

**The Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority
of the Hualapai Indian Tribe**

Grand Canyon West 69kV Interconnection Project

Decision Record

DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2021-0020-EA

May 2022



DECISION RECORD
Grand Canyon West 69kV Interconnection Project
MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2021-0020-EA

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Hualapai Tribal Utility Authority, an institution of the Hualapai Indian Tribe submitted an application (SF-299 “Application for Transportation and Utility Systems and Facilities on Federal Lands”) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kingman Field Office on August 23, 2017, requesting rights-of-ways to construct, operate, and maintain a 69kV electric transmission line and fiber optic line across BLM-administered lands. The purpose of the project is to improve electrical and communication services at the Grand Canyon West development located on the Hualapai Indian Reservation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

The Tribe held three scoping meetings in May 2019 to inform the public of the scope of the project, identify alternative routes under consideration, and to solicit comments regarding potential issues. Meetings were held in Peach Springs on May 21, Dolan Springs on May 22, and Meadview on May 23, 2019. Meeting locations and times were advertised in several local newspapers and community newsletters prior to the meetings. Comments from the public were collected within the 30-day period following the public meetings.

Results from Scoping:

Comments expressed during scoping were primarily regarding the following concerns:

- the potential impacts of construction traffic on the local community,
- the consideration of alternative means of energy production (wind or solar),
- the continued use of diesel generators,
- impacts to the health of the Joshua trees,
- impacts to the viewshed related to the Joshua Tree National Natural Landmark and Area of Critical Environmental Concern,
- and an alternative alignment along Buck and Doe Road from Peach Springs.

The comments provided both opposition and support for all three alternatives for a variety of reasons including, utilizing the existing right-of-way (Diamond Bar Alternative), avoidance of Joshua Tree National Natural Landmark (Tenney Ranch Road Alternative), and the ease of construction (Clay Springs Alternative).

The environmental assessment (EA) was available for review and comment on the BLM’s ePlanning website from October 25, through November 24, 2021. On October 25, 2021, the BLM Kingman Field Office issued a press release to local media outlets announcing the opening of the public comment period. The press release was emailed to interested stakeholders, including all individuals who participated in scoping. Individuals who did not provide an email address were sent a copy of the press release via U.S. Mail. Local, County, State and Tribal governments, agencies, and non-profits were also notified of the opportunity to comment on the EA. A summary of the comments and the BLM responses are included in Appendix A. Based on

comments received, the proposed Terms and Conditions of the right-of-way grant are included in Appendix B.

LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE:

The proposed action and alternatives described below are in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan /Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision, Approved March 1995.

AUTHORITY:

Implementation of the Proposed Action is under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 2800.

RATIONALE:

Upon analyzing the impacts of the Tenny Ranch Road Alternative and following issuance of the EA for public review, I have determined that implementing the Tenny Ranch Road Alternative as described in Chapter 2 of the EA with incorporated project design features will not have a significant impact to the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The rationale in the attached Finding of No Significant Impacts document supports this decision. This decision is consistent with the BLM Kingman Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 1993) and the Record of Decision (BLM 1995).

DECISION:

Based on the analysis in the Grand Canyon West 69kV Interconnection Project, EA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2021-0020-EA, and after carefully considering comments and input received during scoping and public review of the document, it is my decision to:

Approve the Tenny Ranch Road Alternative (Alternative B) as described in Chapter 2 of the EA with incorporated project design features. This management decision for the Grand Canyon West 69kV Interconnection Project is issued pursuant to the regulations found at Title 43 CFR § 2800.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1.

APPROVING OFFICIAL:

Amanda M. Dodson
Field Manager - Kingman Field Office

Date

Attachments:

Appendix A – Response to Comments
Appendix B – Terms and Conditions
Form 1842-1