



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Town of Chino Valley**  
**Municipal Water System Improvement Project**  
**November 2016**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 intends to award a grant in the amount of \$485,000 to the Town of Chino Valley. The proposed project would improve the existing water distribution by adding two sections of pipeline to create a looped system.

EPA Region 9's intention to award a grant for the proposed project is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC §§4321-4370f. In accordance with NEPA, Council of Environmental Quality Regulations at 40 CFR §§1500.1-1508.28, and EPA NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6, EPA Region 9 has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) describing the potential environmental impacts associated with, and the alternatives to, the proposed project. This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) documents EPA Region 9's decision that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Project Description**

The Town of Chino Valley proposes to add new water main pipelines to create loops in the water distribution system, improving water service reliability and redundancy and reducing the resources needed to maintain acceptable water quality. A looped drinking water distribution system consists of connected pipe loops throughout the area to be served. The project would be implemented in two phases. Phase I would create a water system loop in the northern section of the water distribution system by installing approximately 4,554 linear feet (LF) of 12-inch water main from the existing terminus at Perkinsville Road to the 12-inch water main at Road 2 North. Phase II would create another loop in the water distribution system by installing approximately 2,448 LF of 12-inch water main from the abovementioned connection point at Road 2 North to Production, Storage, and Pressure Facility (PSPF) No. 1.

**Project Location**

The Town of Chino Valley is located in Yavapai County, Arizona. The planning area for consideration of environmental consequences is the north-south oriented area between Perkinsville Road and the existing water production facility, roughly following the Peavine Trail alignment. Areas within a reasonable distance (approximately ½ mile) of this area are also considered.

## **Purpose and Need for Proposed Project**

The configuration of the current distribution system provides only one direction of available water flow to the customers along the dead-end line. In the event that a portion of that line must be shut down for maintenance or other reasons, the customers between that point and the end of the line are left without water service. Also, water does not circulate in dead-end water lines, but remains stagnant until used, leading to sediment accumulation. Bacterial growth can also occur in dead-end water lines, as it is difficult to maintain adequate chlorine levels. The purpose of this project is to create a looped water distribution system, and it is needed to address the system reliability and water quality issues. This project is consistent with Goal 2 (Protecting America's Waters – protect and restore waters to ensure that drinking water is safe and sustainably managed, and that aquatic ecosystems sustain fish, plants, wildlife, and other biota, as well as economic, recreational, and subsistence activities) and Objective 2.1 (Protect Human Health – achieve and maintain standards and guidelines protective of human health in drinking water supplies, fish, shellfish, and recreational waters, and protect and sustainably manage drinking water resources) of the Fiscal Year 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan (USEPA 2014). Increasing system reliability through the implementation of this project is expected to protect America's waters and human health in accordance with EPA's goals.

## **Environmental Consequences**

The EA examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. In addition, the EA examines the impacts of a no-action alternative.

On May 26, 2016, EPA Region 9 submitted a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requesting concurrence with a determination of no effect, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. SHPO concurred with this finding on June 16, 2016.

A report for the project area was generated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) online system. The system provides background information on listed species in an area of interest. A USFWS list of threatened and endangered species also was generated for the project area. It was determined through review of the species listed for the Chino Valley area that the project area does not offer suitable or critical habitat for any of the protected species that could occur in the area, or the species are not listed as occurring in the project area proper. Therefore, the project would have "no effect" on listed species, and formal consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required.

Mitigation measures that would be implemented to address adverse impacts associated with project implementation are:

After carefully considering the regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors as described in the EA, EPA Region 9 has not identified any significant impacts to the environment that would result from implementation of the proposed project.

The following mitigation measures established in the EA for the proposed project are enforceable under this FONSI:

- Because the project would involve ground disturbance greater than an acre, the Town of Chino Valley would obtain coverage under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit (AZPDES CGP 2013). This permit may require the preparation of a SWPPP that would identify BMPs to minimize erosion and stormwater runoff.
- The Town of Chino Valley would do a survey of suitable habitat for the western burrowing owl, in accordance with the January 2009 Burrowing Owl Project Clearance Guidance for Landowners issued by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

### **Public Review**

The EA is on file and available for public review at the EPA Region 9 office and online at <https://www.epa.gov/az/town-chino-valley-municipal-water-system-improvement-project-fonsi-and-ea>. To make an appointment to review the EA, contact Howard Kahan at the address given below.

Interested parties may submit comments on the EA and this unsigned FONSI to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days of the public notice of the EA. Comments via letter, fax, or email should be sent Howard Kahan at the following address:

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EPA Region 9 will not take administrative action on the proposed project prior to the close of the comment period. If, after considering public comments, EPA Region 9 concludes the proposed project will not have significant environmental impacts, EPA Region 9 will revise this FONSI by adding a summary of the comments received and EPA Region 9's responses. The revised FONSI will be forwarded to the Water Division Director for review and signature. The FONSI will be final upon signature. EPA Region 9 will not recirculate the signed FONSI for public review, but will make it available to any individual upon request.