

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous Fuels
and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

NEPA # DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2013-0016-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No: AZA-36222

Proposed Action Title/Type: New ROW Authorization for a Waterline and Short Term ROW for Construction

Location of Proposed Action: G&SRM, Gila County Arizona, T. 1 N., R. 7 E., sec 8, NW1/4

Description of Proposed Action: City of Mesa submitted a 299 application for a new authorization for a 24 foot waterline ROW and a short term ROW for construction. The proposed waterline is for public used and consumption. The shortest most efficient alignment for the proposed waterline crosses Federal land which is currently under BLM R/W to the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (BLM R/W #A3959). The proposed waterline will tie into an existing waterline (Project # C10577 county line pump station #2) in McKellips Road and provide a loop redundancy for the existing water system. The waterline is needed to maintain system reliability and avoid future shut down of the waterline which would be detrimental for the surrounding area. The expected completion time framed is to have the system installed before summer to meet the summer demand. Project cost is estimated at \$800,000.00. Ductile iron pipe is the pipeline material that will be used for the waterline. The short-term ROW would allow used of the site for construction for 3 years after which the sites will be rehabilitated to restore the land to it natural or original condition. There would be no hazardous material produce, transported or stored within the proposed waterline easement.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP

Date Approved/Amended: **9/1/2012**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

The Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved RMP allows, (LR-1.3.3) propose minor linear and nonlinear LUAs will continue to be authorized on an as needed case-by-case basis in area outside of LUA Avoidance and Exclusion area.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9:

BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (E-12) Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed right-of-way. (E-19) Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) right-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations. I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: _____/S/_____

**Benedict Parsons
Project Lead**

Reviewed by: _____/S/_____

**Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

Approved by: _____/S/_____

**Edward Kender
Acting Manager**

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Leah Baker 623-580-5656 or Ben Parsons 623-580-5637

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances¹
Attachment 1

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		

¹ If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A

Decision
Attachment 2

Project Description:

City of Mesa submitted a 299 application for a new Authorization for a 24 foot waterline ROW and a short term ROW for construction. No hazardous material is being used, produced, transported or stored in the ROW confinements.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 401 West Washington Street, Suite 404, Phoenix Arizona 85003, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

Approved By: _____/S/_____ **Date:** _08/02/2013_____
Edward Kender
Acting Manager