

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)  
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)  
U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

**PART I. - PROPOSED ACTION**

**BLM Office:** AZP020

**NEPA No.:** DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-  
2014- 0015 CX  
**Case File No.:** AZA-17285

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District (ROW) for 3 water pipelines

**Applicant:** Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District

**Location of Proposed Action:** T.4 S., R. 4 W., Sec. 22, & 27

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District has requested a 30 years renewal of its existing right of way (ROW) AZA-17285 for three (3) water pipelines. The water pipelines request is for 1,320 feet in length by 25 feet in width, approximate area of 2.280 acres. The existing terms and conditions, which the holders is in conformance with, would continue to apply.

**Part II. - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

**This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s):** 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.

**Decisions and page nos.:** Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, Page 2-77

**Date plan approved/amended:** September 2012

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

**PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW**

**A. The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (E-9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations. ;**

**And**

**B. Extraordinary Circumstances Review:** In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, any action that is normally categorically excluded must be subjected to sufficient environmental review to determine if it meets any of the 12 Extraordinary Circumstances described. If any circumstance applies to the action or project, and existing NEPA documentation does not adequately address it, then further NEPA analysis is required.

**IMPORTANT:** Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed in Part IV, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included in the appropriate block.

**Part IV. – EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION**

PREPARERS:	DATE:
Ben Parsons <i>Ben Parsons</i>	7/22/15
Andrea Felton	
Cheryl Blanchard <i>Cheryl Blanchard</i>	7/14/15
Ron Tipton <i>Ron Tipton</i> sec Attached	7/21/14

*[Signature]*  
 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

7/31/15  
 DATE

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(l)) apply. The project would:

(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

Yes	No	Rationale:	
	X		
			Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

Yes	No	Rationale:	<i>RCT See Attached</i>
	X		<i>AO</i>
			Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].

Yes	No	Rationale:	
	X		
			Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Yes	No	Rationale:	
	X		
			Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principal about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Yes	No	Rationale:	
	X		
			Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u> <i>CB</i>
(h) 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	No	Rationale:
	X	<i>RSE Attached</i>
		Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u> <i>AG</i>
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		
Yes	No	Rationale:
	X	
		Preparer's Initials <u>BAP</u>

(k) 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

No

Rationale:

X

ob

Preparer's Initials BAP

(l) 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

No

Rationale:

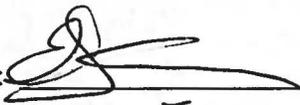
X

Preparer's Initials BAP

**PART V. - COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION**

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

**MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS:**

APPROVING OFFICIAL: 

DATE: 8/3/15

TITLE: LOWER SONORAN FIELD MANAGER

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

Proj. # BLM-200-11-241

Case # AZA-17285

Date: July 13, 2015

**COMMENT DOCUMENT WORKSHEET**

I, Cheryl Blanchard, in review of the above-noted Proposed Action, have the following comments:

It is understood that the Paloma Irrigation and Drainage District has applied for a renewal on a right-of-way for three water pipe lines. These existing lines are all in the area of agricultural fields, south of Cotton Center. Legal location is in T. 4 S., R. 4 W., Section 22 and 27.

A record search revealed that a cultural survey had been performed by BLM staff in 1981. This was filed under Cultural Resource Record Form # BLM-020-11-26. All three pipe lines were surveyed at that time. Blanchard followed up with a field inspection of the area and these pipelines in order to verify locations and physical appearance in 2014. No sign of soil excavation or disturbance was observed in or along the areas identified as pipe line locations. Blanchard attempted to follow the two more northerly pipe lines.

No cultural resources were observed in or along these lines. Therefore, no impacts to any significant cultural resources are anticipated as a result of this activity. The cultural resource finding for this project is "no historic properties affected".

Recommendations:

- Clearance Not Recommended
- Unconditional Clearance Recommended
- Clearance Recommended with the Following Stipulations
  - Standard Stipulations

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of Land Management authorized officer. The holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.

Specialized Stipulation(s) as Follows:

Cheryl Blanchard  
Signature

Wildlife specialist comments for the Paloma Irrigation and Drainage ROW (AZA-17285):

*Project Description* – Paloma Irrigation & Drainage District has requested a 30 year renewal of its existing right of way (ROW) AZA-17285 for three (3) water pipelines. The water line request is 1,320 feet in length by 25 feet in width, approximate area of 2.280 acres. The existing terms and conditions, which the holders are in conformance with, would continue to apply. The ROW is located on BLM-administered land about a mile east of State Highway 85 south and 1.5 miles west of the Gila River, north of Gila Bend, AZ (see attached Paloma Irrigation and Drainage Project – AZA 17285 Map Figure.pdf). The existing ROW crosses an island BLM-administered parcel, surrounded by private agricultural land.

*Project Location* – The legal description is: Arizona, Gila & Salt River Meridian T4S,R4W,sec22 (UTM zone 12, X - 345209, Y - 3659567).

*ESA and BLM Sensitive Species/Habitat* – Listed or sensitive species/habitat (Table 1) identified using the USFWS's Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) decision support tool (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) are not expected to occur within the action area.

**Table 1.** USFWS-IPaC generated ESA species/habitat list (04/21/2014).

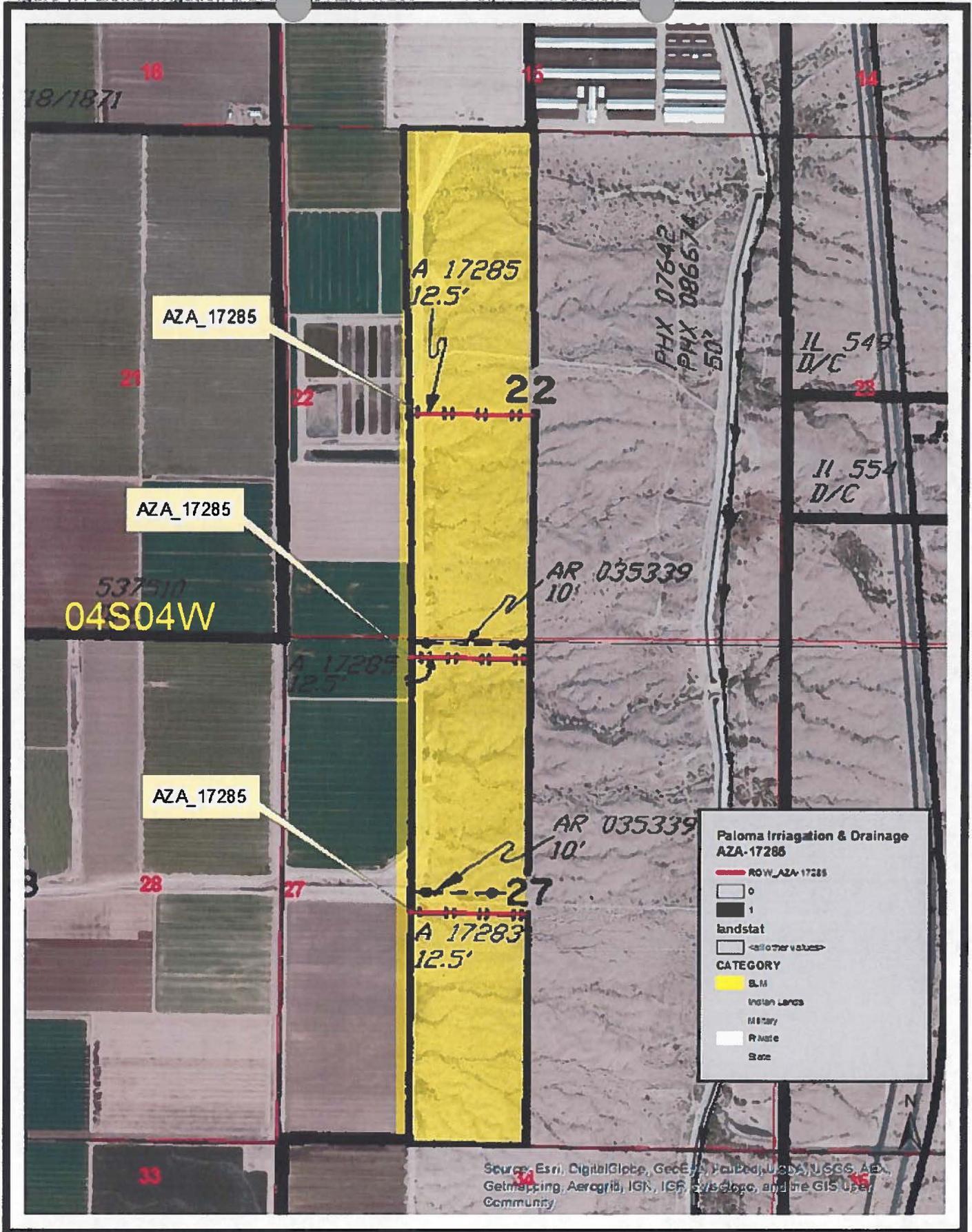
Birds	Status	Present (Y/N)
California Least tern ( <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> )	Endangred	N
Southwestern Willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	Endangered	N
Sprague's Pipit ( <i>Anthus spragueii</i> )	Candidate	N
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	Proposed Threatened	N
Yuma Clapper rail ( <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i> )	Endangered	N
<b>Fishes</b>		
Roundtail chub ( <i>Gila robusta</i> )	Candidate	N
<b>Mammals</b>		
Sonoran pronghorn ( <i>Antilocapra americana sonoriensis</i> )	Endangered	N
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Sonoran desert tortoise ( <i>Gopherus morafkai</i> )	Candidate	N
Northern Mexican gartersnake ( <i>Thamnophis eques megalops</i> )	Proposed Threatened	N
Tucson Shovel-Nosed Snake ( <i>Chionactis occipitalis klauberi</i> )	Candidate	N

**Critical habitats in project area:** None.

*Determination and Rationale* – The proposed renewal of this 30 year waterline ROW entails no new disturbance because it is an existing structure. Additionally, the small (2.3 acre) area occurs outside of riparian corridors in an agricultural area adjacent to a busy highway. The area is relatively flat, which reduces the potential for the presence of Sonoran desert tortoises. Sonoran pronghorn do not occur in the area and would not be expected to occur in the future, due to the level of continued disturbance from the highway and agricultural practices. For these reasons renewal of the Paloma Irrigation and Drainage water line ROW (AZA-17285) is expected to have “*No Effect*” on ESA listed or BLM sensitive species/habitat nor is it expected to lead to a trend resulting in the future listing of any species/habitat.

/s/ Ronald Tipton  
BLM-Wildlife  
BLM-Phoenix District (LSFO/SDNM)  
21605 North 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Figure 1. Paloma Irrigation & Drainage AZA-17285 T 4 S., R 4 W. Section 22, 27



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.

