

New Mexico CAP Entity

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July 5, 2018

Bureau of Reclamation
Phoenix Area Office
Attn: Leslie Meyers
6150 Thunderbird Road
Glendale, Arizona 85306

Re: Project Confirmation Packet of Proposed Action of the NM Unit

Dear Ms. Meyers,

On October 30, 2017, the New Mexico CAP Entity chose, in an open public meeting, the diversion, conveyance and storage components of the NM Unit as its amended proposed action. The amended proposed action includes project components in three areas-the Upper Gila Valley, along the San Francisco River, and in the Virden Valley, utilizing both newly designed components and existing infrastructure. The NM CAP Entity Board approved a second amendment on February 6, 2018, including a reservoir on the San Francisco as well as storage ponds in the Virden Valley. Board members approved a reservoir on the San Francisco based on original preliminary analysis from AECOM and the discussion and understanding that additional funding for a reservoir will be provided by sources outside the AWSA funding. (See February 6,

2018 meeting minutes). There have also been some additional changes. A pond in the upper Gila Valley was eliminated. (Figure 1-Gila/Cliff Ponds). One pond in the Virden Valley was also eliminated because of land owner issues. (Figure 1-Village of Virden). On June 11, 2018, the NM CAP Entity Board approved a change in the project description removing adjudicated water from the storage facilities and replacing the description with “storage facilities will be utilized for AWSA water,” with diversion and conveyance facilities used for maximized delivery potential and increased irrigation efficiencies for both AWSA and adjudicated water. The NM CAP Entity has chosen to remove any storage of adjudicated water from the components of the NM Unit.

A more comprehensive project description, along with updated costs related to the proposed action of the NM Unit, is attached in a summary report prepared by Stantec Engineering. The updated costs are based on the preliminary cost of the AECOM report, estimated costs related to amended proposed action, and costs associated with minor improvements related to delivery of potential lands for uses of AWSA water. The use of AWSA funds to pay for these projected costs remains the same as was set forth in the amended Proposed Action and the February 6, 2018 meeting minutes. Stantec has also used available OSE crop reports to identify potential agricultural lands that may be connected to AWSA water. However, the NM CAP Entity board has not placed any restrictions on availability and usage of AWSA water. In addition, the NM CAP Entity board is cognizant that the NEPA analysis and the planning process may identify critical habitat areas causing changes in the availability of irrigatable lands and feasibility of conveyance improvements.

The report also has identified well sites that could be adjusted pending groundwater analysis and feasibility of site locations. Repair of existing historical ditches and laterals has also

been identified for delivery to potential AWSA irrigation areas. Attached to the summary report are maps depicting the diversion site, pond locations, ditch alignments (existing and historical), laterals, and potential irrigable lands as described above. These maps are for NM CAP Entity planning purposes and may need minor adjustments or items may be eliminated with further ecological and technical analysis. Additional information regarding a diversion model, yield model, return flow estimate, preliminary construction plans, and an economic analysis/business plan are still being produced and will become available as soon as possible.

The NM CAP Entity Board has approved the information in the summary report and the NEPA analysis may proceed based on the information provided in this packet.

As the representative of the NM CAP Entity, I would like to thank the BOR Staff, the ISC staff, as well as the NEPA contractor for all of their help during this process. If there are any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Gutierrez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Gutierrez" clearly legible.

Anthony Gutierrez
Executive Director NM CAP Entity