

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Lower Sonoran Field Office

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-2015-0002-CX

Case File No.: AZA-36644

Proposed Action Title/Type: Alert precipitation/ Stream Gauge Station

Applicant: Pinal County Department of Public Works

Location of Proposed Action: T4S, R9E, Sec. 9, G&SRM

Description of Proposed Action: Purpose of the Alert Station is to supply precipitation and stream flow data for the area. The system includes a radio telemetry transmitter with antenna, tipping bucket rain gauge and stream stage sensor. Hosing is a pole mounted utility cabinet with tipping bucket top section, antenna mast solar panel.

The pole will be bolted to existing concrete (culvert) wing wall associated with Magma Wash Over Shoot of the CAP canal. Long term installation is desired for floodplain management. Station will be operational all year. The construction will take one (1) day to install equipment. No hazardous material will be use, no impact to air quality, minimal visual impact, no impact on wildlife and no soil or vegetation disturbance.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Lower Sonoran Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (September 2012)

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decision(s): LR-1.3 (Minor Linear and Non-Linear LUAs)

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

Attachment 4-1
AZ-1790-1
August 2013

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Choose an item. BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (E-14) Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed right-of-way.

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:	INITIALS:	DATE:
Ben Parsons	<i>BP</i>	3/10/15
Andrea Felton	<i>AF</i>	1/13/15
Ron Tipton	<i>RT</i>	01/14/15
Cheryl Blanchard	<i>CB</i>	2/10/15


 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

8/4/15
 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:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

(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:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

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

Yes No Rationale:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

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

Yes No Rationale:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

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

Yes No Rationale:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Yes No Rationale:

N/A

Preparer's Initials

[Signature]

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

(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: *Area was so altered by construction of the CAP canal and associated facilities, that no N Register properties were affected by this action.*
Preparer's Initials *CB*

(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: *Attached*
Preparer's Initials *ACT*

(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Yes No Rationale:
Preparer's Initials *R*

(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Yes No Rationale:
Preparer's Initials *B*

(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: *Area was completely altered by construction of the CAP canal and associated infrastructure.*
Preparer's Initials *CB*

(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: *Because of its very limited scope in size, the proposed action is not expected to introduce any noxious, invasive weeds.*
Preparer's Initials *df*

PART V. -COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION

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 2 apply.

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: Not applicable

AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL:  DATE: 8/4/15

NAME: EDWARD J KENDER

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.



November 25, 2014

RECEIVED
PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
2014 DEC -1 PM 12:14
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX, AZ

Lonnie Sanders
Pinal County Flood Control District
P O Box 727
Florence, AZ 85232

Subject: Acceptance Letter for CAWCD #2014-134 Stream Gauge at
Magma Channel Over Shoot – Central Arizona Project

Dear Mr. Iserman:

Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) has reviewed the design plans submitted for the stream gauge/alert station at Magma Channel Over Shoot. The project is located within land owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and as such will need to issue a separate authorization for this project.

It has been determined that the plans are acceptable and CAWCD requirements have been met. Therefore, CAWCD hereby grants Pinal County this acceptance letter to construct, operate and maintain the described facilities. CAWCD request that as-builts be provided upon completion of the project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 623-869-2274.

Sincerely,

**Camille
Champion**

Digitally signed by Camille Champion
DN: cn=Camille Champion, o=Central
Arizona Project, ou,
email=cchampion@cap-az.com, c=US
Date: 2014.11.25 13:12:15 -0700

Camille Champion
Right-of-Way Specialist

Enclosure

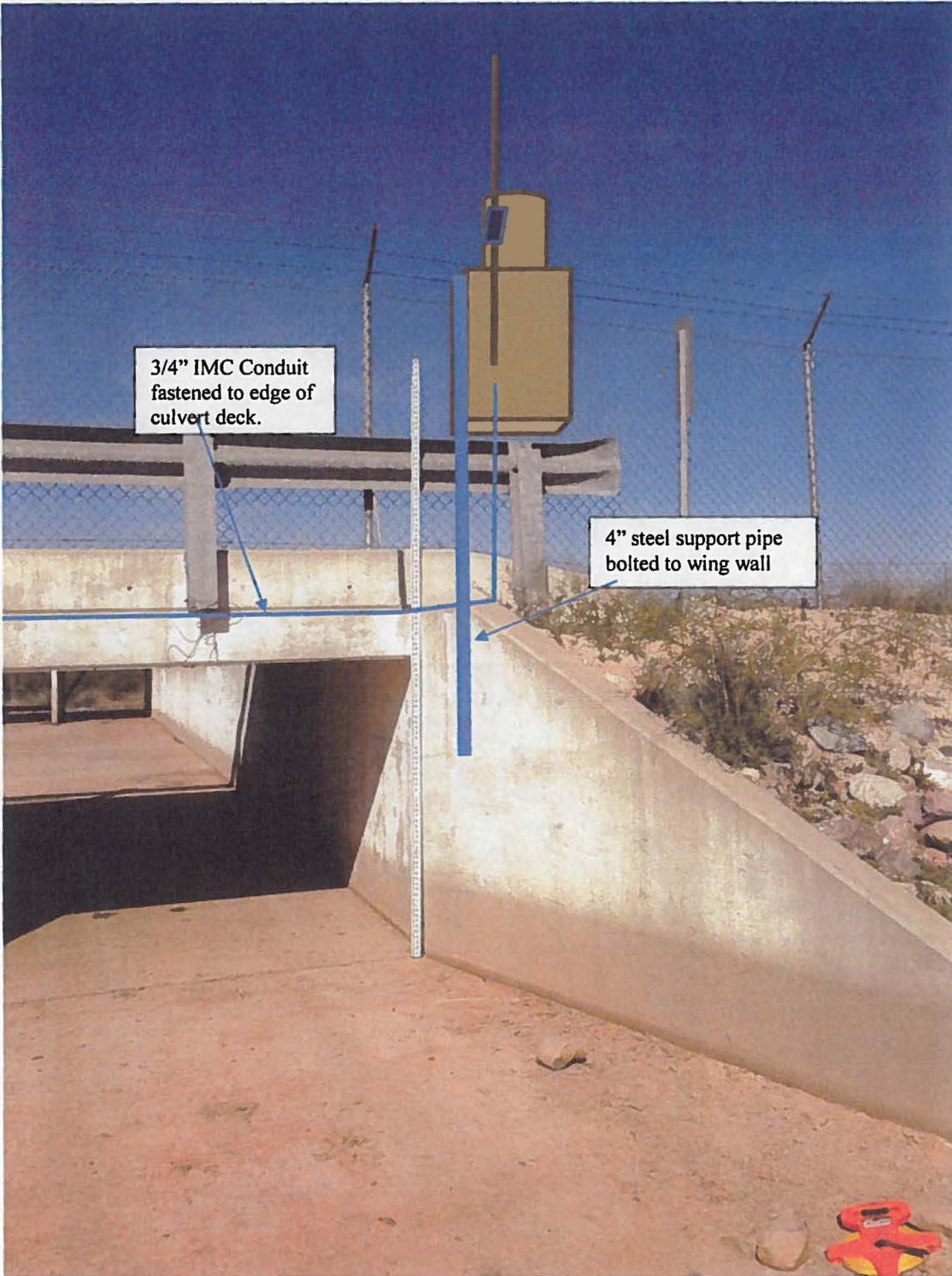
cc: Brian Iserman



Magma Channel at CAP ALERT Station

This proposed station will be installed on the north east wing wall of the Magma Flood Retarding Structure Outlet Channel over shoot at the Central Arizona Project Canal. This overshoot is located approximately 0.5 mile west of North Yeager Road and approximately 250 feet south of East Heritage Road. The recommended location for the station housing is on the north wing wall of the upstream (east) side of the CAP over shoot (see the attached figures). The station housing will consist of a pole mounted utility cabinet with tipping bucket precipitation sensor top section (12 inch diameter).

The support pole will be a 4 inch diameter steel pipe bolted to the wing wall using ½" concrete anchors. The station is self-supporting and will not need guy wire support. A pressure transducer stage sensor will be placed inside conduit attached to the upstream (east) concrete box culvert cell divider wall. The submersible, vented signal cable associated with the pressure transducer will be conveyed from the electronic cabinet to the pressure transducer via a combination of ¾" Intermediate Metal Conduit (IMC) and 1.5" IMC; a total conduit length of approximately 22 feet from the termination at the cabinet to the base of the culvert divider wall. The pressure transducer is held in place at the base of the divider wall with a bolt through the conduit. A 1¼" steel mast will be attached to the utility cabinet. The mast will support a data telemetry antenna and 100mA solar panel. See illustrations on the next two pages and detailed design plan and profile sheet.



3/4" IMC Conduit fastened to edge of culvert deck.

4" steel support pipe bolted to wing wall

View looking west at the Magma Channel over shoot at the CAP with the proposed sensor housing and conduit. See also detailed plan and profile sheet provided.

+You Search Images Maps Play YouTube News Gmail More

Sign in



Wildlife Specialist Comments for the Pinal Co. Public Works Dept. Stream Stage Station (AZ-P020-2015-0002-CX):

Description – The Pinal County Public Works Department proposes to install a rain gauge, stream stage gauge and telemetry equipment on an existing concrete culvert over the Magma Overflow Channel at its confluence with the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal approximately 5.5 miles NNW of Florence, Arizona. With the exception of sensors and an antenna, station equipment would be housed in a 27 x 17 inch cabinet. A section of ¾ inch conduit would be used to secure the stream gauge's pressure transducer and would extend no more than 14 feet horizontally from the equipment cabinet.

Due to the project's location on BLM-administered land a right-of-way (ROW) grant is required. Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed stream stage gauge equipment relative known occurrences of sensitive wildlife and habitat.

Purpose & Need - The purpose and need for the proposed action is to issue a 30 year ROW grant for installation and maintenance of the proposed stream stage gauge, rain gauge and telemetry equipment.

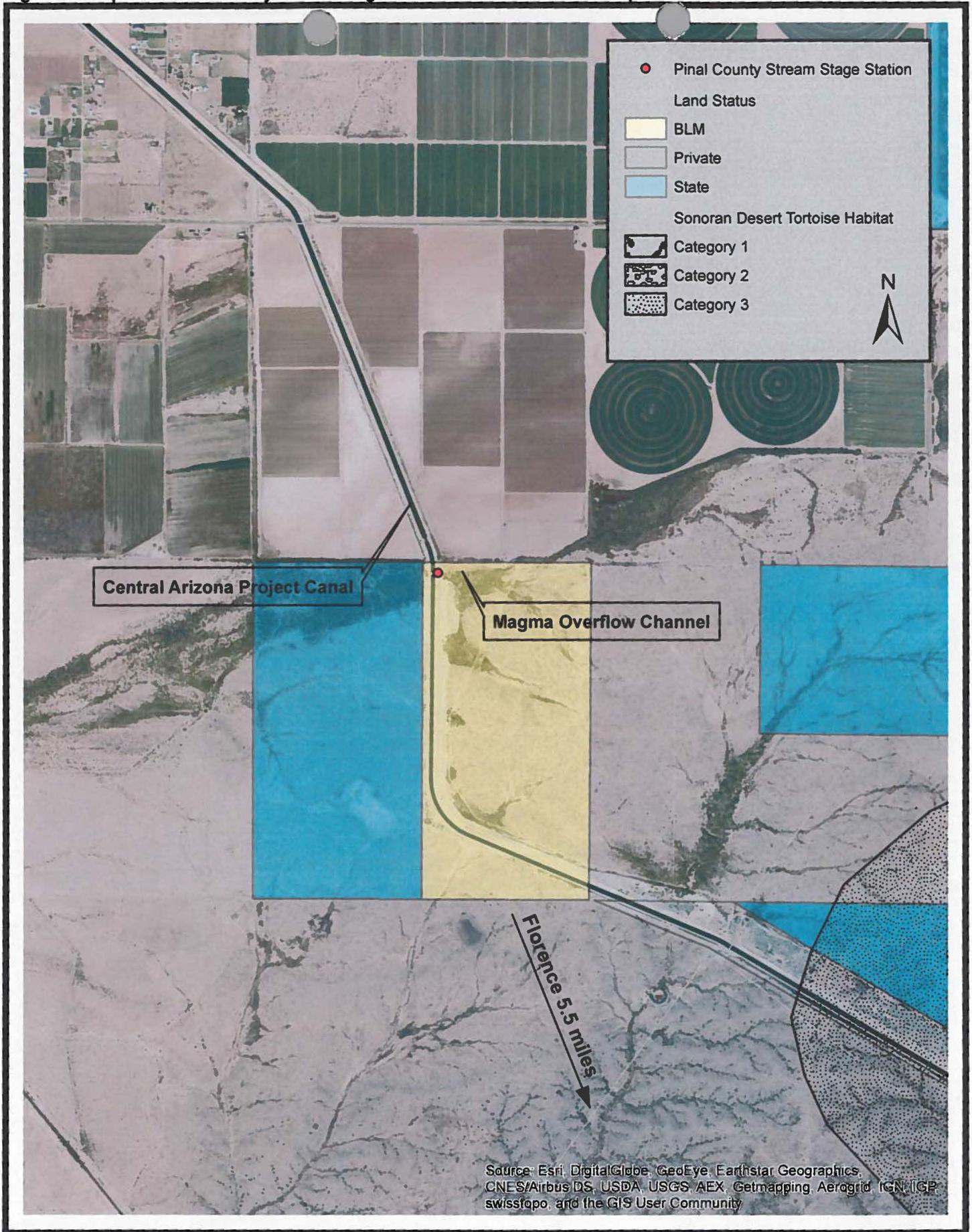
ESA and BLM Sensitive Species/Habitat – According to the current BLM GIS database, the installation site does not overlap with any ESA listed or candidate species or habitat. Sonoran desert tortoise (ESA-Candidate) Category 3 (least relative value) occurs 1.5 miles SE of the site (Figure 1).

Determination and Rationale – According to the current BLM GIS database for listed and sensitive species, the proposed action would not interfere with ESA listed or candidate species or habitat. The nearest Sonoran desert tortoise habitat is more than a mile away. Due to its association with the CAP canal and agricultural fields, habitat at the proposed site likely does not support Sonoran desert tortoise. If a tortoise were encountered during installation or maintenance of the equipment it would be easily avoided and if necessary moved to a safe location, nearby.

For these reasons the proposed action is expected to have “*No Effect*” on ESA listed species or designated critical habitat. Because the site is more than a mile from Sonoran desert tortoise habitat the proposed action is expected to have “*No Impact*” on individuals or habitat nor is it expected to lead to a trend toward future listing of individuals or habitat.

/s/ Ronald Tipton
BLM-Wildlife
BLM-Phoenix District (LSFO/SDNM)
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027
(623) 580-5645

Figure 1. Proposed Pinal County stream stage station relative to sensitive species and/or habitat.



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

