



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Phoenix Area Office
6150 West Thunderbird Road
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PXAO-1500
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Subject: Notice of Availability – Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Pima County Regional Middle Mile Fiber Optic Ring (Project), Pima County, Arizona – NEPA ID No. PXAO-26-03

Dear Interested Party:

The United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service as cooperating agencies, has prepared a final EA describing the potential environmental effects of the proposed award of funding to Pima County under NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (Program). The Program was authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429) and provides funding to encourage the expansion and extension of infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet. Pima County would use the funding to construct an approximately 134-mile, contiguous, open access fiber ring network through Pima County's urban core and adjacent rural communities.

A draft EA was released on March 30, 2026, which presented the proposed Project, existing conditions in the Project area, and the environmental effects that would be reasonably expected from implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. The draft EA was made available on NTIA's website (https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting/Draft_EA_Pima_County_Regional_Middle_Mile_Project) and during the 30-day comment period, one comment supporting the Project was received.

Reclamation has adopted the final EA and determined that its proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is recorded in a FONSI. The final EA and FONSI can be viewed on Reclamation's website at <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/index.html> and on NTIA's website at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting>.

INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA*, NEVADA*

* PARTIAL

To obtain paper copies of the final EA and FONSI, or for any additional information regarding this project, please contact Mr. Dominic Graziani, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office, at (623) 773-6250 or via email at dgraziani@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

Alexander B. Smith
Area Manager