

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
2610 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EA-AZ-330-2008-009

Right-of-Way Renewal to CAAZCA 19401
For a buried wastewater discharge line, access/service road,
and four evaporation ponds

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

San Bernardino County, California

Prepared jointly by:
Transcon Environmental, Inc.
And
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
Lake Havasu Field Office

April 2008

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ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
BA	Biological Assessment
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BSRC	Beale Slough Riparian and Cultural
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DNL	Day/Night Average Noise Level
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
GANDA	Garcia and Associates
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCRMA	Special Cultural Resource Management Area
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management

1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to renew its Bureau of Land Management (BLM) right-of-way grant CAAZCA-019401, issued in 1988, authorizing a wastewater discharge line, access/service road, and four evaporation ponds. The current authorization will expire on May 25, 2008. Transcon Environmental (Transcon) was contracted by PG&E to conduct environmental analysis for the proposed project.

An environmental assessment (EA-AZ-050-8-36) was prepared by the BLM, Lake Havasu Field Office in 1988 as part of the initial authorization of the facilities. In addition, studies have been conducted in the vicinity, including the current project area, due to PG&E's environmental activities related to the Topock Compressor Station (California Department of Toxic Substances Control 2007).

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The existing facilities are vital to the function of the Topock Compressor Station by providing management of water used for cooling and heat exchange, and are needed to effectively transfer and store wastewater generated from the compressor station. The compressor station itself is critical to PG&E's ability to supply an adequate supply of natural gas to northern California. PG&E is seeking a renewal of the existing right-of-way (ROW) authorizing its facilities on BLM land for a minimum of 30 additional years prior to the expiration of the current authorization.

1.3 PROJECT LOCATION

The existing facilities serve PG&E's Topock Compressor Station complex, located approximately one-half mile to the east of the project location (Figure 1). The proposed action is located on federal land under the jurisdiction of the BLM Lake Havasu Field Office approximately one mile west of the Colorado River and immediately south of Interstate-40 (I-40) in San Bernardino County, California (see Figures 1 and 3). Specifically, the Proposed Action is located in Section 7, Township 7 North, Range 24 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Whale Mountain quadrangle, CA and AZ). The portion of the wastewater discharge line crossing United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jurisdiction on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge is located within the existing gas pipeline ROW and is authorized as an ancillary facility associated with that existing gas pipeline in perpetuity.



FIGURE 1. Project area overview. View to the north.

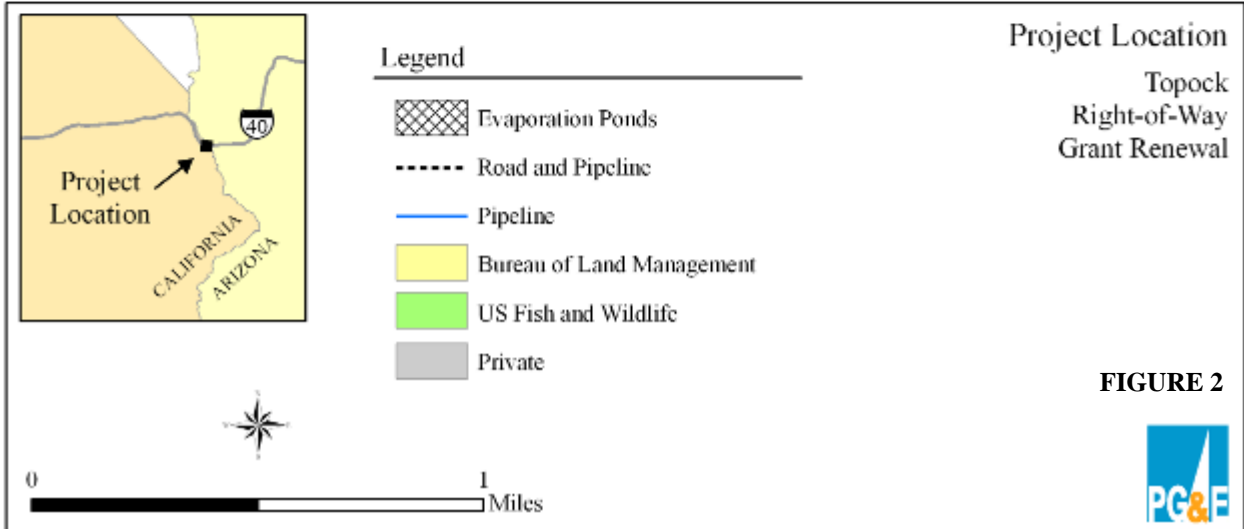
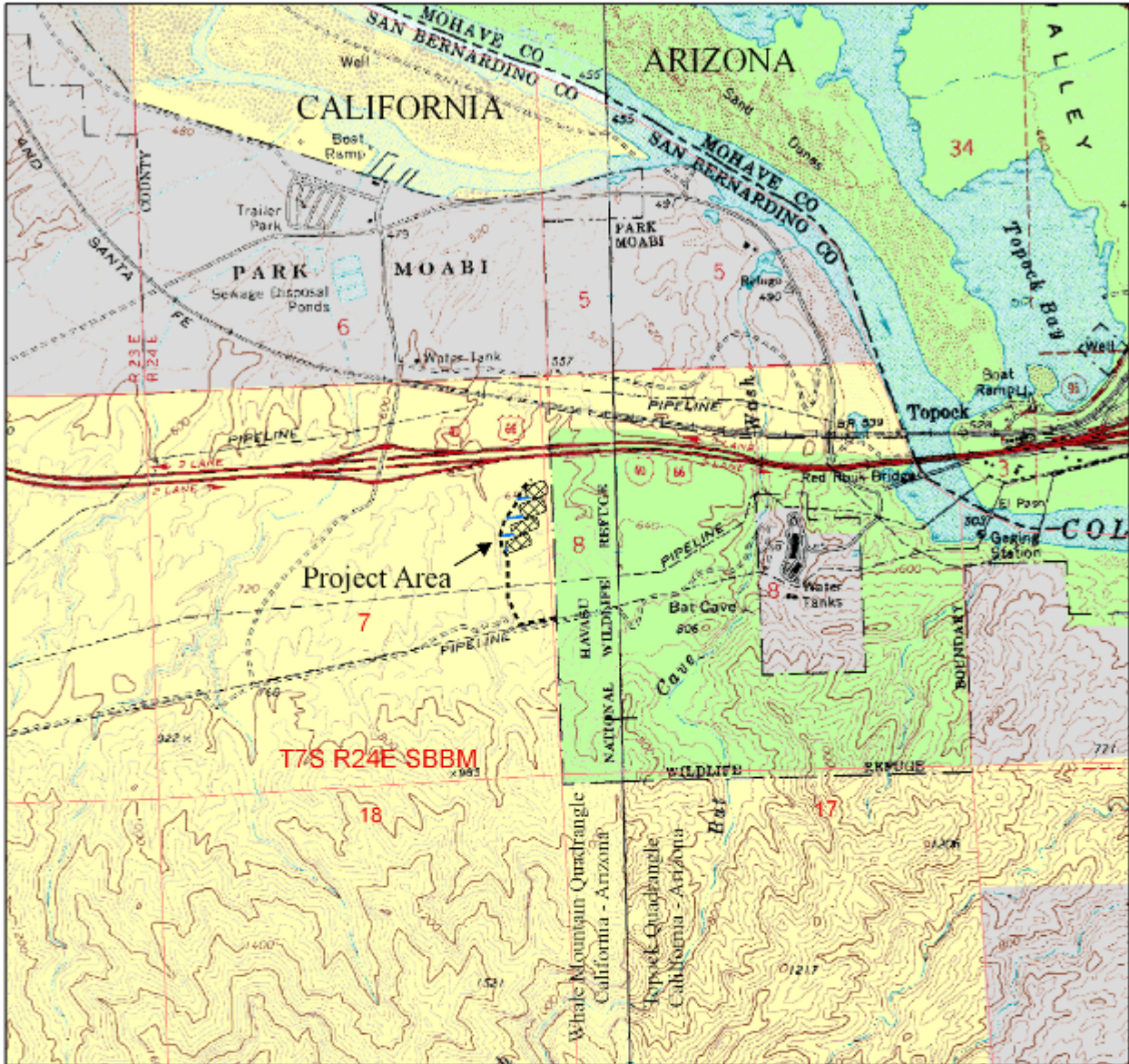
The project occurs within the Mojave Desert. As depicted in Figure 1, the project area and vicinity are sparsely vegetated with primarily creosote brush scrub. The topography consists of alluvial terraces. Other infrastructure exists in the surrounding area such as I-40, the natural gas pipeline associated with the compressor station, other natural gas pipelines, railroad tracks and infrastructure, and various other ancillary roads. The project study area for this EA consists of the areas for the wastewater discharge line, access/service road, and four evaporation ponds (located on approximately 11 acres).

1.4 CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

The proposed action is consistent with the BLM Lake Havasu Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was approved on May 7, 2007. The RMP was reviewed to determine if the proposed action conforms with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1640.5-3. If authorized, the uses would be renewed as a grant of a ROW, pursuant to the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (Public Law 94-579). Applicable regulations for the Proposed Action, under this authority, are contained within 43 CFR § 2800.

1.4.1 RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS OR OTHER PLANS

The BLM may grant road rights of way pursuant to Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and in conformance with the regulations found at 43 CFR 2800.



1.5 AGENCY AND TRIBAL NOTIFICATION PROCESS

The BLM, Lake Havasu Field Office is serving as lead Federal agency for review of this undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Consultation efforts with three American Indian tribes are ongoing. A project scoping letter was sent to area Tribes to solicit input and comments regarding the proposed project. A list of the Tribes contacted is included in Chapter 7. The Refuge Manager for the Havasu National Wildlife was contacted in person. The agency responded by e-mail and their correspondence is included in Appendix A.

2 – PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Project facilities are existing and in operation in T. 7 N., R. 24 E., sec. 7, E1/2NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4. The buried wastewater discharge line, access/service road, and four evaporation ponds were built in 1989 to dispose of wastewater from PG&E's nearby Topock Compressor Station. Maintenance and operation activities have occurred as necessary since their installation. PG&E would not modify the existing facilities; operation and maintenance activities would not change.

The Proposed Action would renew the existing BLM ROW grant, as the features now exist, authorizing a wastewater discharge line, access/service road, and four evaporation ponds for 30 years. The combined area for these uses is 11.16 acres, which includes all of the area within the existing fence where the ponds are built, the water pipeline, and the access road parallel to the water pipeline. Figure 2 depicts the project features and summarizes the area occupied by infrastructure and ancillary uses. The access road was authorized for a width of 15 feet and length of approximately 1320 feet. Adjacent to the road is the buried pipeline which brings fluid from the compressor station to the four evaporation ponds. The pipeline was authorized for a width of 8 feet width and a length of approximately 1320 feet. The pipeline and road have combined width of 23 feet and length of approximately 1320 feet (0.70 acres). The original application anticipated that the four evaporation ponds, fence and service road would occupy approximately 10 acres. When these facilities were constructed 10.46 acres were used. A copy of the existing ROW is provided in Appendix B. As part of the renewal, more detail will be provided to document the location of the existing facilities and the areas occupied by the existing operations.

2.1.1 Wastewater Discharge Line

The wastewater discharge line is an existing four inch fiberglass pressurized pipeline extending approximately one-quarter mile across BLM land. The pipeline is buried and was recently rebuilt (2007), consistent with agency authorization. The pipeline has been and would continue to be used to transport wastewater (which also contains less than 100 parts-per-million of phosphate-based corrosion inhibitors) from PG&E's Topock Compressor Station to four evaporation ponds for disposal. The wastewater containing the phosphate-based corrosion inhibitors is non-hazardous. The portion of the wastewater discharge line crossing USFWS jurisdiction on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge is located within the existing gas pipeline ROW and is authorized as an ancillary facility associated with the existing gas pipeline in perpetuity.

2.1.2 Access Road

An existing access/service road is ancillary to the wastewater discharge line. The access road is used for access and maintenance of the existing, parallel gas line, LA 0138248, as well as for maintenance and

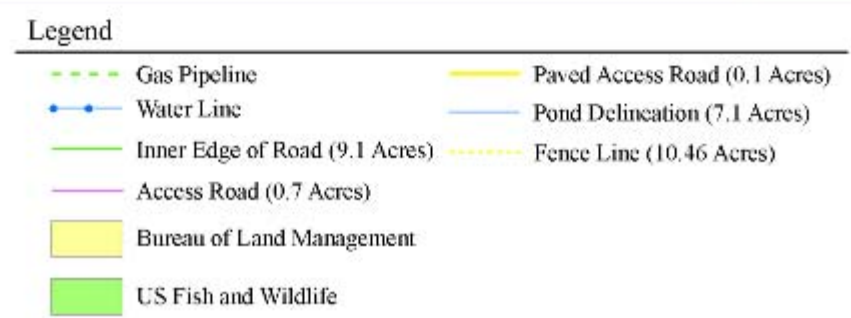
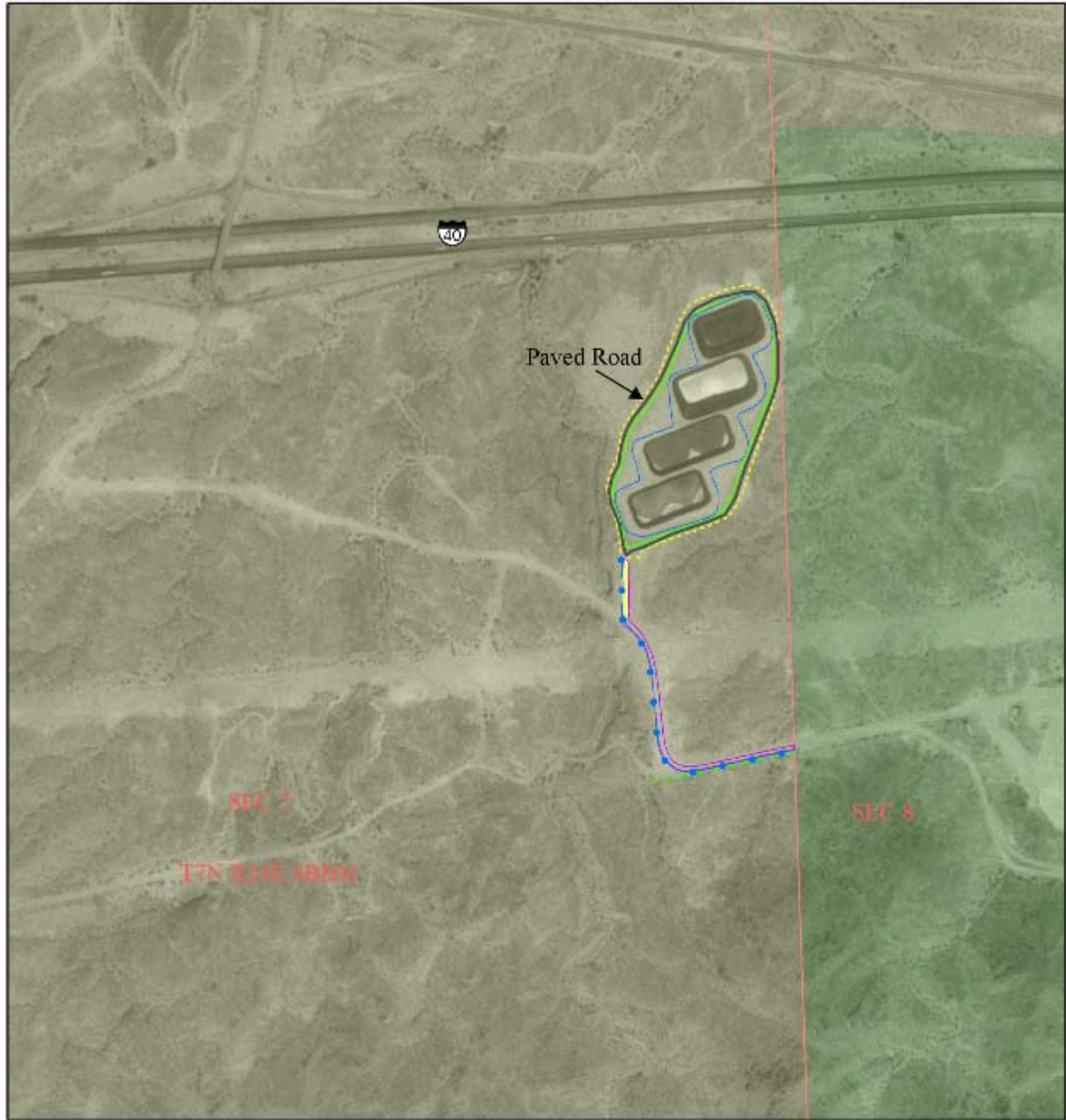
operation of the wastewater line. The access road has been used for maintenance and operations since its construction. The road has been and would continue to be limited to authorized personnel for access and to provide maintenance for the existing natural gas pipelines, the wastewater discharge line, and associated facilities. Access to the fenced pond area is and would continue to be limited exclusively to authorized personnel operating under PG&E's existing Health and Safety Plan for the site. Maintenance and inspection of the facilities would occur periodically and on an as-needed basis.

2.1.3 Evaporation Ponds

The four evaporation ponds are existing facilities that have been and would continue to be used to store and dispose of wastewater from the cooling towers associated with PG&E's Topock Compressor Station. The ponds were constructed in 1989 on an approximate ten acre parcel of land under the jurisdiction of the BLM. The ponds are constructed with two synthetic liners and are structurally sound.

2.1.4 Site Clean-up and Restoration

Upon termination of the need for the facilities, PG&E would remove all above ground improvements and equipment, and would restore the land to a condition that is satisfactory to the BLM's authorized officer.



Topock
Right-of-Way
Grant Renewal

FIGURE 2



2.2 ALTERNATIVES

2.2.1 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Evaluation

PG&E considered the possibility of moving the existing evaporation ponds to a location outside of federal jurisdiction or to an alternative location on federal land. These alternatives would require the development of additional access roads, extending the water lines through land managed by the BLM. New impacts (including land disturbing impacts) would be created in sensitive areas including areas currently managed to reduce or minimize such impacts (e.g., Areas of Critical Environmental Concern). Replacement of the ponds would create at least ten acres of new disturbance in addition to the area required for the water line and access road extensions. In addition to the significant costs, these alternatives were eliminated from further consideration as not reasonable because of the additional environmental impacts in contrast to using existing facilities.

PG&E also considered the possibility of physically transporting the wastewater offsite to acceptable locations (likely in Phoenix and/or Los Angeles). It is estimated that on average six trucks per day would be required to transport the wastewater, up to approximately 14 trucks per day during peak discharge periods. Each truck would transport 5,000 gallons of water at the cost of 31 cents per gallon, which would amount to between 3.4 and 7.9 million dollars each year. This alternative was not considered due to the significant cost.

2.2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative was considered for this project. Under the No Action Alternative, PG&E's ROW grant for the wastewater discharge line, access/service road, and four evaporation ponds would not be renewed. The existing facilities would initially remain on-site without authorization. BLM would subsequently require closing the existing evaporation ponds and perform abandonment and/or reclamation procedures under the terms of the existing grant, and PG&E would not have an on-site disposal area for the wastewater. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project.

3 – AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Relevant environmental issues have been identified through the scoping process, biological and cultural resources research, and past actions within the vicinity of the Proposed Action (Table 1). Relevant issues are limited to those that were identified during scoping and that may have an adverse or beneficial impact on physical, biological, cultural, and/or socioeconomic resources within the vicinity of the Proposed Action. Resources identified which are not expected to be impacted or which are not present, or whose potential affect is mitigated is not included as relevant.

C

TABLE 1				
RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES				
Environmental Resource	Resource Present?	Likely Scoping Interest?	Resource Affected?	Resource Analyzed?¹
Land Uses				
Residential Use	No	No	No	No
Commercial Use	No	No	No	No
Energy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special Land Designations	No	No	No	No
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wilderness	No	No	No	No
Prime/Unique Farmland	No	No	No	No
Rangeland Health	No	No	No	No
Water Resources				
Water Quality	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Floodplains	No	No	No	No
Wetlands/Riparian	No	No	No	No
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	No	No	No
Earth Resources				
Topography	Yes	No	No	No
Soils	Yes	No	No	No
Cultural Resources				
Archaeological/Historical Sites	No	Yes	No	Yes
Native American Concerns	No	Yes	No	Yes
Biological Resources				
Federally Listed Species/Critical Habitat	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Special Status Species	Unlikely	Yes	No	Yes
Other Wildlife Resources	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Vegetation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds	No	Yes	No	Yes
Migratory Birds	Unlikely	Yes	No	Yes
Air Quality	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visual Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transportation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

TABLE 1
RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental Resource	Resource Present?	Likely Scoping Interest?	Resource Affected?	Resource Analyzed?¹
Noise	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safety				
Health and Human Safety	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Wildfire Potential	No	No	No	No
Hazardous Materials	No	No	No	No
Socioeconomics				
Socioeconomics	No	No	No	No
Environmental Justice	No	No	No	No

¹ Only resources marked Yes were analyzed in Chapters 3 and 4.

3.2 LAND USES

3.2.1 Energy

The existing pipeline, evaporation ponds, and access road under consideration for this project are currently part of PG&E's energy infrastructure in California. The facilities support the continued operation of the Topock Compressor Station, which functions to compress natural gas so that it can be transported through pipelines to PG&E's customers in northern and central California. The compressor station is critical to PG&E's ability to supply an adequate supply of natural gas to northern and central California.

3.2.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The project area lies within two special management areas identified within the newly approved Lake Havasu Resource Management Plan. The first is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) known as the Beale Slough Riparian and Cultural (BSRC) ACEC and the second is the Topock-Needles Special Cultural Resource Management Area (SCRMA). These areas are both established to protect features and resources found in proximity to the study area and are described more fully below.

Beale Slough Riparian and Cultural ACEC

The BSRC ACEC was established to manage and restore regionally important riparian areas, some of which were destroyed during the 1951 Reclamation channelization of the Colorado River. In addition to the biological conservation and improvement contemplated for future actions, the area is rich with cultural and historical resources and regionally important to local Tribes. The ACEC designation is designed to prevent irreparable damage to relevant characteristics or important values.

Topock-Needles Special Cultural Resource Management Area

The SCRMA was designated as a conservation area for Traditional Use and Future Use. Traditional Use sites are those that have been identified by Indian Tribes as important for maintaining their cultural identity. Conservation of Future Use areas are sites reserved for any unusual cultural resource not currently appropriate for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study. Management decisions will require motorized traffic to use existing access roads and the monitoring of sites at least once per year and documenting changes in site conditions. The Topock Maze is one of these sites.

3.3 WATER RESOURCES

3.3.1 Water Quality

The Topock Compressor Station began operating in 1951, and until 1985, used hexavalent chromium as an anti-corrosion additive in its cooling water. From 1951 to 1968, cooling tower wastewater was discharged into percolation beds in a normally dry wash next to the Topock Compressor Station.

Beginning in 1964, PG&E treated the wastewater to remove hexavalent chromium and, in 1970, installed an underground injection well to receive treated wastewater. In 1971, PG&E began installation of a series of lined evaporation ponds, and from 1971 to 1974 alternated disposal of the treated wastewater between the injection well and the lined ponds. By 1974, all wastewater was disposed of in the completed lined ponds. In 1985, PG&E stopped using the chromium-based additive and switched to a non-hazardous, phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor additive. In 1989, PG&E replaced the former single-lined evaporation ponds with the double-lined ponds that exist today on BLM lands. The original ponds were removed and closed in the early 1990s. PG&E's disposal of wastewater from ongoing operations is regulated by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), a board of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.4.1 Archaeological and Historical Sites

All applicable archaeological and historical data was retrieved from a comprehensive survey of approximately 1,800 acres surrounding the current project area undertaken and reported upon by Applied Earthworks (2007). That study was conducted in relation to PG&E's groundwater investigation and remediation activities being performed in the area. Background research was conducted to determine if archaeological and historical sites could be affected by the continued operation and maintenance of the evaporation ponds. For purposes of this environmental assessment, BLM evaluated historic properties (which may include historic or prehistoric archaeological sites or objects, historically or architecturally significant structures, buildings, or traditional cultural places) that are listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

A portion of the archaeological site known as the Topock Maze (Locus A) is located approximately 800 feet east of the evaporation ponds and was listed on the NRHP in 1978. It is located outside of the project area for the pipeline, access road and evaporation ponds. The Topock Maze is a very large and complex desert intaglio or geoglyph feature totaling over 30 acres. The portion of the Topock Maze located 800 feet from the evaporation ponds is 18 acres in size and is one of the three loci described as the Topock Maze archaeological site. Its distinguishing features are its size and its multilinear geometric configuration, created by gathering the surface stones that constituted the desert pavement into "windrows", leaving the intervening space between the windrows void of stones and exposing the much lighter colored soil below. Loci B and C are located north of I-40.

None of the sites identified by Applied Earthworks (2007) are located within the area occupied by the pipeline, access road, or evaporation ponds on BLM land. No additional fieldwork was conducted for this project. A letter report (Caruso 2007) was prepared for the proposed project for the purpose of NHPA Section 106 consultation.

The property also lies within an area designated by the Lake Havasu Resource Management Plan as the SCRMA (see Section 3.1.2). This is an area designated for conservation of sites identified by Indian Tribes as important for maintaining their cultural identity, and for unusual sites subject to scientific or historical study.

3.4.2 Native American Concerns

Members of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe have stated that the Topock Maze and surrounding area is an important religious site for the Mojave people. This position is not shared by all Mojave people. The Fort Mojave, Chemehuevi and Colorado River Indian Tribes have indicated that the Colorado River is an important feature in the context of the area for Native American Tribes. The Chemehuevi Mountains, in particular the peaks known as The Needles, figure prominently in the Mojave life cycle belief system.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The project area has been extensively studied for biological resources. A Programmatic Biological Assessment (BA, 2007) was prepared for the area surrounding the Topock Compressor Station, including the current project area. The Programmatic BA was prepared to analyze any past, present, and future remedial and investigation actions at the PG&E Topock Compressor Station.

Supporting reports and studies were conducted for the Programmatic BA. In 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 PG&E contracted CH2M Hill and Garcia and Associates (GANDA) to conduct protocol presence/absence Mojave Desert Tortoise surveys, which included the current project area. GANDA was contracted to conduct protocol presence/absence surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher surveys in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Additionally, the USFWS conducts annual Yuma clapper rail surveys along the Colorado River and has concluded the surveys on the project area are unnecessary. The results of the surveys are discussed below.

The project area and surrounding area is generally dominated by disturbance/development. The project components (pipeline, access road, and evaporation ponds) themselves constitute a majority of the disturbance. Adjacent areas include disturbances such as dirt roads, I-40, gas pipelines, and the Topock Compressor Station. Undeveloped/undisturbed areas are generally vegetated.

3.5.1 Federal and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Federal and State listed threatened or endangered wildlife species potentially occurring within the project area were identified using information from the Federal and State resource agencies and by querying the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). A total of seven Federally-listed and ten State listed threatened or endangered species with the potential to occur within the proposed project area were identified and are listed in Appendix C. Species identified in Appendix C were examined to assess the probability of encountering them on the project site and to determine if further study was warranted.

Based on this review, the Mojave Desert tortoise (Tortoise) was identified as potentially occurring within the project area.

Mojave Desert Tortoise

Status

The Tortoise was listed as federally threatened on April 2, 1990 (50 CFR Part 17.55; 55 Fed. Reg. 12178-12191). The Tortoise is listed as threatened by the State of California. Critical habitat, approximately 9 miles west of the project site, for the Tortoise was designated by the USFWS on February 8, 1994 (50 CFR Part 17.59; 59 Fed. Reg. 5820-5866). The project area does not contain critical habitat for the Tortoise.

The decline of the Tortoise population is attributed to habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation resulting from increased human population, urbanization, collection, overgrazing, fire, drought and off-road vehicle travel. Another important factor contributing to population decline is an upper respiratory tract disease, which spreads among tortoises (USFWS 1994).

Project Area Surveys

Protocol Tortoise presence/absence surveys were conducted by GANDA and CH2M Hill in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Surveys did not find any live Tortoises, tortoise scat, or tracks. Three disarticulated Tortoise carcasses were found along with potentially suitable burrows. Two carcasses were within drainages and the third was on a mesa top. Analysis of the carcasses indicated that they were at least four years old. Burrow entrances with openings adequately sized to accommodate Tortoise entry were observed. No scat, tracks or other signs of desert tortoise use were observed at burrow entrances.

3.5.2 Special Status Species

In addition to reviewing the Federal and State listed threatened and endangered species, special status species were also reviewed. Special status species include those listed as “sensitive species” by the BLM. Special status species and their potential to occur in the area are evaluated in Appendix C. This information was obtained from the BLM list of sensitive species for the Lake Havasu Field Office. One BLM special status species, LeConte’s Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) has the potential to occur within the project area.

LeConte’s Thrasher

LeConte’s thrasher occurs within the San Joaquin Valley, Owens Valley, Kern River Basin, and the Mojave and Colorado deserts. Where the species exists, they occur in low densities with five pairs or less within a one square mile area (CDFG 2007e). Populations of this species appear to be declining. Reasons attributed to the species decline are habitat elimination caused by off-road vehicle travel and agricultural development. The species is very wary of humans (CDFG 2007e).

3.5.3 Other Wildlife Resources

Wildlife common to the area includes various reptiles, birds, and mammals inhabiting the creosote bush scrub of the Mojave Desert. Wild burros (*Equus asinus*) and big horn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) have also been observed in the close vicinity. Other species that may utilize the area include side-blotched lizards (*Uta stansburiana*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and bobcat (*Felis rufus*).

3.5.4 Vegetation

Creosote Bush Scrub

Creosote bush scrub dominates vegetation found adjacent to the project area. Creosote bush scrub is a shrub community dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*). Limited other vegetation occurs. No vegetation over shrub height (0 to 7 feet) occurs and there is very little ground cover. Vegetation is sparse and widely distributed. Other species occurring within this community include burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), allscale (*Atriplex polycarpa*), split grass (*Schismus* sp.), spineflower (*Chorizanthe* sp.), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), golden cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), cheesebush (*Hymenoclea salsola*), dalea (*Dalea mollisma*), red barrel cactus (*Ferocactus pilosus*), sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), and ratany (*Krameria erecta*) (CH2M Hill 2005a).

3.5.5 Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

Invasive species and noxious weeds are non-native and grow rapidly, spread rapidly, and out-compete native species. No invasive species or noxious weeds were identified within the project area.

3.5.6 Migratory Birds

With the exception of domestic pigeons, house sparrows, and European starlings, all birds in the project vicinity are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703-712). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act states it is unlawful to take, kill, or possess migratory birds that are listed under its protection. The majority of the project passes through disturbed areas not conducive to nesting birds.

3.6 AIR QUALITY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air Quality and Standards has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principal pollutants, which are called “criteria pollutants”. These are Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), Ozone (O₃), and Sulfur Oxides (SO) (EPA 2007a). The project area is located within EPA’s Region 9, which considers air quality levels within the entire states of Arizona, Nevada, and California (2007b). According to air quality data gathered from attainment/non-attainment maps

produced by EPA, the area where the facilities are located is within attainment areas for all six principal pollutants.

According to the EPA definition, an attainment area is: a geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based primary standard (NAAQS) for the pollutant. Attainment areas are defined using federal pollutant limits set by EPA. A nonattainment area, by EPA definition, is a geographic area in which the level of a criteria air pollutant is higher than the level allowed by the federal standards.

3.7 VISUAL RESOURCES

The BLM classifies lands that it administers into four Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class Objectives, which provide management direction and threshold standards to which management activities are measured. The VRM Class Objectives range from Class I, the most scenic and therefore most sensitive to development changes, to Class IV, the least scenic and also least sensitive. The BLM currently manages the area as a Class III area (BLM 2007). Class III objectives are to partially retain the existing character of the viewshed. The level of change to the characteristic viewshed should be moderate. Any proposed activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Any changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

3.8 TRANSPORTATION

Access to the evaporation ponds is achieved from I-40 along Park Moabi Road. Park Moabi Road is paved to the point where access to the ponds begins. Trucks traveling from the compressor station or the evaporation ponds would access I-40 from the Park Moabi Road interchange.

3.9 NOISE

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Environmental noise is usually measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA). Environmental noise typically varies over time, and different types of noise descriptors are used to account for this variability. The noise descriptor most commonly used to establish noise exposure guidelines for specific land uses is the day/night average noise level (commonly referred to as DNL). The noise level experienced at a particular site or area depends on the distance between the source and a specific receptor (humans, wildlife, or sensitive places), presence or absences of noise barriers and other shielding features, and the amount of noise reduction provided by the intervening terrain.

The vast majority of land adjacent to the proposed project alternatives is uninhabited, although the existing ponds are adjacent to I-40 and implementation of the No Action Alternative would likely involve travel through many communities. Rural undeveloped areas with a population density of less than 20

people per square mile have a typical average day-night sound level of 35 DNL (National Academy of Sciences 1977).

3.10 HEALTH AND HUMAN SAFETY

A four inch pipeline is currently used to transport wastewater containing phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor additives from PG&E's Topock Compressor Station to four evaporation ponds for disposal. The wastewater containing the phosphate-based additives is non-hazardous. The existing evaporation ponds are currently used to store and dispose of the non-hazardous wastewater from the cooling towers associated with the compressor station.

Access to the project facilities is limited exclusively to authorized personnel operating under PG&E's existing Health and Safety Plan for the site. Operation and maintenance activities at the compressor station location would not change. Changes from the automated discharge system to a vehicle transport system for water discharge removal, under the No Action Alternative, would require minor modifications to the existing compressor station to accommodate truck traffic.

4 – ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The Environmental Consequences Chapter describes the changes or impacts to the human environment that can be expected (directly, indirectly and cumulatively) from implementing the Proposed Action in contrast to the No Action Alternative.

The No Action Alternative consists of BLM not granting the requested ROW. As discussed in Section 2.2.2, the existing ponds would initially remain on site without a current entitlement and BLM would subsequently require closing the existing ponds and implementing reclamation or abandonment procedures according to the existing grant. It is anticipated that temporary impacts to certain resources, including Air Quality, Visual, Transportation, Noise, and Health and Human Safety would occur during reclamation and/or abandonment depending upon the scope of the work ultimately required by the BLM. Additionally, if the existing facilities could not be used, PG&E would likely have to physically transport the wastewater offsite to acceptable locations likely in Phoenix and/or Los Angeles. It is estimated that on average six trucks per day would be required to transport the wastewater, up to approximately 14 trucks per day during peak discharge periods, and that additional indirect impacts to some resources including Air Quality, Visual, Transportation, Noise, and Health and Human Safety would occur. PG&E would obtain any additional required permits in the event that overland hauling was to occur. Implementing the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the project's purpose and need.

4.1 LAND USES

4.1.1 Energy

There would be no short term impacts to the functionality of the Topock Compressor Station or gas pipelines with implementation of the Proposed Action. Approval of the Proposed Action would be beneficial since it would satisfy the project's purpose and need and assist PG&E in fulfilling their obligation to provide on-time gas deliveries to their customers in California.

Similarly, there would be no short term impacts to the functionality of the Topock Compressor Station or gas pipelines from the No Action Alternative, although there would be additional costs associated with transportation of the discharged water to the receiving stations. Long term impacts associated with the No Action Alternative would consist of a considerable increase in the cost of routine operations and indirect impacts to energy resources by requiring trucks to transport discharged water to Phoenix or Los Angeles. Each truck would transport 5,000 gallons of water at the cost of 31 cents per gallon, which would amount to between 3.4 and 7.9 million dollars each year.

4.1.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There would be no impact to the BSRC ACEC or the Topock-Needles SCRMA as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action.

Minor indirect impacts to the viewing area within the ACECs may result from the No Action Alternative because increased traffic associated with trucking the discharged water may increase the contrast of the natural setting.

4.2 WATER RESOURCES

4.2.1 Water Quality

Water quality would not be affected by either alternative. The Proposed Action is to reauthorize the existing pipeline, access road, and evaporation ponds and would not alter existing operations or facilities. PG&E stopped using the chromium-based additive in 1985 and switched to non-hazardous phosphate-based additives, minimizing water quality impacts. In 1989, PG&E replaced the former single-lined evaporation ponds with double-lined ponds. All facilities are operated, and would continue to operate, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.3.1 Archaeological and Historical Sites

Neither alternative would affect archaeological or historical sites because none are present within the proposed ROW.

4.3.2 Native American Concerns

No Traditional or Cultural use sites are located within the project. (e.g., areas proposed for the ROW). The Tribes have identified the Topock Maze, various intaglios in the general area, the Colorado River and areas along the Colorado River corridor as sensitive. The Tribes have indicated they are sensitive to modern and non-natural features developed in the viewshed of the river corridor and therefore prefer a return to the natural setting. The existing ponds and access roads, however are an incremental addition to the non-natural setting, which contains buildings, highways, roadways, railroads, pipelines, power lines, etc.; and their presence or removal under either alternative are not expected to contribute measurably to the return to a natural viewshed. Truck traffic anticipated under the No Action Alternative would cause additional activity within the viewshed in comparison to the Proposed Action.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

The Programmatic BA prepared for the Topock Compressor Station investigation and remedial activities analyzes a much larger area of potential effect and activities than what is considered in this EA for the proposed project. Because of the larger area of potential effect considered in the Programmatic BA 2007, which includes the Colorado River, a “may affect not likely to adversely affect” determination was made for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yuma Clapper Rail, Razorback Sucker, and Bonytail Chub primarily because these species are associated with the riparian and riverine habitat provided by the Colorado River. However, for the Topock Evaporation Ponds Grant of ROW Renewal Project there would be “no effect” to the above referenced species under either alternative due to the none occurrence of riparian or riverine habitat for these species within or near the project area, therefore no impacts would occur. The Tortoise has the potential to occur within the project area and is considered in detail below.

Mojave Desert Tortoise

The proposed project “may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect” the Tortoise under either alternative. No Tortoises were observed in four years of protocol surveys. Survey results indicate past use of the project area by the desert tortoise, although no recent signs were observed (CH2M Hill 2005, GANDA 2005a, 2006a). Several desert tortoise carcasses found in the area were dated and determined to be over four years old. The dating system used does not allow a determination of age past four years, so it is possible that the carcasses are much older.

Habitat within the project area is generally considered poor due to lack of vegetation cover, annual forage vegetation, and burrow sites and the presence of disturbances such as roads, evaporation ponds, fences, and the Topock Compressor Station. Desert tortoise use of the project area is considered to be low and limited to transient occurrences (CH2M Hill 2007). The potential for impacts may increase for the No

Action Alternative because of anticipated truck travel within the project area. However, this potential is still considered very low because truck travel is confined to developed roadways devoid of tortoise habitat.

No critical habitat for this species is designated within the project area. Additionally, any truck traffic associated with implementation of the No Action Alternative would be confined to existing roads and not within designated critical habitat. Thus, there would be no destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat (e.g., “no effect”), associated with either the Proposed or the No Action Alternatives.

4.4.2 Special Status Species

LeConte’s Thrasher

There is a low potential that this species would occupy the project area. The project area generally contains disturbance and human activity, which the species does not tolerate well. Impacts are anticipated to be minor and temporary, under either alternative. Additionally, the project facilities are existing and PG&E is applying for a permit to maintain the status quo. Maintaining the status quo would not increase, or create, new disturbance and would not result in impacts to this species.

4.4.3 Other Wildlife Resources

Wildlife common to the area may be temporarily impacted by human activity in the project area consistent with regular operation and maintenance activities. Impacts are anticipated to be minor and occur during brief periods under either alternative.

4.4.4 Vegetation

Vegetation is not impacted from either continued operation or maintenance of the facilities or from implementation of the No Action Alternative.

4.4.5 Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

No change in composition, or increase in noxious weeds or invasive species is anticipated as a result of implementation of the project or under the No Action Alternative, and thus no impacts are anticipated.

4.4.6 Migratory Birds

Pursuant to the MBTA, the Proposed Action was reviewed and a determination was made that it would not result in the intentional take of any migratory bird species of concern under either alternative, nor would either alternative result in the unintentional take likely to have measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations, including species of concern and priority habitats.

4.5 AIR QUALITY

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no change to air quality.

Impacts to air quality are expected to occur under the No Action Alternative because of the use of trucks to transport the discharge water to Phoenix or Los Angeles. Changes in air quality are expected to be localized, minor, and incremental.

4.6 VISUAL RESOURCES

No impacts to the existing conditions are expected from implementation of the Proposed Action.

No impacts to the existing conditions are expected from the No Action Alternative, although minor indirect impacts due to increased traffic from transport trucks may be visible to viewers. Likewise, if BLM requires land disturbing activities at the termination of the grant under the No Action alternative, temporary visual impacts would be expected commensurate with the level of work required by the BLM. The area is currently managed to reduce impacts to viewsheds (see Section 3.1.2).

4.7 TRANSPORTATION

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no impacts to transportation systems or resources.

Minor impacts to transportation systems, particularly locally, are expected from the No Action Alternative due to anticipated increased truck traffic. It is estimated that on average six trucks per day would be required to transport the wastewater, up to approximately 14 trucks per day during peak discharge periods. Truck travel for transport of wastewater would likely require minor modifications to the existing compressor station loading system. Other transportation systems are expected to be sufficient to accommodate the incremental increases in truck travel. Major transportation arterials are located in proximity to the existing compressor station.

4.8 NOISE

Few noise receptors occur around the compressor station and existing conditions to noise levels would remain the same from implementation of the Proposed Action; therefore, there would be no impacts to noise receptors.

Although noise levels at the compressor station would be consistent with existing levels under the No Action Alternative, minor impacts are expected to occur along local and other roadways to Phoenix or Los Angeles. However, similar trucks currently use these roadways, and therefore, noise impacts (particularly on the larger highways to Phoenix and Los Angeles) are considered minor incremental increases to existing conditions.

4.9 HEALTH AND HUMAN SAFETY

There would be no change to existing operations from implementation of the Proposed Action; therefore, no additional impacts to health and human safety are expected.

Impacts to health and human safety are expected to be minor from the No Action Alternative as a result of the activities required to load trucks with the discharged water. The use of trucks instead of the existing automated equipment is expected to incrementally increase the possibility of health and safety hazards due to potential traffic accidents.

4.10 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The renewal of the existing ROW will not create any impacts. The existing setting is historically and currently an area where corridors for transportation and commerce are concentrated. In modern times this has resulted in the development of roads, highways, interstate highways, railroads, power lines, gas pipelines, and communication lines. Industrial and recreation facilities, including the PG&E compressor station and marinas, are part of the existing developed environment. Because of the topography of the area, the need for convenient crossing of the Colorado River, and the important connection between California and Arizona, the current uses are likely to remain in place. The characterization and reasonably foreseeable future remediation activities being performed by PG&E in the project area is also expected to continue to be a priority.

Additionally, the area is a rich source of natural and cultural resources. The Topock Marsh and Colorado River are adjacent to the Proposed Action area and the BLM has implemented management strategies to conserve these features. Therefore, it is assumed that future decisions to develop infrastructure would be planned in order to minimize impacts to the natural and cultural environment, as well as mitigate impacts by providing features such as riparian improvements, when warranted.

It is not expected that the Proposed Action would create cumulative impacts. The past, present, and future conditions reasonably contain these types of uses and activities and the continued operation and maintenance of the ponds is consistent with these uses and activities. In addition, the Proposed Action does not add features or activities to the existing facilities.

Cumulative impacts from the No Action Alternative may occur, but these are anticipated to be minor and primarily associated with traffic increases on existing local and other roads (e.g., additional minor impacts to Air Quality, Visual, Transportation, Noise, and Health and Human Safety).

5 – MITIGATION MEASURES AND STIPULATIONS

1. The Holder shall conduct all activities associated with the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the right-of-way within the authorized limits of the right-of-way.
2. If desert tortoises are observed, care shall be taken by the Holder not to disturb or destroy desert tortoises or their burrows. Handling, collecting, damaging, or destroying desert tortoises is prohibited. Any sightings of desert tortoise should be immediately reported to the Lake Havasu Field Office, Wildlife Biologist at (928)-505-1200. If a desert tortoise is endangered by any activity, that activity shall cease until the desert tortoise moves out of harms way or can be relocated by a permitted U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service certified handler only.
3. Prior to any excavation or backfilling, the Holder shall routinely inspect all open holes and/or trenches for trapped species. If species become entrapped within open holes and/or trenches, the project biologist shall be notified to remove the animal and relocate to a safe location.
4. The Holder shall inspect all construction material staging areas for tortoises and other species prior to moving materials (ex. pole piles, culverts, trailers, etc.)
5. The Holder shall remove all trash, food items and debris caused by the activity and promptly place within closed, raven-proof containers. These would be regularly removed from the project site to reduce the attractiveness of the area to ravens and other desert predators.
6. The Holder shall contact the Lake Havasu Field Office Wildlife Biologist at (928) 505-1200, 48 hours prior to any construction activities.
7. The Holder shall use only existing roads and trails to access or regress from the project site.
8. The Holder shall not harass or haze wild burros and/or big horn sheep.
9. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the Holder, or any person working on behalf of the Holder, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the 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. An evaluation of the discovery would be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The Holder could be responsible for the cost of the evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures would be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the Holder.
10. The Holder shall be responsible for weed control on disturbed areas within the limits of the right-of-way. The Holder is responsible for consultation with the Authorized Officer and/or local authorities for acceptable weed control methods within limits imposed in the grant stipulations.
11. Prior to relinquishment, abandonment, or termination of this right-of-way, the Holder shall apply reasonable and appropriate dust abatement and control measures to all disturbed areas. The abatement and

measures shall be designed to be effective over the long-term (e.g., rock mulch or other means) and acceptable to the Authorized Officer.

12. No hazardous material, substance, or hazardous waste, (as these terms are defined in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, or the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901, *et seq.*) shall be used, produced, transported, released, disposed of, or stored within the right-of-way area at any time by the Holder. The Holder shall immediately report any release of hazardous substances (leaks, spills, etc.) caused by the Holder or third parties in excess of the reportable quantity as required by federal, state, or local laws and regulations. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal, state or local government agency as a result of a reportable release or spill of any hazardous substances shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved federal, state or local government agency.

The Holder shall immediately notify the Authorized Officer of any release of hazardous substances, toxic substances, or hazardous waste on or near the right-of-way potentially affecting the right-of-way of which the Holder is aware.

As required by law, Holder shall have responsibility for and shall take all action(s) necessary to fully remediate and address the hazardous substance(s) on or emanating from the right-of way.

13. The Holder is still liable for original stipulations listed as Appendix B.

6 – LIST OF PREPARERS

6.1 DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND RESEARCH

This EA was prepared by Transcon Environmental, Inc., 3740 E. Southern Ave., Ste. 218, Mesa, Arizona.

TRANSCON ENVIRONMENTAL		
Name	Education and Experience	Project Responsibility
Michael Warner	M.L.A., Landscape Architecture/ Environmental Planning B.S., Agronomy (Plants and Soils); 18 years experience	Project Director, NEPA Compliance, CEQA Compliance
Beau Goldstein	M.A., Anthropology B.A., Anthropology; 9 years experience	Project Manager, NEPA Compliance, Cultural Resources, Resource Analysis
Greg Gryniewicz	B.S., Biology; 5 years experience	Biological Resources
Roy Baker	B.S., Geography; 9 years experience	GIS and Mapping

6.2 CONTRIBUTING PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

This EA was prepared with the contribution and review efforts of the following professionals:

Name	Agency/Company	Project Responsibility
Cory Bodman	BLM, Lake Havasu Field Office	BLM Project Lead, NEPA Review
Lin Bowie	TRC Essex	Project Lead
Jim Priest	BLM, Lake Havasu Field Office	Biological Resources
Sally Murray	BLM, Needles Field Office	Cultural Resources,

7 – CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Federal and State agencies (Native American consultation efforts are currently ongoing) contacted throughout the planning and permitting phases of the project:

7.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES

- US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

7.2 AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

The Environmental Assessment was posted on the Arizona BLM Internet at the following location: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lake_havasu_field.html. A public comment period was offered between February 27, 2008 and March 28, 2008. No comments were received prior to the close of the comment period.

7.4 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

One verbal comment was received from the Fort Mohave Indian Tribe (Tribe) at a meeting on March 21, 2008 with the BLM Colorado River District Manager (DM) and Lake Havasu Field Manager.

COMMENT: The Tribe's Chairman expressed a concern about the proposed 30 year length of the Grant. No specific lease length was offered by the Chairman, The Chairman also reiterated their continued concern about contamination from the operation of the PG&E facilities (Appendix A).

RESPONSE: The DM sent an e-mail (Appendix A) to the Tribes Chairman stating that PG&E has received a waste water discharge from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The permit lists specific requirements that PG&E must comply with or they will lose their permit and thus their ability to use the ponds. PG&E has submitted their reports as required by permit requirements and RWQCB has reviewed the reports and has allowed PG&E to continue to use the ponds. However, with the Tribe's concerns, it is reasonable to reduce the Grant to 20 years. The Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 2805.11 (1) allows the BLM to consider (i) "The public purposed served", in determining a reasonable term for the ROW Grant. As a result, the term of the lease was changed from 30 years to 20 years. This change did not require a change in the analysis.

8 – REFERENCES

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Garcia and Associates

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Garcia and Associates

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APPENDIX A
PROJECT SCOPING

James_Priest@blm.gov
To 01/10/2008 09:30 AM John_Earle@fws.gov
cc Cory_Bodman@blm.gov
Subject Evaporation Pond ROW Renewal

Hey John,

Just to followup on our conversation yesterday and stay as coordinated as possible.

The LHFO has received an application for renewal from PG&E of their ROW grant for the evaporation ponds and pipeline. However, because the pipeline from the Compressor Station to the evaporation ponds crosses Refuge property prior to crossing BLM property, we are interested in the status of the ROW for the pipeline on the Refuge.

Our understanding is that the PG&E ROW grant for the pipeline to cross the Refuge is current and is also a perpetual authorization.

If you would, let us know if this is correct or incorrect and if there may any unique issues that we may need to be aware of before any authorization.

Also, after developing the BE, I determined that there is not any new information on ESA species in the near area to warrant initiating any Section 7 consultation. I thought the EA developed by PG&E was largely adequate to mitigate any disturbances overall and only added a few, more general conservation measures to the list.

Let me know if there are questions.

Appreciate it.....

Jim Priest
Wildlife Biologist
BLM-Lake Havasu Field Office
2610 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86496
(M)928-505-1200
(D)928-505-1246

John_Earle@fws.gov
01/10/2008 10:19 AM

To James_Priest@blm.gov
cc

Subject
Re: Evaporation Pond ROW Renewal

Hi James,

PG&E's has a perpetual ROW across the refuge for a gas pipeline and associated appurtenances. We have decided that the wastewater discharge line is a necessary part of the pipeline. The ROW does allow us to regulate their activities as they may affect wildlife management.

John

Steve Politsch/LHFO/AZ/BLM/OOI 03/24/2008 08:39 AM

To

Cory Bodman/LHFO/AZ/BLM/OOI@BLM cc

Subject

Fw: Proposed Renewal of PG&E Ponds

The FMIT concern was the length of time of the ROW. They indicated it was to long, but did not offer a preferred time.

They are real concern about leakage and having another Topock problem on our hands for future generation to live with.

So, we should look into shorting the lease, bonding and liability insurance as some of the stipulations.

Steve Politsch

Lake Havasu Field Manager (928) 505-1264

Forwarded by Steve Politsch/LHFO/AZ/BLM/OOI on 03/24/2008 08:34 AM

Becky Heick/LHFO/AZ/BLM/DOI 03/21/2008 02:22 PM

To

shanlewis@fortmojave.com, timothywilliams@fortmohave.com cc

Steve Politsch/LHFO/AZ/BLM/DOI@BLM, Cory Bodman/LHFO/AZ/BLM/DOI@BLM,
Patricia A Taylor/LHFO/AZ/BLM/DOI@BLM, Cathy Wolff-
White/LHFO/AZ/BLM/DOI@BLM, Michael Taylor/AZSO/AZ/BLM/DOI@BLM bcc

Subject

Proposed Renewal of PG&E Ponds

Thank you for meeting with Steve Politsch and me today regarding the proposed renewal for the PG&E ponds. Below is information on the internet address for the environmental assessment for this project. Internet Web address to access the Environmental assessment for the proposed renewal of the PG&E ponds: http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lake_havasu_field.html
Environmental Assessment - Renewal of PG&E

The following is additional information regarding our discussion on the water quality sampling and pond line integrity, including timing of sampling/testing/monitoring.

Purpose and Need

The existing facilities are vital to the function of the Topock Compressor

Station by providing management of water used for cooling and heat exchange, and are needed to effectively transfer and store wastewater generated from the compressor station. The compressor station itself is critical to PG&E's ability to supply an adequate supply of natural gas to northern California. PG&E is seeking a renewal of the existing right-of-way (ROW) authorizing its facilities on BLM land for a minimum of

30 additional years prior to the expiration of the current authorization.
Water Quality Sampling

A Waste Discharge Permit was issued for the ponds to PG&E from Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). In order for PG&E to comply with the

permit there are specific requirements including the following:

1. Periodic sampling of the water - previously it was quarterly and currently it is twice a year.
2. Sampling has been ongoing for many years and has been in compliance with the requirements of the permit.
3. Reports are available to the public from the RWQCB or from PG&E.

4. The permit is restrictive about what type of waste stream is allowed to go to the ponds; this includes any modifications to chemistry used in the towers.

5. There is a set of standards required as to what sampling criterion levels are acceptable within the ponds.

6. Several monitoring wells have been installed to evaluate condition of the aquifer around the pond.

Pond Liner Integrity

The pond liners are continually monitored through visual inspection and use of the vadose zone monitor. The ponds are triple lined to catch any leakage. The first and second liners are synthetic between the first two liners is a leachate collection layer. The leachate layer is designed to tell if any collection of water is present between the synthetic liners.

1. Liners are required to be tested periodically, to determine if water has collected between the first and second liner. If there is a leak detected, the pond is drained down and the synthetic barrier is repaired.
2. PG&E has a vadose zone monitor below the clay liner (several feet) below the pond. There is a device that is installed to detect any type of moisture and sample what is collected as necessary.

3. The permit requires that any release (leaks in the liner) must be reported to RWQCB.

As indicated during the meeting, the comment period for the environmental assessment ends on March 28, 2008. We look forward to receiving any comments you may have regarding this project. Please send your comments to: Bureau of Land Management; Cory Bodman; 2610 Sweetwater; Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406; Telephone (928) 505-1215 / Fax (928)505-1200; Email: lake_havasublm.gov.

Rebecca Heick

Colorado River District Manager Colorado River District Office 2610 Sweetwater Avenue

Lake Havasu, AZ 86406
(928) 505-1300

fax (928) 505-1318

3107-24-0043

Topock Compressor Station

Form 2800-14
(August 1985)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RIGHT-OF-WAY GRANT/TEMPORARY USE PERMIT

Issuing Office

Yuma District

Serial Number

CA-19401

1. A (right-of-way) (permit) is hereby granted pursuant to:

- a. Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761);
- b. Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185);
- c. Other (describe) _____

2. Nature of Interest:

- a. By this instrument, the holder Pacific Gas & Electric Co., 1401 Fulton St., Fresno, CA 93760 receives a right to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate a wastewater discharge line, access/service road & four evaporation ponds. on public lands (or Federal land for MLA Rights-of-Way) described as follows:

T. 7 N., R. 24 E., Section 7, ~~E2NE4~~, San Bernardino Base Meridian

- b. The right-of-way or permit area granted herein is _____ feet wide, _____ feet long and contains _____ acres, more or less. If a site type facility, the facility contains 10 acres.
- c. This instrument shall terminate on _____, 20 years from its effective date unless, prior thereto, it is relinquished, abandoned, terminated, or modified pursuant to the terms and conditions of this instrument or of any applicable Federal law or regulation.
- d. This instrument may may not be renewed. If renewed, the right-of-way or permit shall be subject to the regulations existing at the time of renewal and any other terms and conditions that the authorized officer deems necessary to protect the public interest.
- e. Notwithstanding the expiration of this instrument or any renewal thereof, early relinquishment, abandonment, or termination, the provisions of this instrument, to the extent applicable, shall continue in effect and shall be binding on the holder, its successors, or assigns, until they have fully satisfied the obligations and/or liabilities accruing herein before or on account of the expiration, or prior termination, of the grant.

EXHIBIT B

GENERAL STIPULATIONS

A-1. Responsibilities

- A. Prior to written notice the absence of any comment by the Authorized Officer with respect to any plan, design specification, or other document which may be filed by Holder with the Authorized Officer shall not be deemed to represent in any way whatever any assent to, approval of, or concurrence in such plan, design, specification, or other document, or of any action proposed therein. (The Authorized Officer means the Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, or a person delegated to exercise his/her authority with respect to this grant.)
- B. With regard to the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the project: (1) Holder shall ensure full compliance with the terms and conditions of this grant, including these stipulations, by its agents, employees, and contractors (including subcontractors at any level), and the employees of each of them. (2) Unless clearly inapplicable, the requirements and prohibition imposed upon Holder by said stipulations are also imposed upon Holder's agents, employees, contractors, and subcontractors, and the employees of each of them. (3) Failure or refusal of Holder's agents, employees, contractors, and subcontractors, or their employees to comply with said stipulations shall be deemed to be the failure or refusal of Holder. (4) Holder shall require its agents, contractors, and subcontractors to include said stipulations in all contracts and subcontracts which are entered into by any of them, together with a provision that the other contracting party, together with its agents, employee, contractors, and subcontractors, and the employees of each of them, shall likewise be bound to comply with said stipulations.

A-2. Orders of the Authorized Officer

- A. The Authorized Officer may call upon the Holder at any time to furnish any or all data related to preconstruction, construction, operation, maintenance, and termination activities undertaken in connection with the project on public lands.
- B. The Authorized Officer at any time may issue a written decision suspending any activity of Holder in connection with the project on public lands, which in the judgment of the Authorized Officer immediately threatens serious or irreparable harm to life (including wildlife), property, or the environment. In the event the Authorized Officer determines that the Holder has failed or refused to comply with any provision of this grant or any other authorization issued by the Department of the Interior in connection with the project, and after such due notice as the Authorized Officer deems practicable, the Authorized Officer may issue a written decision suspending or terminating any or all of Holder's activities under this grant or any or all such authorizations. Holder shall not resume such suspended or terminated activities until given written permission to do so by the Authorized Officer. Any dispute arising under this grant, including these stipulations shall be decided by the Authorized Officer.
- C. Any decisions or approvals of the Authorized Officer which are required by these stipulations to be in writing may in emergencies be issued orally and confirmed in writing as soon thereafter as possible.

A-3. Liability of Holder

The Holder shall be held to a standard of strict liability for damage or injury to the United States resulting from fire or soil movement (including landslides, and slumps, as well as wind and water-caused movement of particles) caused or substantially aggravated by any of the following within the right-of-way or permit areas: (1) Activities of Holder including, but not limited to, construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of facility and (2) Activities of other parties employed by Holder including, but not limited to: land clearing and logging, (b) earth-disturbing and earth-moving work; (c) blasting, (d) vandalism and sabotage.

A-4. Reservation of Certain Rights to the United States

- A. The United States reserves and shall have a continuing right of access to any part of the lands (including the subsurface of, and the air space above, such lands) and a continuing right of physical entry to any part of the project that is subject to the right-of-way for inspection or monitoring purposes and for any other purpose or reason that is reasonable consistent with any right or obligation of the United States under any law, regulation, or grant.
- B. The United States reserves the right to issue additional use authorizations to third parties for compatible uses on, over, above, under, or adjacent to, the lands subject to the right-of-way. Before the United States issues an additional use authorization to a third party, the United States will notify Holder of its intentions and shall consult with Holder before taking final action in that regard.

A-5. Reimbursement of Department Expenses

Holder shall reimburse the United States for all costs incurred by the Department for monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of authorized facilities on the right-of-way and for the protection and rehabilitation of the lands involved.

A-6. Right of United States to Perform

If, after thirty (30) days, or in an emergency such shorter period as shall be reasonable, following the making of a demand therefore by the Authorized Officer, Holder, or its agents, employees, contractors, or subcontractors, shall fail or refuse to perform any of the actions or stipulations required by this grant, the United States shall have the right, but not the obligation, to perform any or all of such actions at the sole expense of Holder.

A-7. Liens

The Holder shall with reasonable diligence, discharge any lien against public lands that results from any failure or refusal on its part to pay or satisfy any judgment or obligation that arises out of or is connected in any way with the construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of all or any part of the project.

A-8. Transfer

Holder shall not, without obtaining the prior written consent of the Authorized Officer, transfer in whole or in part any right, title, or interest in this right-of-way grant. Any such transfer other than with respect to any involuntary passage of title, without in each instance obtaining the prior written consent thereto of the Authorized Officer, shall be absolutely void, and, at the option of the Authorized Officer, shall be deemed to be a breach of this right-of-way grant.

A-9. Federal, State, and Local Laws and Regulations

Holder shall comply to the extent practicable, with all State and Federal laws applicable to the project, construction, operation, maintenance which is authorized and all such additional State and Federal law along with the implementing regulations that may be enacted and issued during the term of the grant.

A-10. Termination of Use

Upon revocation or termination of this grant or termination of use of any part of the project located on public lands, Holder shall remove all above ground improvements and equipment and shall restore the land to a condition that is satisfactory to the Authorized Officer.

A-11. Public Improvements

- A. Holder shall protect existing roads and trails, fences, ditches, and like improvements during construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the project. Holder shall not permanently obstruct any road or trail without the prior approval of the Authorized Officer. Damage permanently caused by Holder to improvements shall be promptly repaired by Holder to a condition which is satisfactory to the Authorized Officer.
- B. Construction activities (storage yards, access roads, assembly areas) which fall outside of the granted right-of-way area must be authorized prior to use by either an amendment to the grant, a separate right-of-way, short term right-of-way, or otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer, depending on the permanency of the action.
- C. If there are deviations from the location of facilities as shown on the original maps, Holder shall file relinquishment of the unused portions of the right-of-way. The relinquishment shall be accompanied by a map of the amended location of the right-of-way for the project as actually constructed.

A-12. Reclamation Withdrawn Land

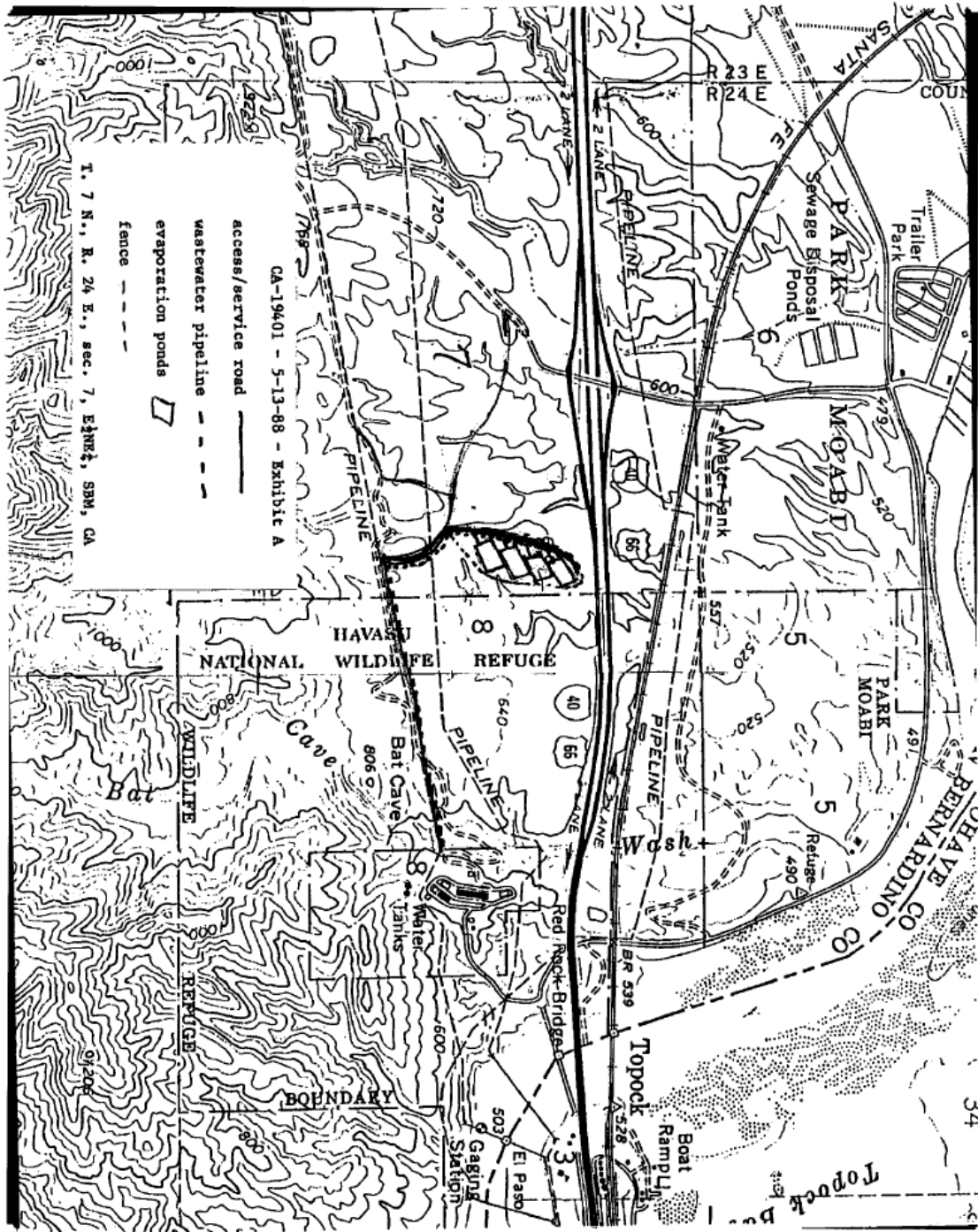
There is reserved to the United States its successors and assigns, the prior right to use any of the land herein described to construct, reconstruct, operate, and maintain dams, dikes, levees, reservoirs, canals, wasteways, laterals, ditches, drainage works, flood channels, telephone and telegraph lines, electric transmission lines, roadways, and appurtenant irrigation structures, without any payment made by the United States, or its successors and assigns, for such rights with the agreement on the part of the holder that if the construction or reconstruction of any or all of such dams, dikes, levees, reservoirs, canals, wasteways, laterals, ditches, telephone and telegraph lines, electric transmission lines, roadways, or appurtenant irrigation structures across, over, or upon said lands should be made more expensive by reason of the existence of improvements or workings of the holder thereon, such additional expense is to be estimated by the Secretary of the Interior, whose estimate is to be final and binding upon the parties hereto, and that within thirty days after demand is made upon the holder for payment of such sums, the holder will make payment thereof to the United States, or its successors and assigns, constructing or reconstructing such dams, dikes, levees, reservoirs, canals, wasteways, laterals, ditches, telephone and telegraph lines, electric transmission lines, roadways, or appurtenant irrigation structures across, over, or upon said lands. There is also reserved to the United States the right of its officers, agents, employees, licensees, and permittees, at all proper times and places freely to have ingress to, passage over, and egress from all of said lands for the purpose of exercising, enforcing, and protecting the rights reserved herein.

Holder further agrees that the United States, its officers, agents, employees, and assigns, shall not be liable for any damage to the improvements or works of the holder resulting from the construction, reconstruction, operation, or maintenance of any of the works hereinabove enumerated.

Exhibit C

ENVIRONMENTAL STIPULATIONS

- B-1. If Holder or its contractors require materials from the public lands, application shall be made under applicable regulations for such materials. No materials may be removed by Holder or its contractors without the written approval of the Authorized Officer.
- B-2. Use of Pesticides
- Use of Pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the Holder shall obtain from the Authorized Officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the Authorized Officer. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the Authorized Officer prior to such use.
- B-3. Solid Waste Disposal
- Holder shall remove or dispose of all waste in a manner consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. The term "waste" as used herein means all discarded matter, including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, equipment, and temporary buildings. All used chemicals, waste oil, grease, and other petroleum products will be removed by the Holder to an approved sanitary landfill.
- B-4. Hazardous Waste
- If facilities authorized for construction under this right-of-way grant use any hazardous materials (e.g. Polychlorinated Biphenyls) such use shall be in a totally enclosed manner in accordance with provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 as amended (see 40 CFR Part 761). Additionally, any release of hazardous materials (leaks, spills, etc.) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any Federal Agency or State government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any hazardous material shall be furnished to the Authorized Officer within 5 working days of the occurrence of the spill or release.



BIOLOGICAL HABITAT AND SPECIES INFORMATION

TABLE C-1			
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES¹			
Species	Status²	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	FC, SE	No	Nests in riparian forests along broad, lower floodplains of larger river systems. Requires broad, well-developed, low-elevation riparian woodlands of primarily mature cottonwoods and willows. Extirpated from a large portion of the historical range in California with current breeding populations restricted to four major areas (the Sacramento Valley, Kern River, Lower Colorado River and the Prado Basin). Winters in South America and migrates north during May or June. Flies south beginning in August. (CDFG 2000f) No suitable riparian habitat exists within the project area. The nearest portion of the project area is approximately one mile from the Colorado River, where suitable habitat may exist.
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE, SE	No	Inhabits dense riparian habitats along streams, rivers and wetlands. Found in association with cottonwood, willow, boxelder, tamarisk, Russian olive, buttonbush and arrowweed. Breeding occurs between late April and September. Found at elevations ranging from 75 to 9,180 feet. No suitable riparian habitat exists within the project area. The nearest portion of the project area is approximately one mile from the Colorado River, where suitable habitat may exist.
Bonytail Chub <i>Gila elegans</i>	FE, SE	No	Historically occurred in the Colorado River and small low-gradient tributaries. Currently a few individuals occur in Lake Mohave and there is a possibility to find individuals down the river, between Parker Dam and Davis Dam. Species is extremely rare and close to jeopardy. (CDFG 2000b) There is no suitable aquatic habitat located within the project area. The project is approximately one mile distant from the Colorado River.
Desert Tortoise (Mohave Population) <i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	FT, ST	Yes	See the main body of the text for a detailed discussion of the desert tortoise.

**TABLE C-1
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES¹**

Species	Status²	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Gila Woodpecker <i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>	SE	No	<p>Typically nests in saguaros and cordon (<i>Pachycereus pringlei</i>) cacti, but sometimes nests in willows and cottonwoods. Along the Colorado River known to nest in honey mesquite (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>) and screwbean mesquite (<i>Prosopis pubescens</i>). Limited use of fan palms (<i>Erythea armata</i>). In California the species is found among riparian woodlands, cottonwood groves, parks and neighborhoods, and orchards and vineyards. (NatureServe 2007)</p> <p>The vegetation known to support this species is not found within the project area.</p>
Elf Owl <i>Micrathene whitneyi</i>	SE	No	<p>In California nests in riparian forest composed of cottonwood, willow and mesquite. Nests in cavities of trees. Requires wide mature trees in order that walls of the cavities can be insulated from extreme high temperatures. Migrates after the breeding season (March to October). The greatest numbers in California occur at two sites one located approximately 10 miles north of Needles and the other 20 miles north of Blythe. (CDFG 2000d)</p> <p>The vegetation known to support this species is not found within the project area.</p>
Colorado Squawfish <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i>	FE, SE	No	<p>This species is found in warm, turbid, perennial rivers with a high silt content. This species is considered extirpated from Arizona and California waters. Future planning under the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan may change the species status. (CDFG 2000c)</p> <p>There is no suitable aquatic habitat located within the project area. The project is approximately one mile distant from the Colorado River.</p>
Yuma Clapper Rail <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	FE, ST	No	<p>In California known to inhabit margins of the Colorado River and Salton Sea. Species inhabits freshwater marshes and brackish water marshes as well as side waters. They have a preference for the tallest, densest cattail and bulrush marshes as well as areas where water is less than 30 cm deep. (CDFG 2000g)</p> <p>There is not suitable aquatic/marsh habitat located within the project area. Yuma clapper rails have been detected south of the South Dike and north of Topock Marina (USFWS 2005). These areas are over one mile from the project area.</p>

**TABLE C-1
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES¹**

Species	Status ²	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Arizona Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii arizonae</i>	SE	No	Occurs among riparian areas of the Colorado River. Found among cottonwood willow riparian forests. Formerly occupied areas all along the Colorado River, but now only known from a few locations. Known from near and south of Needles and near the Laguna Dam. (CDFG 2000a) There is no suitable riparian habitat located within the project area.
Razorback Sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	FE, SE	No	In the lower Colorado River basin, natural adult populations are known only from Lake Mohave, Lake Mead, and Lake Havasu. In 1995 surveys of California waters revealed populations in Senator Wash, High Levee Pond (Cibola National Wildlife Refuge), Emerald Canyon Golf Course, and Farm Refuge Pond (Imperial National Wildlife Refuge). These populations were stocked and are not natural. Species inhabits various habitats such as mainstem channels to slow backwaters of medium to large streams and rivers. In impoundments, they favor water of a meter deep or more, over sand, mud or gravel substrates. They spawn from late winter through spring along gravelly shorelines or bays and seem to migrate to smaller tributaries to spawn. (CDFG 2000e) There is not suitable aquatic habitat located within the project area. The project is approximately one mile distant from the Colorado River.

¹ Data gathered for areas within the following USGS topographic quadrangle maps: Whale Mountain, Needles, Topock, Castle Rock, Chemehuevi Peak, Snaggletooth, Monumental Pass, and Needles SW

² USFWS categories: **Endangered (FE)**—Taxa in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; **Threatened (FT)/Proposed Threatened (FPT)**—Taxa likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; **Candidate (FC)**—Species for which the USFWS has sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposals to list as Endangered or Threatened. Candidate species, however, are not protected legally because proposed rules have not been issued. **Experimental (FEX)**—Species considered to be experimental and non-essential in its designated use areas. **Conservation Agreement (FCA)** – Species protected by a Conservation Agreement between USFWS and other cooperating agency(ies)

California Endangered Species Act categories: **Endangered (SE)** - Taxa in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range; **Threatened (ST)** - Taxa likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; **Rare (SR)** – Species that, although not currently threatened with extinction, is found in such minimal numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if current environment deteriorate; **Candidate Species (SCS)** – Species that has been officially under review by the CDFG for addition to the threatened or endangered species. [Source: CDFG Fish and Game Code]. **Species of concern (SSC)** – Animals not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act, but which nonetheless 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. [Source: USFWS database (<http://ifw2es.fws.gov/EndangeredSpecies/lists/>)] [Source: CDFG website (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hcpb/species/ssc/ssc.shtml>)].

TABLE C-2
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR
BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Species	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Desert Sucker <i>Catostomus clarkii</i>	No	Not known to occur in California waters. Occurs in waters of the Lower Colorado Basin below the Grand Canyon. The aquatic habitat known to support this species is not found within the project area. Species no longer occurs in California.
Longfin Dace <i>Agosia chrysogaster</i>	No	Occurs within creeks and rivers. Prefers shallow water with medium currents and sand substrate. The aquatic habitat known to support this species is not found within the project area.
Sonora Sucker <i>Catostomus insignis</i>	No	Not known to occur in California waters. Occurs in low gradient to medium gradient creeks and rivers of Arizona and New Mexico. No aquatic habitat known to support this species is found within the project area. Species no longer occurs in California.
Arizona Toad <i>Bufo microscaphus</i>	No	Found within rocky streams and canyons within pine-oak habitat. May also be found in upland desert habitat. No aquatic habitat known to support this species is found within the project area.
Banded Gila Monster <i>Heloderma suspectum cinctum</i>	No	Found within the Sonoran desert. Typically, found among rocky foothills, bajadas, and canyons. In California occurrences are from isolated occurrences in the Clark, Kingston, Paiute, and Providence Mountains of eastern San Bernardino County. Occurrences of the species are reported from isolated mountain ranges, which are distant from the project area.
Chuckwalla <i>Sauromalus ater</i>	No	Inhabits rocky deserts, lava flows, hillsides and outcrops. Creosote bush is common habitat. Shelters in rock crevices. The species has not been observed during studies of the project area. Habitat is generally lacking components of preferred habitat.
Rosy Boa <i>Charina trivirgata</i>	No	Found in rocky areas of desert mountainous areas. Prefers canyons with permanent or intermittent streams. The rocky, mountain, habitat and preferred canyon habitat known to support this species do not occur within the project area.
Bendire's Thrasher <i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	No	Uses a variety of habitats. Affinity for areas with shrub, cacti, or tree cover and open ground. Does not occur in dense vegetation or grasslands. Nests in low trees, shrubs or cacti. Studies in California indicate that the species has an affinity for either Joshua trees, Spanish Bayonet, or Mojave Yucca (England and Laudenslayer 1989). Habitat components typically found within the species habitat are generally lacking.

TABLE C-2
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR
BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Species	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Gray Vireo <i>Vireo vicinior</i>	No	Occurs within hot arid shrubby areas. Prefers mesquite or pinyon juniper woodlands. In California species has been reported from chaparral dominated habitat, pinyon juniper and pinyon juniper mixed sagebrush habitat. In California the species is known from a few mountain ranges of the southern Mojave desert. Locations include San Bernardino Mountains, Laguna Mountains, Santa Rosa Mountains, and San Jacinto Mountains. The project does not occur among mountains or known, recent localities of the species.
LeConte's Thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	Yes	See the main body of text for a discussion on LeConte's Thrasher.
Western Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cucularia hypugea</i>	No	Occupies areas of low vegetation with mammal burrows. Often found among open fields, cleared lots, agriculture areas, and sometimes golf courses and surrounding airports. No suitable burrowing owl burrows were observed during the project review.
White-faced Ibis <i>Plegadis chihi</i>	No	Occurs within ponds, marshes, rivers, and swamps. Nests in marshes among low trees, rushes or on the ground. Gregarious. The aquatic habitat known to support this species is not found within the project area.
Allen's Lapped-browed Bat <i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	No	Mainly found among the Colorado Plateau, the Mogollon Rim and adjacent mountain ranges. Associated with ponderosa pine, pinyon-juniper, Mexican woodlands, and riparian areas. Roost in caves and abandoned mine shafts. Believed to feed on soft-bodied insects. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Arizona Myotis <i>Myotis lucifugus occultus</i>	No	Mainly occurs among ponderosa pine woodlands and pine oak woodlands but occurs among lower elevation riparian areas along the Colorado River. Colonies have been found in buildings and crevices between the timbers of a highway bridge. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area. The project would not impacts riparian habitat along the Colorado River.
Big Free-tailed Bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	No	Found primarily among rugged, rocky and riparian areas. Roosts in buildings, caves, holes in trees and crevices of cliffs. Forages on insects. The project area is not considered a rugged rocky type habitat typical of the species preferred habitat.
Cave Myotis <i>Myotis velifer</i>	No	Roosts in caves, tunnels, mineshafts, under bridges, and sometimes, manmade structures near a source of water. Winter roosts are greater than 6,000 feet. Common to areas of paloverde, creosote, brittlebush, and cacti. Opportunistic forager of insects. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.

TABLE C-2
HABITAT SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR
BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Species	Suitable Habitat	Rationale of Habitat Assessment
Pallid Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	No	Occurs within arid deserts and grasslands, often in rock crevices near water. Not common within conifer woodlands. Typically roost in rock crevices or buildings. Feeds upon insects. Species could forage or migrate through the project area. However the roost sites used by this species do not occur within the project area.
Pocketed Free-tailed Bat <i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	No	Found within arid low elevations of desert scrub and pine-oak forests. Associated with areas of high cliffs and rugged outcrops. Roosts in rock crevices. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Spotted Bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	No	Occurs within various habitats including dessert scrub, ponderosa pine forests, pinyon juniper woodlands, canyon bottoms, open pasture and hayfields. Prefers to roost in crevices of cliff faces. Feeds upon insects. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Townsend's Western big-Eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	No	Summer day roosts sites are located in caves and mines in a wide range of habitat types. Summer night roosts are often in buildings. Winter hibernation sites are within cold caves, lava tubes, and mines. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Western Mastiff Bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	No	Occurs within Sonoran desert scrub. Found near cliffs often in rugged rocky canyons with abundant crevices. Roosts in small crevices within the cliffs. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Yuma Myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	No	Found among a variety of habitats. Prefers cliffs and rock walls near water. Roost in caves, mineshafts, buildings, under bridges, and crevices in cliffs. No suitable roost sites occur within the project area.
Desert Bighorn Sheep <i>Ovis canadensis</i>	No	Occurs within canyons, mountains, foothills, and grasslands. Escape terrain such as cliffs, talus slopes, etc. is an important factor for habitat. No suitable habitat exists within the project area.
Scaly-stemmed Sand Plant <i>Pholisma arenaria</i>	No	Grows on roots of shrubs such as <i>Hymeoclea</i> , <i>Eriodiictyon</i> , <i>Isocoma</i> , <i>Chrysothamnus</i> , and <i>Ambrosia</i> . Inhabits sandy soil on the edges of washes and on dunes. The sand substrate required for this species is not found within the project area.