

**ROUTING – FONSI for
Yuma County West County 19th Transfer Station**

Office	Initial	Date
Env. Planning & Compliance Group Manager (YAO – 7200: DeSantiago)		
RMO Chief (YAO - 7000: Wallis)		
Deputy Manager Office (YAO – 1000: Fulsome)		
Area Manager (YAO – 1000: Norris)		

Please return signed FONSI document to the Environmental Office (Julian DeSantiago – 7200).

Thank You.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

West County 19th Street Solid Waste Transfer
Station Yuma County, Arizona
YAO-FONSI 25-01

Lower Colorado Basin, Interior Region 8 – Yuma Area Office



Southeast view of the proposed Waste Transfer site

Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Introduction and Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and based on the details provided in the attached environmental assessment (EA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that implementation of the Proposed Action, construction of a solid waste transfer station along West County 19th Street in Yuma County, Arizona, would not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human and natural environment.

Reclamation has prepared the attached EA to evaluate potential impacts associated with the proposed construction of a solid waste transfer station and was prepared in accordance with NEPA of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508) for implementing NEPA, and the Department of the Interior's NEPA Regulations (43 CFR 46), and Reclamation Manual NEPA Policy. The EA is intended to serve environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), EO 11990 (Wetlands Protection), EO 12898 (Environmental Justice), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), and Department of the Interior (DOI) and Reclamation Indian Trust Asset (ITA) policies. Reclamation is the lead Federal agency pursuant to NEPA, as the Project would be implemented on Reclamation lands and introduce new facilities within those lands. A land use authorization from Reclamation is required in accordance with Reclamation's Directives and Standards Land Management and Development (LND) 08-01 (dated January 3, 2002, and last revised September 16, 2021).

Yuma County intends to undertake the Proposed Action if a land use authorization is granted. Proposed Action will consist of a 10-acre fenced area containing a variety of waste storage containers from 24 yards to 50 yards, an office structure, safety railings, lighting, a green waste grinder and burner, and paved avenues for customer and County vehicles. The waste transfer station is proposed to be located along West County 19th Street (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 211-23-003), between Avenue D and Avenue E. Final design plans for site layouts are forthcoming. However, the analysis in the EA assumes all potential Proposed Action elements would be implemented. Further details regarding the Proposed Action are included in Section 2.2 of the EA, which should be used as a companion document to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Resource Analysis

This section describes the existing environmental resources in the proposed development area that may be affected by the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative, if implemented. It also serves as the baseline for the comparisons of alternatives. It was determined that the potential effects on the following resources were either not present or found to be negligible and further analysis was not conducted: Noise, Recreation, Visual Resources, Floodplains, Environmental Justice and Socioeconomic Conditions, Indian Trust Assets, and Land Use.

Other resources were found to not be affected by the Proposed Action because they would be fully mitigated with the implementation of standard stipulations. Mitigation measures and best management practices (BMPs) to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects that may result from the implementation of the Proposed Action are summarized below:

Air Quality and Green House Gas Emissions

- During construction, dust abatement measures such as watering should be implemented to minimize dust emissions.
- The construction contractor shall ensure that heavy-duty diesel trucks and other construction equipment are properly tuned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure minimum emissions under normal operations.
- Vehicle and equipment traffic would be limited to existing roads as much as possible. Where equipment traffic or excavation is required outside of paved or graveled roads, water or soil binders would be applied to exposed surfaces. On-site stockpiles shall be covered or watered at least twice per day.
- Vehicle speed shall not exceed 15 miles per hour within the construction limits.
- Ground-disturbing activities would cease temporarily when wind speeds at the site exceed 25 miles per hour.
- A project information sign and contact phone number for citizens to report dust complaints should be posted at the construction site.

Water Resources

- County would implement an spill prevention, control, and countermeasure (SPCC) plan to contain and/or remove potential contamination to groundwater as discussed in Section 3.7.3 of the EA. An national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit would dictate stormwater controls and document potential releases.

Biological Resources

- All disturbed soils that would not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction would be seeded using species native to the vicinity of the Proposed Action.
- To prevent the introduction of invasive species seeds, all earth moving and hauling equipment should be cleaned free of dirt and debris at the contractor's storage facility prior to entering the construction site.
- To the extent practicable, activities will minimize trenching/digging of open trenches. Where trenches/holes cannot be backfilled immediately, escape ramps shall be constructed in each hole and at least every 90 meters in trenches. Escape ramps will be short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface. Ramp slopes should be less than 45 degrees (1:1). Any trenches or holes that are left open should be inspected for animals and animals removed prior to backfilling.
- Fencing shall follow AZ Game and Fish Department's Wildlife Compatible Fencing Guidelines to help design fencing to prevent wildlife entanglement and impalement and to help ensure wildlife movement is not restricted.
- Site construction workers shall be educated on biological resources that may occur on the site, with emphasis on listed and special status species such as the Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL) and Western Burrowing Owl (WBO). Education shall include, but not be

limited to, ecology, natural history, endangerment factors, legal protection, site mitigation measures, and hierarchy of command. Site rules of conduct shall be identified, including but not limited to speed limits, parking areas, looking under parked vehicles prior to moving them, trash deposition, off-site conduct in the area of the Proposed Action, and other employee response protocols.

- Prior to project initiation, an individual shall be designated as a field contact representative.
- The field contact representative shall have the authority to ensure compliance with protective measures for the FTHL and will be the primary agency contact dealing with these measures. The field contact representative shall have the authority and responsibility to halt activities that are in violation of these terms and conditions.
- All work areas shall be clearly flagged or similarly marked at the outer boundaries to define the limit of work activities. All construction and restoration workers shall restrict their activities and vehicles to areas that have been flagged to eliminate adverse impacts to the FTHL and its habitat. All workers shall be instructed that their activities are restricted to flagged and cleared areas.
- Existing roads shall be used for travel and equipment storage whenever possible.
- If wildlife is encountered during construction activities, they shall be moved out of harm's way, no more than 0.25 miles outside the project boundary within similar habitat.
- If personnel involved with the construction of the Proposed Action were to encounter any federal, state, or special-status species, work would stop, and the Reclamation Yuma Area Office would be contacted immediately at (928) 343-8100.
- Installation of artificial lighting should only use the minimum amount of light needed for safety. If feasible, "warmer" narrow spectrum lighting (amber, orange, red) is wildlife-friendly and should be used as often as possible to minimize the number of species affected by lighting. It is also beneficial that all lighting is shielded, canted, or cut to minimize the amount of upward shining light.

Archaeological, Cultural, and Tribal Cultural Resources

- In the unlikely event of an inadvertent discovery of archaeological or historical cultural resources or human remains, all activities within the immediate area of discovery must cease immediately. Telephone notification of the discovery must be made immediately to Reclamation's Environmental Group Manager and project archaeologist at (928) 343-8100. Reclamation will inform appropriate Native American Communities of any discovery. Reclamation would ensure that the stipulations of 36 CFR Part 800.11 are satisfied before activities can resume. The activity may resume only after Reclamation has authorized a continuance.
- Construction activities would be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to cultural resources by predominantly limiting project activities to previously disturbed areas. Consultation with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and local tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was completed for the Proposed Action.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials or Solid Waste

- A site-specific SPCC plan would be developed and implemented. The plan shall consist of reporting guidelines in the event of a spill, BMPs applicable to the hazardous materials, and employee training in the use of required equipment and proper handling of potentially hazardous materials.

- Hazardous materials used for this project would be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage.
- Areas for refueling of equipment would be chosen to prevent any accidental fuel leakage from contaminating surface water, groundwater, or soils.

Geology and Soils

- Disturbed soils should be compacted tightly in order to prevent any excess erosion.
- Watering trucks will be utilized to reduce erosion due to wind.

Traffic and Transportation

- A Traffic Control Plan would be submitted prior to initiating construction activities. The plan will detail the work to be completed, construction duration and schedule, and proposed traffic control methods.
- Traffic control devices would be used to direct traffic and support worker safety. These devices include traffic cones, barricades, signage, flags, or lighting devices for night work (as applicable).
- Flagmen or pilot cars will be utilized if construction activities require a lane closure.

Several other resources were analyzed for impacts from the Proposed Action which were inconsequential and indicated that mitigation measures were not deemed necessary. Further details of these resources and their impacts can be found in the EA.

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts, BMPs, and environmental commitments, as presented in the EA, Reclamation has concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action does not pose a significant adverse impact to the quality of the human and natural environment. Therefore, Reclamation will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Michael Norris
Area Manager, Yuma Area Office