow Areas

HEC-RAS Cross Section	Contraction/Expansion	Modified/Added
354.9877	Expansion	-
704.9753	Expansion	Modified
1054.963	Expansion	-
1415.99	Expansion	Modified
1777.017	Expansion	-

HEC-RAS Cross Section	Contraction/Expansion	Modified/Added
2138.045	Expansion	-
2499.072	Expansion	-
2860.099	Expansion	-
3221.126	Expansion	-
3582.153	Expansion	-
3913.603	N/A	-
4210.167	N/A	-
4593.06	Contraction	-
4975.952	Contraction	-
5358.844	Contraction	-
5741.737	Contraction	-
5804.63*	Contraction	-
5884.63*	Contraction	-
5964.63*	Contraction	-
6044.63*	Contraction	-
6124.629	Contraction	-
6507.521	Contraction	-
7656.198	-	Added
8804.875	-	Added
9187.767	-	Added

Notes:

1. *Cross sections unlisted do not have an ineffective flow area*
2. *Cross Sections 3913.603 and 4083.671 were used to determine contraction and expansion ratios from bridge*
3. *Ineffective flow areas are the same for existing and proposed conditions*

Summary of Results

The water surface elevation results for Miami Wash based on a 100-yr and 500-yr storm event are shown in **Table 5** and **Table 6**, respectively. The water surface elevations are shown for the existing conditions and the proposed conditions. The change in water surface elevations between the existing and proposed conditions are also shown. Based on these results, there are no increases in water surface elevation for the 100-yr and 500-yr storm event with the proposed site grading. Since the site location is within an ineffective flow area there are no impacts to the water surface elevation upstream, downstream or at the site location. **Figure 2** shows the floodplain water surface elevations for the proposed conditions.

The analysis was performed to establish the 100-yr and 500-yr water surface elevations. The minimum site elevation for the Water Reclamation Facility was determined by raising the proposed site above the 500-yr water surface elevation to the basin berm level as the minimum site elevation. **Table 7** shows the minimum required site elevation at each correlating cross section for the Water Reclamation Facility. The table shows that the project site meets the USDA-RD requirement for the 500-yr storm.

Table 5 – Miami Wash 100-yr Existing vs. Proposed WSE HEC-RAS Results

HEC-RAS Cross Section	Existing Water Surface Elevation (ft)	Proposed Water Surface Elevation (ft)	Change in WSE (Prop. – Exist.) (ft)
4593.06	3233.65	3233.65	0.0
4975.952	3237.84	3237.84	0.0
5358.844	3240.66	3240.66	0.0
5741.737	3242.09	3242.09	0.0
5804.63*	3242.2	3242.2	0.0
5884.63*	3242.39	3242.39	0.0
5964.63*	3242.62	3242.62	0.0
6044.63*	3242.92	3242.92	0.0
6124.629	3243.28	3243.28	0.0

Notes:

1. ** Indicates interpolated cross sections*

Table 6 – Miami Wash 500-yr Existing vs. Proposed WSE HEC-RAS Results

HEC-RAS Cross Sections	Existing Water Surface Elevation (ft)	Proposed Water Surface Elevation (ft)	Change in WSE (Prop. – Exist.) (ft)
4593.06	3237.18	3237.18	0.0
4975.952	3240.38	3240.38	0.0
5358.844	3242.51	3242.51	0.0
5741.737	3243.98	3243.98	0.0
5804.63*	3244.09	3244.09	0.0
5884.63*	3244.25	3244.25	0.0
5964.63*	3244.45	3244.45	0.0
6044.63*	3244.68	3244.68	0.0
6124.629	3244.96	3244.96	0.0

Notes:

1. ** Indicates interpolated cross sections*

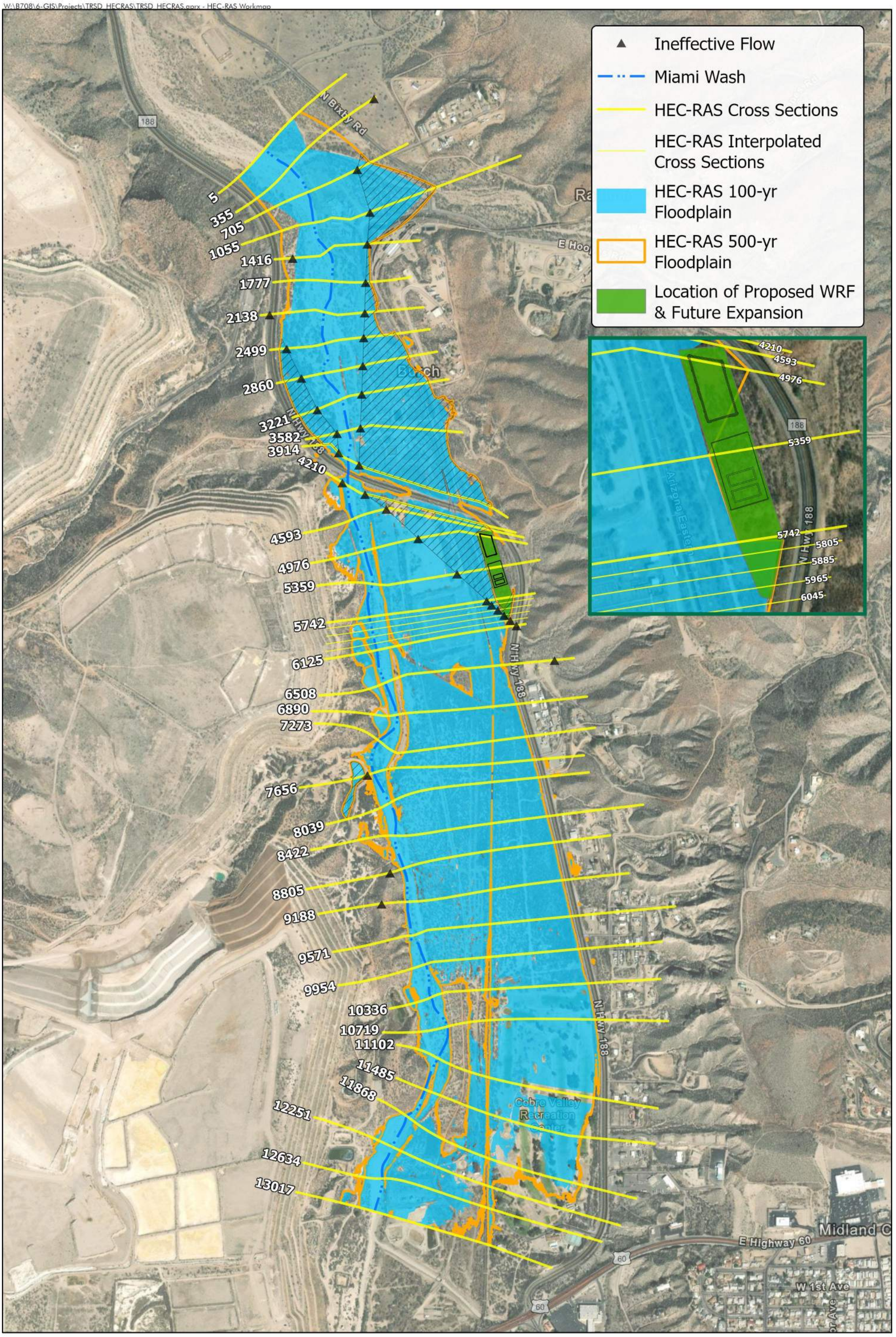
Table 7 – Proposed WRF Site Elevation Analysis

HEC-RAS Cross Sections	100-yr WSE (ft)	500-yr WSE (ft)	Min. Required Site Elevation[1] (ft)	Proposed Project Site Elevation[2] (ft)
4975.952	3237.84	3240.38	**3240.38**	**3241.09**
5358.844	3240.66	3242.51	**3242.51**	**3246.31**
5741.737	3242.09	3243.98	**3243.98**	**3246.26**

Notes:

1. *The minimum required site elevation is at the 500-yr water surface elevation at each cross section*
2. *The proposed project site elevation is the berm height at each cross section*

W:\B708\6-GIS\Projects\TRSD_HECRAS\TRSD_HECRAS.aprx - HEC-RAS Workmap



TRSD

HEC-RAS WORKMAP

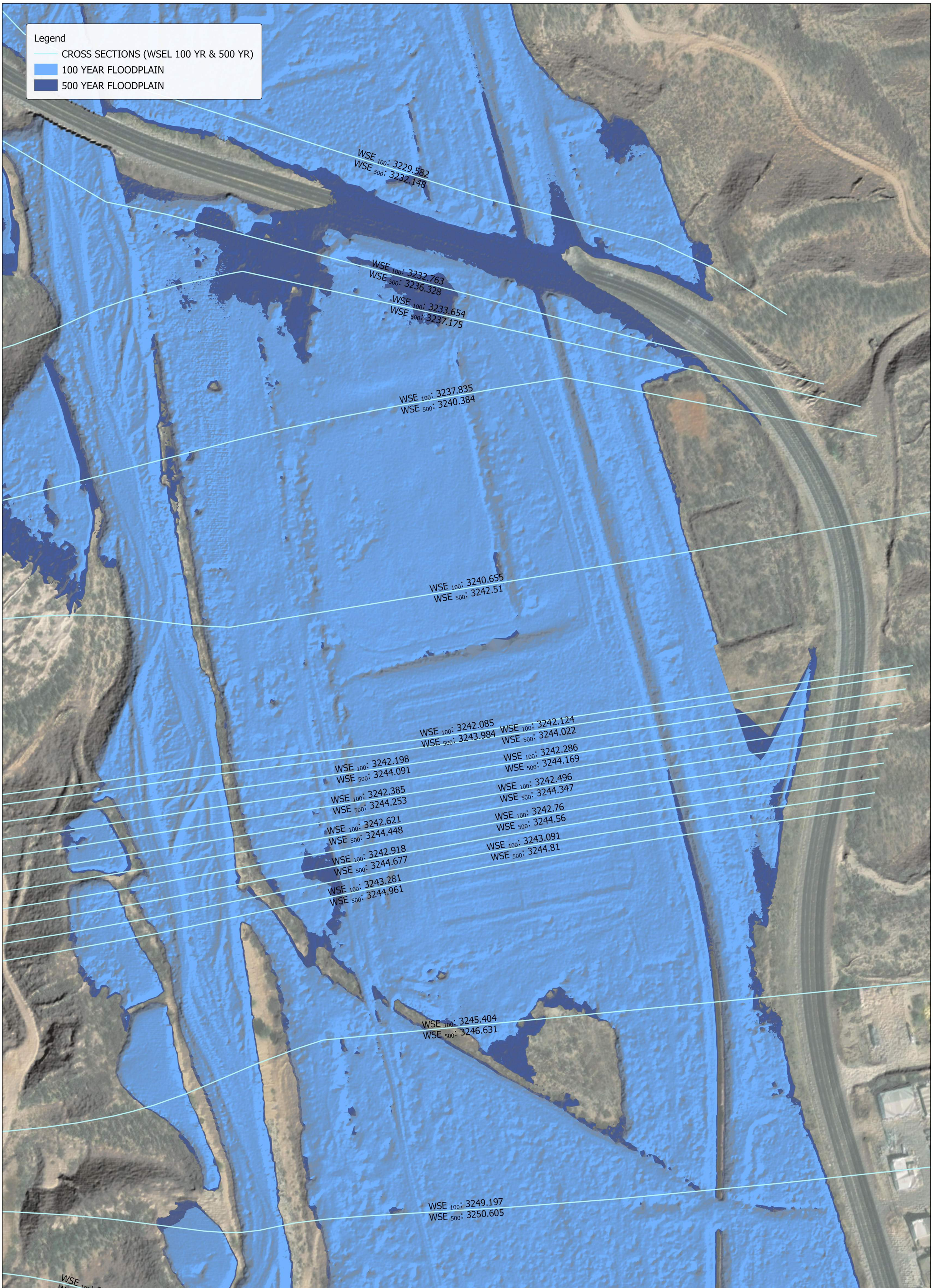
PACE Advanced Water Engineering

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Date: 5/26/2023

Job Number: B708

Figure 1



W:\B708\6-GIS\Projects\B708_TRSD_ProjectMaps\B708_TRSD_ProjectMaps.aprx - North WRF Floodplain Results

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT

PROPOSED FLOODPLAIN WATER SURFACE ELEVATIONS (100 & 500 YEAR)

PACE Advanced Water Engineering

0 100 200 400 Feet

Date: 5/25/2023

Job Number: B708

Figure 2

References

HEC-RAS, Version 6.2.0 River Analysis System, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Davis, California.

Appendices

Appendix A: Miami Wash HEC-RAS Model (See Attached Digital Files)

APPENDIX I – PHASE I, II, & III FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Arizona Silver Belt Newspaper
298 N. Pine Street
Globe, AZ 85501
Telephone: 928-425-7121

Affidavit of Publication

State of Arizona)
County of Gila) ss

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Arizona; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the ARIZONA SILVER BELT, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of GLOBE, county of GILA, state of Arizona and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation.

The Arizona Silver Belt, is a newspaper which is published weekly, is of general circulation and is in compliance with the Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 10-140.34 & 39-201.A & B. (Please note, publication has to be completed within 60 days of filing.). The notice will be/has been published for 2 consecutive weeks in the newspaper listed above.; October 26, 2022 and November 2, 2022.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

TNixon

Tina Nixon

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, this 4th day of November.

NADINE ALLISON MCGILTON
NOTARY PUBLIC – ARIZONA
GILA COUNTY
Commission Expires May 14, 2026
Commission No. 625109

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: 5-14-26

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Rural Development Gila County, Arizona: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact SUMMARY: The Rural Utility Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) for the construction of the Wastewater System, Phases II and III near Globe, Gila County, Arizona FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Robert Jacques, Board President at (512) 468-6957, or at TRSDWastewater.org. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review by contacting: • Rural Development: loretta.orona@usda.gov SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project 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. Alternatives considered by RUS and TRSD include: No action; other technology and siting alternatives, which are documented in the Alternatives section of the EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project. The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Arizona Silver Belt Newspaper on September 7th and September 14th, 2022. A 30 day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was also available for public review by contacting Rural Development, loretta.orona@usda.gov or TRSDWastewater.org, Robert Jacques (512) 468-6957. No comments were received. Based on its EA, commitments made by the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD), and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety. The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low income populations. No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project. RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.
First Pub:10/26/2022
Last pub:11/02/2022
LE1499

United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Show Low Sub-Area Office

1801 W. Deuce of Clubs, Suite 120
Show Low, AZ 85901

Voice (928) 532-2270
Fax (928) 532-2273
TDD (602) 280-8705

October 13, 2022

Robert Jacques, Board President
Tri-City Regional Sanitary District
P.O. Box 2198
Claypool, AZ 85532

RE: Tri-City Regional Sanitary District FONSI Phases II and III

Dear Mr. Jacques:

Rural Development has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) on your proposal requesting financial assistance to the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) for the Wastewater System, Phases II and III. Rural Development has determined that your proposal will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and has therefore issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Before further consideration can be given to your proposal, our regulations require you to publish a notice of the FONSI in a newspaper of general circulation and in any local or community newspaper in your proposal's vicinity. The notice will be published once in easily readable type in the non-classified section in the same newspaper(s) where the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the EA was published (Arizona Silver Belt Newspaper). It is your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to publish the notice. You must also provide our office with a copy of the published notice as it appeared, the name(s) of the newspaper(s) in which the notice was published, the date(s) of publication, and an affidavit of publication. A copy of the notice and FONSI is enclosed.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please let me know.

/s/ Loretta Orona

LORETTA ORONA
Community Programs Specialist

Enclosures

cc: Jeff Hays, Community Programs Director, USDA-RD (email)
Lam Ho, State Environmental Coordinator, USDA-RD (email)
Mike Krebs, P.E., PACE Advanced Water Engineering (email)
Andrea Jaycox, PACE Advanced Water Engineering (email)

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of a Finding of No Significant Impact

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Development

Gila County, Arizona: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Rural Utility Service (RUS) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) for the construction of the Wastewater System, Phases II and III near Globe, Gila County, Arizona

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Robert Jacques, Board President at (512) 468-6957. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review by contacting:

- Rural Development: loretta.orona@usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed project 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. Alternatives considered by RUS and TRSD include: No action; other technology and siting alternatives, which are documented in the Alternatives section of the EA. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper: Arizona Silver Belt Newspaper on September 7th and September 14th, 2022. A 14 day comment period was announced in the newspaper notice. The EA was also available for public review by contacting Rural Development, loretta.orona@usda.gov. No comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD), and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/ or low income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

United States Department of Agriculture

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Tricities Regional Sanitary District Wastewater System – Phase 2 and 3

OCTOBER 2022

For: Tricities Regional Sanitary District
Gila County, Arizona

Water and Environmental Programs
U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

Ho, Lam - RD, Phoenix, AZ
State Environmental Coordinator
State Engineer

A. INTRODUCTION

Tricities Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) (Applicant) intends to submit a funding request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA RD) to construct the **TRSD Wastewater System - Phase 2 and 3** in Gila County, Arizona. USDA RD is considering this funding request. Prior to taking a federal action (e.g.- providing financial assistance), USDA RD is required to complete an environmental impact analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (U.S.C. 4231 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and RD's NEPA implementing regulations, Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970). After completing an independent analysis of an Environmental Assessment prepared by **Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering** (Applicant's consultant), USDA RD concurred with its scope and content. In accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.102, USDA RD adopted the report and issued it as the Agency's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Project. USDA RD finds that the EA is consistent with federal regulations and meets the standards for an adequate assessment. The Applicant published a newspaper notice, announcing the availability of the EA for public review, in accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.102. In addition, USDA RD considers the proposed Project an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 USC 470(f), and its implementing regulation, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE/NEED

The Proposed Action would include the installation of a new wastewater collection system within Phases 2 and 3 which would convey wastewater from area residents and property owners to the WRF located within Phase 1 (Figure 2). TRSD would use USDA RD/RUS Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program funding for the project. The WRF (which is yet to be constructed as part of Phase 1) would be expanded as part of this project to be able to handle wastewater associated with Phases 2 and 3. The construction of the WRF has been previously covered in environmental documentation associated with Phase 1. Therefore, only actions associated with its expansion to be able to accommodate Phases 2 and 3 are being analyzed as part of this EA. The TRSD Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) located within Phase I would be expanded and designed to have a final treatment capacity of 500,000 gallons per day (gpd) and would allow for 1,838 new residential connections in the Phase 2 and 3 areas. The WRF would be a package plant using a membrane bio-reactor (MBR) process. When used for domestic wastewater, this process can produce a high-quality effluent that meets Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology and Class A+ Reclaimed Water Standards. Effluent would be discharged into Russell Gulch, located east of the TRSD WRF expansion. Approximately 20 tons of biosolids are anticipated to be produced by the WRF on a weekly basis. The biosolids would be consolidated in an on-site roll-off collection bin, hauled off-site, and disposed of at a local landfill on an as-needed bases. In addition to the expansion of the TRSD WRF, the following features are included in the Proposed Action:

• Approximately 51,000 LF (Phase 2) and 47,000 LF (Phase 3) of 8- to-10-inch sewer collection lines to collect and transfer wastewater within Phases 2 and 3 of the TRSD WRF service area; installed at an average depth of approximately six feet.

• Approximately 8,000 LF (Phase 3) of 4-inch to 6-inch force main sewer line; installed between four and six feet deep.

• Installation of approximately 435 manholes for access to the sewer collection system.

• New residential service connections (laterals) from the proposed wastewater collection system to approximately 643 (Phase 2) and 537 (Phase 3) residential properties, to include yard restoration following installation, as needed. TRSD would maintain responsibility of the laterals from the sewer main to the property line, while the property owners would be responsible for maintaining the lateral from the property line to the existing plumbing, following installation by TRSD.USDA RD has reviewed the purpose and need for the Project and determined that the proposal will meet the present and future wastewater collection needs for Tricities.

C. ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED

1. No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, USDA would not provide financial assistance to the Applicant, and the Proposed Project may not be constructed. The No Action Alternative is not responsive to the needs of the Applicant and there is the potential that the Proposed Project Area would result in further groundwater contamination as a result of discharges from decentralized wastewater systems. In this analysis, the No Action Alternative serves as the baseline environmental condition to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Project.

2. Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, USDA would consider providing financial assistance to the Applicant to construct the Proposed Project as described in the Project Description section of this document. The Proposed Project will protect and improve the environment by reducing decentralized wastewater system discharge into the groundwater aquifer.

D. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The analyses in the EA documented that the proposed Project would have no adverse effects to Land Use/Important Farmland/Formally Classified Lands, Floodplains, Wetlands, Water Resources, Coastal Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Historic Properties, Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Air Quality, Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice Issues, Miscellaneous Issues, Human Health and Safety, and Corridor Analysis. A summary of anticipated impacts on the human environment is provided below, including any mitigation measures deemed necessary to avoid or minimize impacts. The Applicant is responsible for implementing these measures.

Mitigative measures required to address temporary or direct impacts created by the proposed project include the following.

1. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared to obtain an NPDES permit for the site. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be followed and maintained during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants from storm water runoff. To prevent possible contamination of surface water in the project area during construction activities, the following practices will be utilized:

    a) Necessary erosion control devices such as hay bale check dams or silt curtains will be installed around excavated material;

    b) All heavy equipment will be periodically steam-cleaned and inspected daily for leaks. Leaking equipment will be prohibited near any of the drains, and any spills will be reported immediately to the ADEQ;

c) Fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid and other substances will be stored within a secondary containment system to prevent spills in case of leakage from the primary storage container.

2. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) provides federal protection to all breeding migratory birds, including nests and eggs. Should construction be initiated during the breeding season a pre-construction avian survey will be done. If active nests are discovered, the USFWS recommends that avoidance guidelines (Mikesic and Roth 2008) be followed.
3. To prevent additional dust created by construction activities, contractors will be required to suppress dust emissions by regularly watering soils exposed during construction. No open burning will be allowed. Disturbed surfaces will be reconstituted (i.e. repaved, revegetated, etc.) immediately following the conclusion of construction. Emissions from construction vehicles and equipment will comply with 40 CFR, Part 85 entitled "Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicle Engines".
4. The proposed action is not expected to affect archaeological and cultural resources, traditional cultural properties, or visual aesthetics. No mitigation measures are expected. If unexpected buried cultural resources are unearthed, work will cease, and the State Historic Preservation Office will be informed.
5. Although no hazardous waste sites were identified within or adjacent to the project areas, all construction activities will cease, and the proper agencies will be notified in case hazardous material is found during construction activities.

Direct impacts resulting from construction activities are expected to cease upon completion of the proposed project and will not result in long-term or indirect effects to the environment.

E. PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

A local newspaper advertisement, announcing the availability of the EA and participation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, was published in the Arizona Silver Belt newspaper. A copy of the EA was available for public review at USDA RD Offices in Show Low, AZ and Phoenix, AZ. The **14**-day comment period ended on September 7, 2022. USDA RD received no comments.

F. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on its EA, USDA RD has concluded that the proposed Project would have no significant effects to Important Farmlands, Floodplains, Wetlands, Water Resources, Biological Resources or Cultural Resources and Historic Properties. The proposed Project will have no effects on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and no effects to federally listed species or designated critical habitat.

The proposed Project would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), and RD's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970), USDA RD has determined that the environmental impacts of the proposed Project have been adequately addressed and that no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment would result from construction and operation of the proposed Project. Any final action by USDA RD related to the proposed Project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant federal and state environmental laws and regulations. Because USDA RD action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, USDA RD will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its potential federal action associated with the proposed Project.

G. **USDA RD LOAN REVIEW AND RIGHT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

This FONSI is not a decision on a loan application or grant funds and therefore not an approval of the expenditure of federal funds. Issuance of the FONSI and its notices concludes USDA RD's environmental review process. The ultimate decision on loan approval or grant funding depends upon conclusion of this environmental review process in addition to financial and engineering reviews. Issuance of the FONSI and publication of notices will allow for these reviews to proceed. The decision to provide financial assistance also is subject to the availability of loan funds for the designated purpose in USDA RD's budget. There are no provisions to appeal this decision (i.e., issuance of a FONSI). Legal challenges to the FONSI may be filed in Federal District Court under the Administrative Procedures Act.

H. **APPROVAL**

This Finding of No Significant Impact is effective upon signature.

Dated:

JEFFREY HAYS Digitally signed by JEFFREY HAYS
Date: 2022.10.13 08:58:16 -07'00'

Jeffrey A. Hays, Director
Community Programs – Arizona
USDA Rural Development

For additional information on this FONSI and EA, please contact the State Environmental Coordinator - Lam Ho, P.E., State Engineer, USDA RD-New Mexico at Lam.Ho@usda.gov or 602-280-8762

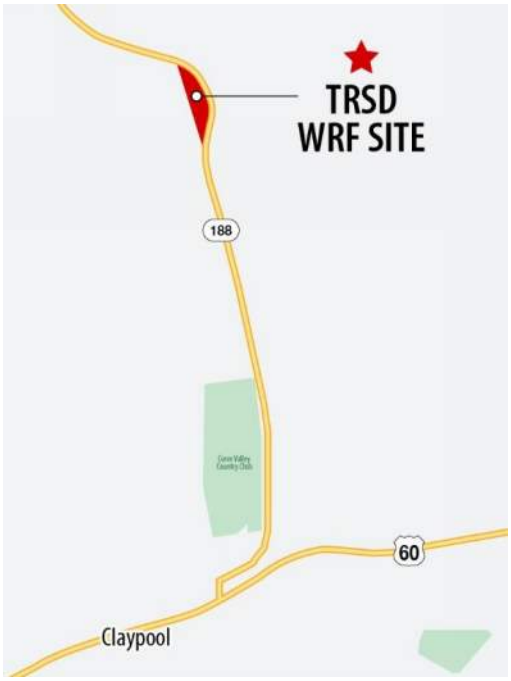
APPENDIX J – PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX K – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Tri-City Regional Sanitary District
Water Reclamation Facility Location Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

Earlier this month, the Tri-City Regional Sanitary District (TRSD) Board President, Robert Jacques, announced the approval of an Agreement between TRSD and BHP Copper Co. (BHP) which establishes the location of the future TRSD Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) site. The site is to be located on the west side of AZ188, approximately 2 miles north of its intersection with US 60, and immediately east of both the Arizona Eastern Railroad right-of-way and Gila County Cattle Growers Association stockyards. The Agreement was approved unanimously by the TRSD Board at a Special Meeting held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.



The Agreement transfers the site to TRSD in perpetuity by Quit Claim Deed. In turn, under the Agreement, and for a period of 20 years, TRSD will give BHP the right to purchase 85% of its annually generated A+ effluent. Importantly, but independent from the Agreement, the Board asserts the net proceeds generated from the sales of all effluent will be utilized to benefit long term operations of the facility and, as important, to benefit the residents of the district.

This Agreement has been the subject of negotiations which first began in the third quarter 2021. Mr. Michael Harper, Esq. (TRSD Board Attorney), Mr. Michael Krebs (PACE Project Manager) and Mr. Jacques have been involved in those lengthy negotiations. The site's location has been the subject of repeated questions directed to the board and its advisors before and during the present negotiations. The Board has been unable to respond to those questions, however, because of a non-disclosure agreement with the site owner, BHP. It is

extremely pleased to provide, finally, an answer to these questions.

In closing, the TRSD Board and its advisors extend their thanks to the district's residents, Gila County and City of Globe officials, USDA-Rural Development staff and concerned State of Arizona Agencies for their consistent support of the project during the many challenges experienced in its formative years. We look forward to the beginning of Phase I construction in the first quarter of 2024.

rbj
09.12.23

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023

Item # 1 President R. Jacques called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

Item # 2 President R. Jacques led the Pledge of Allegiance

Item # 3 Roll Call: R. Jacques; M. Buzan; C. Asrarynezami (Zoom); C. Farr (Zoom); M. Harper, District Counsel; T. Stratton, Bond Counsel
Also: M. Krebs, PACE
Public: T. Humphrey, Superintendent, District 2; P. Jepson, City of Globe;
D. Sowder, Silverbelt newspaper; H. Farrester; J. Stanneart

Item # 4 **Possible property transfer**: President R. Jacques announced that the TRSD now has a potential site for its wastewater reclamation facility and tonight's meeting is about the location of said site. He outlined the way the item would be addressed. He first asked M. Harper if he had additional comments. M. Harper replied only that BHP had signed both a Real Property Transfer Agreement ("Agreement") and Quit Claim Deed ("QCD") on Monday, September 11, 2023. M. Harper commented that the completion of the documents had required much time and effort from all concerned. President R. Jacques then asked the Board Members if they had any additional comments and noted that the signed Agreement and QCD had been circulated to them earlier in the day; and if there were no questions from the Board Members, he would call for a motion to approve the Agreement and to receive authorization from the Board Members to sign both the Agreement and QCD. If approved and President R. Jacques is given authority to sign these documents, M. Krebs would then provide details of the site.

C. Farr had a question about the ability to expand the service to be provided by the facility on the site and M. Krebs responded that the site was of sufficient size to allow service to be expanded. C. Farr thanked M. Krebs for the answer. President R. Jacques called for a Motion to approve the Agreement and for authorization to sign the Agreement and QCD. M. Buzan made the motion. C. Farr seconded. Passed 4-0.

Krebs provided info to Board Members, and the Public who were present, on the site by providing details on its location and size as well as PACE's efforts to confirm the site's suitability. The Board specified that they would accept questions from the public present if they were directed only to the location of the site – the subject of the meeting. H. Farrester asked for more information on the location. He offered a comment asking "Hadn't we (TRSD) looked at that site before?" M. Krebs advised, "No, TRSD had not looked at this site before. We looked at the Gila Co. Cattle Growers Association stock yards, but that was in floodplain." Additional questions included whether the site was out of the 100- and 500-year floodplain. Which answer was that it was at the 500-year floodplain level. President R. Jacques asked M. Krebs whether the site was large enough for a maintenance facility and future installation of a solar farm. M. Krebs answered both in the affirmative. P. Jepson and T. Humphrey offered their congratulations on obtaining the site and T. Humphrey added that he knew we had been through a very long process to achieve this.

Item # 5 No Executive Session was called.

TRI-CITY REGIONAL SANITARY DISTRICT
Special Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023

Item # 6 Items discussed in Executive Session= None

Item # 7 Announcements – President R. Jacques asked the Board Members if they would approve moving the Regular TRSD Board Meeting from Monday, September 18, 2023, to Monday, September 26, 2023. M. Buzan pointed out that the 26th was in fact a Tuesday and C. Asrarynezami added that Tuesday the 26th would be better for her. President R. Jacques inquired of M. Harper, M. Krebs and T. Stratton if that date would work for them. They all agreed it would. M. Buzan made a motion to move the meeting with C. Farr seconding. Passed 4-0.

Item # 9 Next Regular Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 5:15 p.m. at IBEW

Item # 10 Adjournment – Malissa Buzan moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m., seconded by Cameron Farr. Carried 4-0.