Environmental Assessment for

The Proposed Right-of-Way Access Road and Arroyos Preserve Subdivision near Quartzsite, Arizona

Prepared for:

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At the Request of:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the La Paz County Public Works Department application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a right-of-way (ROW) to widen and pave an existing access road to the proposed Arroyos Preserve subdivision (Arroyos Preserve). The proposed road ROW would provide legal access to the proposed Arroyos Preserve.

The EA also evaluates the environmental impacts of development of the Arroyos Preserve as a connected action. BLM normally has no jurisdiction on private land; however, when a proposed project is dependent on an authorization for the use of BLM-managed lands, then BLM has a legal requirement to analyze the environmental impacts of the connected actions (in this case the road ROW and the residential subdivision) in the same environmental analysis. This is in accordance with regulations found in 40 CFR 1508.25.

This document describes the environment and resources that might be affected by the proposed ROW and subdivision and the impacts both actions might have on the environment and resources in the area.

Four alternatives for the development of the proposed ROW are considered for this project and are described in detail in Section 2.0.

1.1 Background

James Kunisch is proposing to develop a 40-acre parcel into the Arroyos Preserve, a 129-lot subdivision with a nine-hole golf course and water feature. Water would be obtained from on-site domestic wells. The well water does not require treatment. Wastewater would be treated by a wastewater treatment facility to be built near the northeast corner of the Arroyos Preserve site. Liquid chlorine, tablet sodium sulfite, and methanol would be used to process the wastewater. An application for an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the proposed treatment plant has been submitted to ADEQ.

The privately owned Arroyos Preserve site is landlocked by BLM-managed public land. To access the proposed Arroyos Preserve safely and legally, the existing dirt access road would require widening and paving. The proposed road would extend north from 53rd Street to 450 feet south of the northeast boundary of the 40-acre property (see Figure 1).

1.2 Project Location

The project area is located approximately 5 miles south of Quartzsite, Arizona, and 2.5 miles west of Highway 95. The proposed ROW is located in the E½SE¼ of section 19 and the W½SW¼ of section 20, and a small portion in the NE¼NE¼ of section 30, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, Gila and Salt River Baseline and Meridian (GSRB&M). The proposed Arroyos Preserve site is located in the NE¼SE¼ of section 19, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M, and is identified by the La Paz County Assessor's Office as Parcel Number 302-32-012.

The USGS topographic map for the project area has been included as Figure 1.

1.3 Purpose and Need

The purpose of and need for the ROW is to provide safe and legal access to the proposed Arroyos Preserve. The site for the proposed Arroyos Preserve consists of 40-acres of private property that

is landlocked by land managed by BLM. The development of the private property is dependent on BLM authorizing the ROW. Currently, there is a dirt access road to the proposed Arroyos Preserve site. However, the existing dirt road would not provide safe and legal ingress and egress for the public. Therefore, if the proposed Arroyos Preserve is to be developed it will require the existing dirt road to be widened and paved to satisfy La Paz County road standards.

1.4 Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with Federal regulations and BLM policies. The proposal is in conformance with the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP), February 1987, as amended, which provides the framework for managing public lands affected by this proposal.

1.5 Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Policy

The proposed ROW would be authorized under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Public Law 94-579) (FLPMA). Applicable regulations for this proposal are contained within 43 CFR 2800.

1.6 Decision to be Made

BLM shall decide whether or not to authorize the ROW to access the proposed Arroyos Preserve and, if so, under what conditions.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Section 2.0 describes three reasonable alternatives as well as the no action alternative. The preferred alternative is Alternative C.

2.1 Proposed Actions Common to Alternatives A-C

Each alternative would require the straightening, paving, and widening of the existing 12-foot-wide dirt access road to the proposed Arroyos Preserve. Under each of the alternatives, the portion of the proposed road located within the E½NE¼SE¼ of section 19, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M, occurs on private land and would be granted to La Paz County for the proposed ROW by the landowner.

The Arroyos Preserve would be developed as a connected action. The 40-acre site would be developed into a 129-unit subdivision with a nine-hole golf course and a water feature. See Figure 2 for a conceptual layout of the proposed Arroyos Preserve.

Drinking water for the proposed Arroyos Preserve would be supplied by on-site domestic wells. No treatment of the well water is proposed.

A wastewater treatment facility would be built within the Arroyos Preserve site near the northeast corner. The facility would have the capacity to process up to 42,000 gallons of wastewater per day. Liquid chlorine, tablet sodium sulfite, and methanol, used to process the wastewater, would be stored on-site.

The existing electric fence that parallels the center line of the proposed road would be removed as noted in Figure 5. Fencing would be installed parallel to the section line along the west and east sides of the proposed ROW. A three-wire, low profile fence would be installed along each side of the ROW. The fence posts would be constructed of steel. The fence wire would be constructed of 12½-gauge aluminized steel. The wires would be spaced 24 inches, 42 inches, and 60 inches from grade. White flagging would be attached to the top wire between posts during construction to alert wildlife and hikers to the existence of the new fence. Refer to the specific alternatives below for the exact placement of fencing.

2.2 Alternative A

66-Foot-Wide ROW Alignment on Section Line and Fencing in Sections 19, 20, and 30

If this alternative is chosen, BLM would approve a 66-foot-wide by 2,222-foot-long road ROW for La Paz County, approximately 4.1 acres of land. No temporary construction easement would be necessary. Refer to Figure 3 for an illustration of this alternative.

This alternative follows normal road construction practices, which allow for easy road alignment along section lines. Currently, however, power poles run along the section line. In addition, there are portions of the existing dirt road that would be outside the alignment of the new road. Those portions of the existing dirt road outside the alignment of the new road would be graded, contoured, and planted with native vegetation to allow the rehabilitated road to blend with the surrounding land.

The proposed road would be aligned along the section line between sections 19 and 20, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M. A small portion of the road would extend into the NE¼NE¼

of section 30, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M, where the new road would intersect 53rd Street.

The road would consist of two 12-foot-wide paved lanes centered on the section line and an additional 1 foot of paving and 5-foot-wide shoulders beyond the lanes. The remaining 30 feet of ROW, 15 feet on each side of the shoulders, would be used for fencing and during construction.

Under Alternative A, the fence on the west side would be placed in sections 19 and 30. The fence would be constructed 31 feet west of the ROW centerline, starting in section 30, 33 feet south of section 19, and running north approximately 1,352 feet to the southeast corner of the proposed Arroyos Preserve site. The fence on the east side would be placed in section 20, 31 feet east of the ROW centerline. This fence would start 50 feet north of section 29 and run north for approximately 2,139 feet. (See Section A-A in Figure 3).

The existing power poles would have to be moved and the power lines realigned to allow for construction of the new road.

2.3 Alternative B

82-Foot-Wide ROW Alignment with 16-Foot-Wide Raised Center Median and Fencing in Sections 19, 20, and 30

Alternative B would provide access to the proposed Arroyos Preserve without relocating the existing power poles. If this alternative is chosen, BLM would approve an 82-foot-wide by 2,222-foot-long road ROW for La Paz County, approximately 4.2 acres of land. No temporary construction easement would be necessary. Refer to Figure 4 for an illustration of this alternative.

The proposed road would be aligned along the section line between sections 19 and 20, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M. A small portion of the road would extend into the NE¼ of the NE¼ of section 30, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M, where the new road would intersect 53rd Street.

A 16-foot-wide raised median would be constructed on the section line to protect the existing power poles. The proposed road would be aligned on both sides of the median. Twelve-foot-wide paved lanes would extend from each side of the median and an additional 1 foot of paving and 5-foot-wide shoulders would extend beyond the lanes. The remaining 30 feet of ROW, 15 feet on each side of the shoulders, would be used for fencing and during construction.

Under Alternative B, the fence on the west side would be placed in sections 19 and 30. The fence would be constructed 39 feet west of the ROW centerline, starting in section 30, 33 feet south of section 19, and running north 1,352 feet to the southeast corner of the proposed Arroyos Preserve site. The fence on the east side would be placed in section 20, 39 feet east of the ROW centerline. This fence would start 50 feet north of section 29 and run north for approximately 2,139 feet (see Section B-B in Figure 4).

2.4 Alternative C - Preferred Alternative

82-Foot-Wide ROW Alignment with 16-Foot-Wide Raised Center Median and Fencing in Sections 19 and 20

Alternative C is identical to Alternative B except for the placement of the fence on the west side of the proposed ROW. If this alternative is chosen, BLM would approve an 82-foot-wide by

2,222-foot-long road ROW for La Paz County, approximately 4.2 acres of land. No temporary construction easement would be necessary. Refer to Figure 5 for an illustration of this alternative.

The proposed road would be aligned along the section line between sections 19 and 20, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M. A small portion of the road would extend into the NE¼ of the NE¼ of section 30, Township 3 North, Range 19 West, GSRB&M, where the new road would intersect 53rd Street.

A 16-foot-wide raised median would be constructed on the section line to protect the existing power poles. The proposed road would be aligned on both sides of the median. Twelve-foot-wide paved lanes would extend from each side of the median and an additional 1 foot of paving and 5-foot-wide shoulders would extend beyond the lanes. The remaining 30 feet of ROW, 15 feet on each side of the shoulders, would be used for fencing and during construction.

Under Alternative C, the fence on the west side would be placed in section 19. The fence would be constructed 39 feet west of the ROW centerline, starting 50 feet north of section 30 and running north for 1,269 feet to the southeast corner of the proposed Arroyos Preserve site. The fence on the east side would be placed in section 20, 39 feet east of the ROW centerline. This fence would start 50 feet north of section 29 and run north for approximately 2,139 feet (see Section C-C in Figure 5).

2.5 Alternative D - No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, BLM would reject the ROW application. The existing 12-foot-wide road would remain the only access to the proposed Arroyos Preserve site and the current development plans would most likely be abandoned.

2.6 Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis

2.6.1 Alternative A

Alternative A would require relocating the existing power poles to outside the proposed road ROW. This would require a new utility ROW, disturbances during relocation, and additional, ongoing disturbances to access the power poles for maintenance and repairs outside of the currently existing ROW. Refer to Figure 3 for an illustration of Alternative A.

2.6.2 Alternative B

Alternative B would have similar impacts to Alternative C and would also create a hazard for motorists traveling west on 53rd Street. This alternative calls for fencing the west side of the proposed road starting at the ROW southern boundary, 33 feet south of section 19. However, 53rd Street continues west as a dirt road beyond the intersection of the proposed road and 53rd Street. Motorists traveling west would have to swerve south in order to avoid the fence. In addition, motorist who swerve south to avoid the fence would be disturbing previously undisturbed land. Refer to Figure 4 for an illustration of Alternative B.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the general setting and existing resources.

3.1 General Setting

The proposed ROW and the connected Arroyos Preserve project are located in a rural setting approximately 5 miles south of Quartzsite, Arizona, 2.5 miles west of Highway 95, and approximately 6 miles east of the Dome Rock Mountains (see Figure 1). The site is located within the Sonoran Desert, which typically experiences high summer temperatures (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit) and mild winters. Rainfall averages approximately 3 inches per year with high evaporation rates common to the region.

The proposed Arroyos Preserve site is currently used as a residence and there is a small residential community southeast of the south end of the proposed road. Another small residential community lies 2 miles north of the site. The land immediately to the north is undeveloped private property. The proposed road and the property to the south, west, and east of the project site is land managed by BLM. There are existing ROWs on the BLM-managed land; however, most of the land is vacant and undeveloped. Arizona Public Service power poles are situated along the section line between sections 19 and 20 within the proposed ROW.

The proposed Arroyos Preserve site is landlocked by the BLM-managed land. There is an existing 12-foot-wide, meandering dirt road extending north from 53rd Street to the proposed Arroyos Preserve site. This road has been used for more than 10 years. Additional off-road vehicle dirt roads braid through the proposed ROW.

There is moderate traffic south of the propose road due to the small residential community. Highway 95 experiences moderate to heavy seasonal traffic from winter visitors, travelers, and local residents.

3.2 Resources Not Affected by the Proposed Action or Alternatives

The following resources are not found in the project area and, therefore, would not be affected by the proposed action or alternatives. These resources are dismissed from further analysis in this EA:

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Environmental Justice/Socioeconomic
- Farmlands Prime/Unique
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Wetlands/Riparian Zones
- Wilderness
- Energy Policy

3.3 Affected Resources

This section discusses the current environmental conditions, the baseline, of resources potentially affected by the proposed action or alternatives, if implemented. Section 4 analyzes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to these resources by the proposed action and alternatives.

3.3.1 Fish and Wildlife

A Biological Evaluation was conducted for this project; the report is included as Appendix 1. The proposed ROW is disturbed and provides little suitable habitat for wildlife. The proposed Arroyos Preserve site consists mostly of gravel to desert pavement and little wildlife was observed in these areas. Several washes do contain an abundance of vegetation that is attractive to wildlife. A number of bird species were observed in the area. A small number of mammals and reptiles were either observed or are expected to occur in the area.

No special status species were expected to occur in the project area.

3.3.2 Vegetation

Vegetation is sparse in the project area, except for in the washes, due to gravel and desert pavement conditions and the existing disturbed nature of the proposed ROW. Plants observed in the area include creosote bush, white bursage, blue palo verde, ironwood, ocotillo, honey mesquite, and saguaro.

3.3.3 Non-native Invasive Species

The Federal Noxious Weed Act established a Federal program to control the spread of noxious weeds. Executive Order 13112 requires the use of relevant programs and authorities to prevent the introduction of invasive species; to detect and respond rapidly to, and control populations of, such species in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner; to monitor invasive species populations accurately and reliably; and to provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded.

A non-native invasive plant survey was conducted on October 9, 2007 (see Appendix 2). No regulated, non-native invasive plant species were identified. However, conditions were dry during the survey and there is the potential for unidentified non-native invasive plant species to occur at the project site.

3.3.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are defined as nonrenewable remains of human activity, which include artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and areas of religious significance that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of physical remains, areas where significant human events occurred (even though physical evidence of such events no longer exists), and the physical setting immediately surrounding the actual resource.

NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the impacts of proposed actions on all cultural resources. Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, only adverse effects to significant cultural resources, also known as historic properties, need to be considered and mitigated. Historic properties are prehistoric or historic cultural sites that are listed or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Aztlan Archaeology, Inc., (Aztlan) conducted the Class I (literature search) and Class III (pedestrian inventory) cultural resources work for this proposed action. The Class I research identified six previous cultural surveys and 15 previously recorded cultural resource projects within one mile of the project area. Very little of the land within a mile of the proposed action has been previously inventoried. Except for one large block survey, which was conducted in 1994, the previous surveys were primarily linear inventories for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The previously recorded cultural sites consist of prehistoric desert pavement

features (i.e., trails, rock clusters, rock rings, cleared areas, and rock alignments) that were identified during the 1994 block survey. These prehistoric sites are located more than a ½-mile from the proposed project area. While not previously recorded as an archaeological site, a 1919 GLO map shows a "Corral" and a "Windmill & Tank" inside the project's Area of Potential Effects. In addition, Beamers Well, a USGS placename on topographic maps dating to 1971, is located within the project area.

The Class III survey was conducted by Aztlan in September 2006 and July 2007. Two historical cultural sites, which correspond to the sites identified on the GLO and USGS maps, were identified during this survey. Site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) consists of the remains of a small ranching/grazing operation that consists of a cement water trough, poured cement footers with associated timbers (potentially windmill remnants), a poured cement slab with associated wood beams, a wooden corral, and an associated historic artifact scatter. Aztlan recommends this site as eligible to the NRHP. The second site identified by the Aztlan survey is designated AZ R:7:121 (ASM) and consists of two capped metal well pipes (Beamers Well), a depression, and some associated historic artifacts. Aztlan recommends this site as ineligible to the NRHP. No prehistoric sites were identified within the boundaries of the Aztlan survey.

3.3.5 Native American Religious Concerns

According to the cultural resource inventory, there are no prehistoric sites located within the footprint of the alternatives, but there are known prehistoric features about a half mile to the northeast of the project area. BLM coordinated and consulted with 15 Native American tribes and groups for this proposed project through written correspondence, phone calls, and meetings. Input received was incorporated into this EA, as appropriate, and will be considered in the Decision Record.

3.3.6 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act is the comprehensive Federal law that regulates air emissions from area, stationary, and mobile sources. This law authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and the environment.

The project site is within an attainment area for all criteria pollutants.

3.3.7 Surface and Groundwater Quality

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 requires managing potential contamination threats to groundwater. The Act instructed the EPA to establish a national program to prevent underground injections of contaminated fluids that would endanger drinking water sources.

No surface water exists at the project site. Groundwater is located approximately 110 feet below ground. The groundwater was analyzed on September 5, 2007, and meets Arizona's Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) for drinking water.

3.3.8 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 established responsibilities for Federal agencies in the management of floodplains. This order requires each agency to provide leadership and take action to minimize adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and reduce risks of flood loss; minimize impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare;

and restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. The Executive Order defines floodplain to include, at a minimum, area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding any given year.

Floodplain information is not available. FEMA has not mapped the area of the project site.

3.3.9 Hazardous and Solid Wastes

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) gave the EPA the authority to control hazardous waste. This includes the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous wastes.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund," gave the Federal government broad authority to regulate hazardous substances, to respond to hazardous substance emergencies, and to develop long-term solutions for the nation's most serious hazardous waste problems.

No known hazardous or solid wastes were observed within the project limits.

Solid waste generated during construction of the proposed action, if approved, would be handled in accordance with measures developed by the contractor and accepted by BLM to prevent degradation of the public lands and in accordance with stipulations within any granting documents.

3.3.10 Standard for Rangeland Health

The Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed in consultation with the Arizona Resource Advisory Council, and approved in April 1997. The Standards and Guidelines identify characteristics of healthy ecosystems on public lands. These standards are based on the four fundamentals of rangeland health found in BLM's Grazing Regulations, and address:

- Water quality
- Wildlife habitat
- Soil stability
- Energy flow and nutrient cycling

The proposed action occurs on lands included within the Scott Allotment. This is an ephemeral allotment and there has been no grazing in the last 10 years. The historical corral was at one of the original base waters on the allotment.

3.3.11 Recreation

Section 102 (8) of FLPMA mandates BLM to manage the public lands in a manner “that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use,” and Section 103(3)(l) includes outdoor recreation as one of the “principal or major uses” of the public lands. The town of Quartzsite and the surrounding public lands are a national recreation destination each winter, with thousands of seasonal visitors coming to the area year after year.

In the area immediately surrounding Quartzsite, the BLM Yuma Field Office manages the 11,500-acre La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area (LTVA) and 5 free, 14-day camping areas that

encompass approximately 5,000 additional acres of public land. For the 2006 Federal fiscal year, BLM estimates that the La Posa LTVA received 172,052 recreational visits, and the 5 14-day camping areas received 282,456 recreational visits (BLM Recreation Management Information System Report #23c, 2006).

Besides recreational vehicle camping, the most common recreational activity in the area is off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding on the numerous miles of roads, trails, and drivable desert washes (routes). OHV use on public lands surrounding the project area is currently limited to existing routes. Several un-inventoried OHV routes intersect with the existing road this EA is proposing to authorize a ROW for. These OHV routes do not appear on the BLM La Posa OHV Access Guide published in 1999, nor do they appear on a route inventory based on 2005 aerial photos. These un-inventoried routes are therefore most likely the result of unauthorized route proliferation, which is a major resource protection issue throughout the public lands surrounding Quartzsite. Hiking, wildlife viewing, rock hounding, and cultural and historic resource viewing also commonly occur within the vicinity of the project area.

3.3.12 Visual Resources

FLPMA mandates BLM to manage the public lands in a manner that will protect the quality of the visual and scenic values of the landscape (Section 102 (a)(8)). Section 201 (a) states that "The Secretary shall prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values (including...scenic values)...." Section 505 (a) requires that "Each right-of-way shall contain terms and conditions which will... minimize damage to the scenic and esthetic values...." In response to this mandate, BLM has developed the Visual Resource Management (VRM) System. The scenic values of all BLM-managed lands are inventoried and allocated into VRM Classes I, II, III, or IV. BLM's aim is preserve the existing nature of the landscape of VRM Class I lands. VRM Class II lands are to retain the existing character of the landscape. VRM Class III lands should partially retain the existing character of the landscape, and VRM Class IV lands allow for major modifications to the landscape.

The proposed project is located within VRM Class III lands. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.

The proposed project site is located in moderately disturbed desert terrain. The proposed ROW site consists of a meandering dirt road with additional off-road vehicle dirt roads braiding through the proposed ROW. The washes located on the 40-acre site also cross the ROW. The soils consist of gravel and sand on the desert flatland and the washes contain gravel to medium-sized rocks. Vegetation is sparse at the subject site and on the adjacent land. The washes contain a large amount of desert vegetation.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Potential environmental impacts associated with direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposed action and alternatives are assessed below. Proposed mitigation is listed under Section 4.14.

4.1 Fish and Wildlife

4.1.1 Alternative C

Potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat are disturbances from an increased human presence, temporary construction activities, and increased mortality from construction activities and traffic from new residents of the proposed Arroyos Preserve.

The proposed fencing along both sides of the proposed road would reduce potential impacts by preventing off-road use of the surrounding lands. The fence would be constructed in a manner that allows for the movement of smaller species. Larger animals may be hindered for a short time until they became accustomed to the fence.

Potential impacts within the proposed Arroyos Preserve site would be reduced because the plans for development call for as little impact to the natural environment as possible. In particular, it is not expected that modification to the existing washes would occur.

Impacts would also be minimal because there is an abundance of undeveloped land in the area suitable for wildlife, which wildlife within the project area could move to.

4.1.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to wildlife within the proposed ROW under the no action alternative. Impacts to wildlife within the proposed Arroyos Preserve site would be dependent on future, alternative development plans.

4.2 Vegetation

4.2.1 Alternative C

The majority of vegetation in the project area is located within the washes. No modifications to the washes are anticipated as a result of this project. A small amount of vegetation located outside the existing dirt road boundaries, but within the proposed ROW would be impacted.

4.2.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to vegetation within the proposed ROW under the no action alternative. Impacts to vegetation within the proposed Arroyos Preserve site would be dependent on future, alternative development plans.

4.3 Non-Native Invasive Species (Weeds)

4.3.1 Alternative C

There is a risk of introducing non-native invasive species into the area. To prevent the introduction of invasive species, all earth-moving and hauling equipment would be washed at the contractor's storage facility before entering the construction site. In addition, to prevent the potential spread of non-native species to uncontaminated areas, all earth-moving and hauling equipment would be washed at a designated location before leaving the construction

site. All disturbed soils that would not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction would be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.

4.3.2 No Action Alternative

The risk of introducing non-native invasive species to the area would be reduced under the no action alternative. The owner of the proposed Arroyos Preserve site could develop the site in another manner, which could potentially introduce noxious weeds.

4.4 Cultural Resources

4.4.1 Alternative C

Two cultural sites were identified by the Aztlan pedestrian survey inside the project's Area of Potential Effects. Without mitigation, site AZ R:7:120 (ASM), which is recommended eligible to the NRHP, would be adversely affected. To avoid impacts to site AZ R:7:120 (ASM), the proposed ROW would end 450 feet south of the northern limits of the Arroyos Preserve site. In addition, a vehicle barrier would be placed at the end of the road and a fence would be constructed around the cultural site. Refer to Figure 5 for an illustration of the protective fencing and vehicle barrier. The fence surrounding the cultural site would be in accordance with BLM standards.

Site AZ R:7:121 (ASM) is recommended ineligible to the NRHP. This site would likely be impacted by the implementation of this alternative; however, according to NHPA, sites that are ineligible to the NRHP do not need to be avoided or mitigated. Unidentified cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project would be protected by the installation of fencing on both sides of the ROW, so that vehicles cannot drive off the improved roadway.

No prehistoric archaeological sites were identified inside the project APE. However, there are known prehistoric archaeological sites within a mile of the project area. While these sites would not be directly impacted by Alternative C, there is a potential for indirect impacts from unauthorized OHV proliferation originating from the subdivision. Prehistoric sites would have some protection as a result of the mitigation measures under the Proposed Action, which include fencing the sides of the ROW and installing standard BLM limited use signs to deter unauthorized OHV proliferation. In addition, BLM is currently in the process of drafting a travel management plan to designate existing trails in this area as either open, limited, or closed.

4.4.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts on cultural resources under the no action alternative.

4.5 Native American Religious Concerns

4.5.1 Alternative C

During coordination and consultation with 15 Native American tribes and groups, BLM received a comment requesting that BLM consider the impacts to prehistoric cultural resources in the project area vicinity, which could result from a potential increase in OHV proliferation from the homeowners in the proposed subdivision. This potential indirect impact is evaluated in this EA under Section 4.4 Cultural Resources and Section 4.11 Recreation. No other Native American religious concerns were received during BLM's coordination and consultation with the tribes.

4.5.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to Native American religious concerns under the no action alternative.

4.6 Air Quality

4.6.1 Alternative C

If the proposed project is approved some deterioration of air quality would be expected during construction due to the operation of construction equipment. Construction impacts can be associated with emissions and can be distinguished as either on- or off-site. On-site emissions generated during construction would principally consist of exhaust emissions from heavy-duty construction equipment operation and dust. Dust would be generated due to soil disturbances resulting from activities such as excavation, grading, earth moving, and subsurface intrusions. Off-site emissions during construction normally consist of exhaust emissions and dust from worker commutes and material delivery trips.

Air quality impacts would be a localized condition and would cease once construction ends. Fugitive dust generated from construction activities would be controlled by the contractor in accordance with local rules and ordinances and BLM stipulations.

Once construction was completed, the paved road and developed Arroyos Preserve could potentially cause a reduction in dust.

4.6.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to air quality under the no action alternative.

4.7 Surface and Groundwater Quality

4.7.1 Alternative C

No surface water exists in the project area.

Water would be obtained from on-site domestic wells. The well water has been tested and meets AWQS for drinking water; therefore, the water will not require treatment and no chemicals with the potential to contaminate groundwater will be used for the water system.

Groundwater could potentially be impacted from chemicals and activities associated with the wastewater treatment plant. In order to treat the wastewater, liquid chlorine, tablet sodium sulfite, and methanol would be stored on-site. In addition, there are contaminants associated with secondary sludge from residential waste.

The wastewater treatment plant requires an APP from ADEQ. APPs state storage and operating measures required to protect the environment, including groundwater, from contamination. An application for an APP has been submitted to ADEQ. Quantities and secondary containment of chemicals can be found under Section 4.9.1.

The scope of the proposed project requires that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit be obtained from the EPA. The associated stormwater pollution prevention measures would reduce potential adverse impacts from stormwater run-off.

4.7.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to surface and groundwater quality under the no action alternative.

4.8 Floodplains

4.8.1 Alternative C

As noted in Section 3.3.8, FEMA floodplain maps do not cover the project site and, therefore, impacts to potential floodplains cannot be determined.

The Arroyos Preserve would be constructed around the major washes that run through the project area (See Figure 2). There are no plans to interfere with or modify the washes.

4.8.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to floodplains under the no action alternative.

4.9 Hazardous and Solid Wastes

4.9.1 Alternative C

Oil, gasoline, diesel, and hydraulic fluid would be used for the construction heavy equipment. Small quantities of these fluids are not considered hazardous. Surface contamination could occur, resulting from accidental spills of petroleum and other potentially hazardous materials used in construction activities.

Prompt removal of petroleum and other hazardous materials would reduce the potential for soil contamination. Any spills from the heavy equipment would be cleaned and disposed of in an appropriate manner. All equipment would be inspected before, and at the completion of, the work shift as well as periodically throughout the work shift to ensure the integrity of the equipment is maintained.

Liquid chlorine, tablet sodium sulfite, and methanol would be stored on-site at the wastewater treatment facility. Approximate quantities to be stored on-site are as follows:

Liquid chlorine (hyochlorite)—110 gal.
Tablet sodium sulfite—40 lb.
Methanol—110 gal.

These amounts are small and EPA regulations do not require a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan for the facility. However, any spills would be promptly cleaned and disposed of in an appropriate manner by personnel wearing appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Containment would be as follows:

Liquid Storage—Liquid chemicals would be stored in steel or polyethylene (PE) drums as provided by chemical supplier. Drums would be stored on 2-barrel, platform-type units with a minimum sump capacity of 66 gallons and meeting EPA requirements for secondary containment. Liquid feed would be pumped in 3/8-inch polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) lines contained in ½-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduit for secondary containment. Liquid contained in the sumps due to chemical spill may be fed to the treatment facility at a metered rate.

Dry Storage—Dry chemicals would be stored out of direct sunlight in manufacturer's provided containers. Spill of dry tablets would be promptly replaced in manufacturer's type containers by personnel using appropriate PPE.

There are contaminants associated with sludge from residential waste. The proposed wastewater treatment plant does not call for sludge ponds. Secondary sludge would be stored in a 10,000-gallon capacity fiberglass tank. For approximately the first five years, the tank would be pumped annually by a vacuum truck and the sludge would be hauled to an appropriate facility. Once the Arroyos Preserve lots are fully occupied, the rate of pumping would increase; however, pumping would occur less than four times annually.

Solid waste created during construction of the ROW would degrade the public land if not disposed of properly. Stipulations within the ROW grant, if approved, would require the work site to be maintained in a safe and clean condition and all solid waste to be stored in closed containers until removed from the site and properly disposed.

4.9.2 No Action Alternative

No hazardous or solid wastes would be introduced to the area under the no action alternative.

4.10 Standards for Rangeland Health

4.10.1 Alternative C

No adverse effects to rangeland health are expected as a result of this alternative. The proposed ROW would use a small area of BLM-managed land. In addition, measures would be taken to safeguard the resources that produce a healthy rangeland. These measures are written under the applicable subsections (e.g., Hazardous and Solid Wastes).

4.10.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to rangeland health under the no action alternative.

4.11 Recreation

4.11.1 Alternative C

No adverse effects to recreational opportunities are anticipated as a result of this alternative. Access to the unauthorized OHV routes would be somewhat limited under this alternative as the fencing along the road would deny access to the routes from the proposed ROW. However, there is the potential for homeowners to create unauthorized OHV routes. OHV proliferation would be mitigated by placing standard BLM limited use signs at either sides of the right-of-way to deter unauthorized OHV. In addition, BLM is currently in the process of drafting a travel management plan to designate existing trails in this area as either open, limited, or closed.

4.11.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to recreation resources under the no action alternative.

4.12 Visual Resources

4.12.1 Alternative C

Implementing the Preferred Alternative would comply with BLM VRM Class III objectives. Viewed from the corner of 53rd Street and the proposed road, changes to the elements form and texture would be none to weak. The visual elements line and color would be moderately changed due to the darker color of a paved road and the edge effect the contrast in color creates. Viewed from the southeast corner of the proposed subdivision, changes to all elements would be weak to moderate. The Arroyos Preserve proposal calls for blending into the desert with minimal impacts to vegetation, no impacts to the washes, and subdued colors for the residential structures. However, the structures would create a more angular line and changes to the texture and form elements.

4.12.2 No Action Alternative

There would be no impacts to visual resources under the no action alternative.

4.13 Cumulative Impacts

If the proposed ROW is approved, an increase in the local population can be expected along with an increase in vehicular traffic.

It is also reasonably foreseeable that private land in the area may be developed. In particular, the private land north of the proposed Arroyos Preserve could more easily be developed given a new access road. However, development is limited in the area due to the lack of private land and the preponderance of BLM-managed land.

4.14 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures for Alternative C are as follows:

- Movement of all construction vehicles shall be restricted to the proposed ROW.
- To prevent the introduction of invasive species, all earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the contractor's storage facility before entering the construction site. In addition, to prevent the potential spread of invasive species to uncontaminated areas, all earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at a designated location before leaving the construction site.
- All disturbed soils that would not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction shall be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
- The removal of any plants shall be kept to a minimum to limit disturbance areas and to minimize re-vegetation requirements.
- To avoid any adverse impacts to cultural and ecological resources, all personnel shall be educated on these matters, including the importance of these resources and the purpose and necessity of protecting them.
- Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered during project activities shall be immediately reported to the BLM authorized officer. All operations in the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. The ROW Holder shall be responsible for any costs associated with mitigating the discovery.

- Archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) shall be completely avoided by project activities. A vehicle barrier shall be placed at the end of the road right-of-way. A fence shall be constructed around the cultural site in accordance with BLM standards. The fence will be placed by the Holder so that there is a 30-foot buffer between the fence and all site features and artifacts. The Holder shall attach BLM Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) signs to the protective fencing at intervals of 20 feet.
- A qualified, BLM-permitted archaeological monitor shall be present during project activities to ensure that archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) is avoided. A letter report summarizing the results of the monitoring shall be submitted to the BLM. The monitor must be present until the protective fencing around site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) is installed.
- The Holder shall monitor the condition of the fences along the sides of the right-of-way and around archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) on a regular basis, according to their maintenance schedule, but not less than once a year., Any damage to the fences shall be immediately repaired by the Holder.
- Fugitive dust generated from construction activities shall be controlled by the contractor in accordance with local rules and ordinances.
- During construction, stormwater pollution prevention measures shall be taken as required by the Clean Water Act. A NPDES permit must be obtained from the EPA before any construction activities begin.
- Burning of construction trash such shall not be on BLM land.
- All hazardous materials shall be contained and removed to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials.
- Liquid chemicals shall be stored in steel or polyethylene (PE) drums as provided by chemical supplier. Drums shall be stored on 2-barrel, platform-type units with a minimum sump capacity of 66 gallons and meeting EPA requirements for secondary containment. Liquid feed shall be pumped in 3/8-inch polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) lines contained in ½-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduit for secondary containment. Liquid contained in the sumps due to chemical spill may be fed to the treatment facility at a metered rate.
- Dry chemicals shall be stored out of direct sunlight in manufacturer’s provided containers. Spill of dry tablets shall be promptly replaced in manufacturer’s type containers by personnel using appropriate PPE.
- OHV proliferation shall be mitigated by placing standard BLM "Limited Use Area" signs at least every 1/4 mile along alternating sides of the right-of-way to deter unauthorized OHV..

5.0 LIST OF REVIEWERS

Table 1: BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Name	Job Title	Project Responsibility
Francisca S. Mueller	Realty Specialist	Project Lead, Chapters 1 and 2, Land Uses, Floodplains, Energy, Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics
Jeffrey Young	Wildlife Biologist	Biological Resources
Sandra Arnold	Archeologist	Cultural Resources and Native American Religious Concerns
Aaron Curtis	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources Management and Transportation
Stephen Fusilier	Team Lead, Lands and Minerals	Health and Human Safety, Hazardous Materials
Roger Oyler	Rangeland Management Specialist	Air Quality, Standards for Rangeland Health, Noise, Soils
Dave Daniels	Acting Planning and Environmental Specialist	NEPA Compliance

6.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The following agencies were consulted in preparing this Environmental Assessment:

- Arizona Public Safety (APS)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- La Paz County Public Works

The following Native American tribes and groups were coordinated with and consulted for this Environmental Assessment:

- Ak-Chin Indian Community
- Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
- Cocopah Tribe
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
- Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
- Gila River Indian Community
- Hia-Ced O'odham
- Hopi Tribe
- Hualapai Tribe
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Yavapai-Apache Nation
- Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

7.0 REFERENCES

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
http://www.azdeq.gov/

Bureau of Land Management
1976 *Federal Land Policy and Management Act.* http://www.blm.gov/flpma/

Bureau of Land Management
1987 *Yuma Resource Management Plan*. US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma Field Office.

Code of Federal Regulations
http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html#page1

Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/opprfaqs.htm#what

Slawson, Laurie V., Ph.D., RPA
2007 *A Cultural Resources Inventory of a 40-Acre Parcel and Adjoining 0.5-Mile-Long Right-of-Way South of Quartzsite in La Paz County, Arizona.* Aztlan Archaeology, Inc.

8.0 LIST OF FIGURES

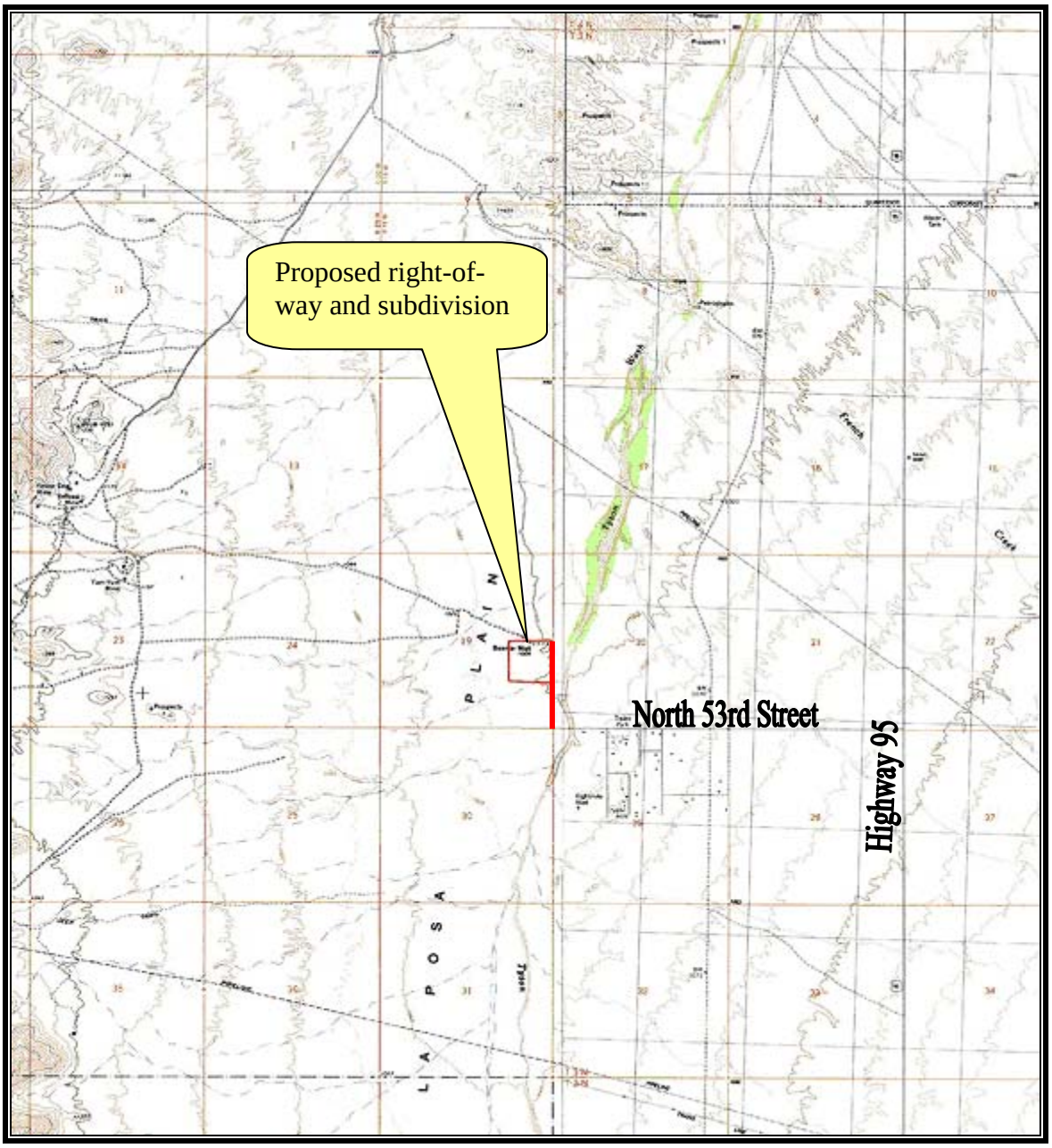

Figure 1: Vicinity Map
USGS Topographic Map
(The Proposed Arroyos Preserve and Right-of-Way Access Road)

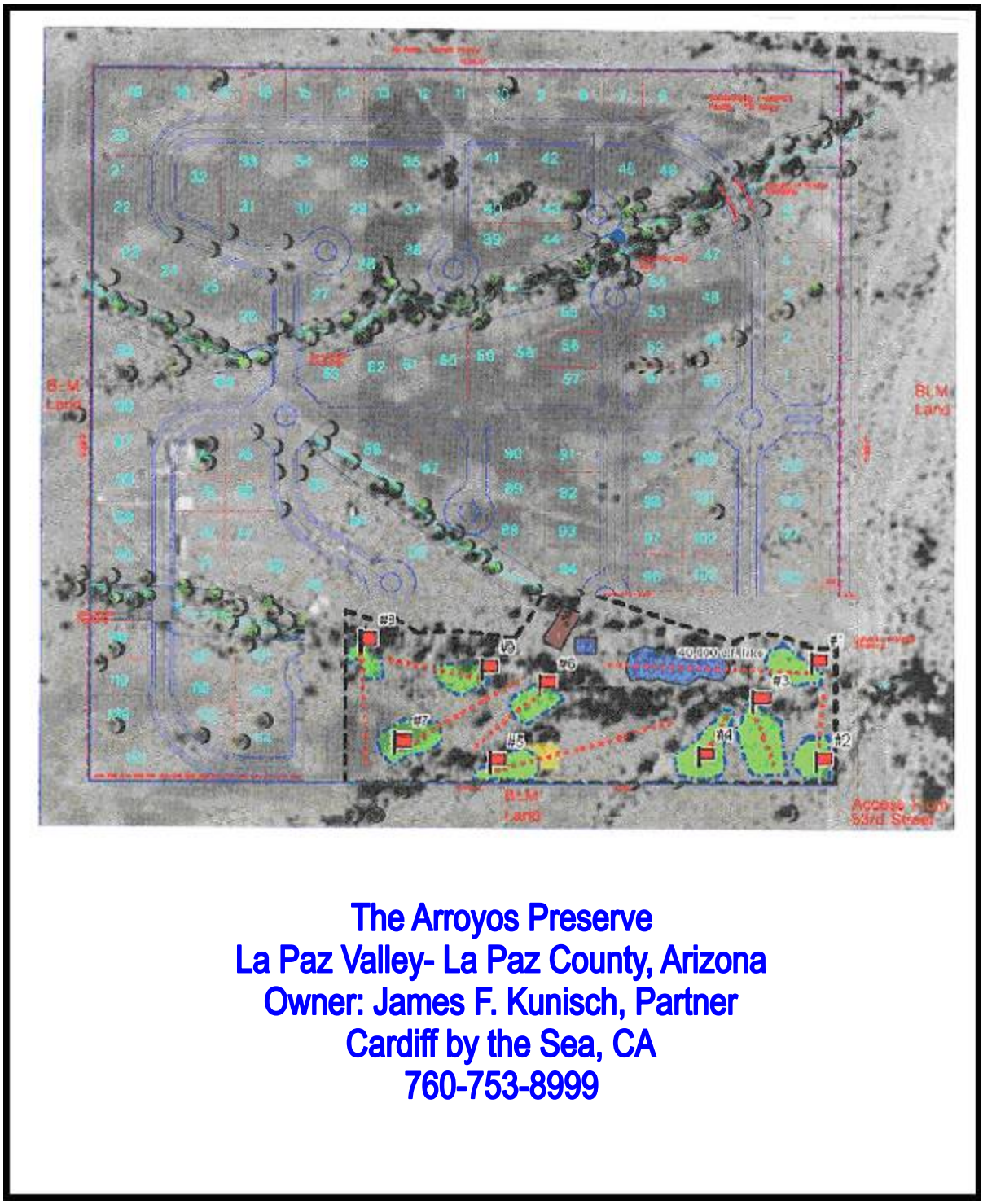

Figure 2: Conceptual Arroyos Preserve Layout
(The Proposed Arroyos Preserve and Right-of-Way Access Road)

Figure 3: Illustration of Alternative A

(The Proposed Arroyos Preserve and Right-of-Way Access Road)

Reserved for Figure 3

Figure 4: Illustration of Alternative B

(The Proposed Arroyos Preserve and Right-of-Way Access Road)

Reserved for Figure 4

Figure 5: Illustration of Alternative C

(The Proposed Arroyos Preserve and Right-of-Way Access Road)

Reserved for Figure 5

9.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Biological Evaluation
Appendix 2 - Non-native Invasive Plant Species Survey

Appendix 1: Biological Evaluation

Appendix 2: Non-native Invasive Plant Species Survey

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA FIELD OFFICE
2555 E. Gila Ridge Rd.
Yuma, AZ 85365

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FORM

AZ-320-2007-023 **Case/Project No.:** AZA 33392

PROJECT NAME: *La Paz County Road ROW*
TECHNICAL REVIEW:

(√)	Program	Reviewer	Signature	Date
√	Air Quality	R. Oyler		
	ACEC			
√	Botanical including T & E Spp.	J. Young		
	Communications (Dispatch)			
√	Cultural/Paleontology	S. Arnold		
	Energy Policy			
√	Environmental Justice	F. Mueller		
	Farmlands (Prime & Unique)			
	Floodplain			
√	Hazardous Material	S. Fusilier		
√	Invasive & Non-Native Species	J. Young		
√	Lands/Realty	F. Mueller		
	Land Law Examiner			
	Law Enforcement			
	Minerals			
√	Native American Religious Concerns	S. Arnold		
	Operations			
	Range Management			
√	Recreation	A. Curtis		
√	Soils	R. Oyler		
√	Surface Protection	S. Fusilier		
√	Visual Resources	A. Curtis		
	Water Rights			
	Water Quality (Surface & Ground)			
	Wetlands/Riparian Zones			
	Wild & Scenic Rivers			
√	Wilderness	A. Curtis		
√	Wild Horses/Burros	R. Oyler		
√	Wildlife including T & E Spp.	J. Young		

Prepared by:_____ Date:_____
Francisca S. Mueller
Realty Specialist

Reviewed by:_____ Date:_____
Dave Daniels
Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed by:_____ Date:_____
Bruce Rittenhouse
Assistant Field Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
www.az.blm.gov

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
For
La Paz County Road (AZA 33392)
EA No. AZ-320-2007-023

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Yuma Field Office, has analyzed a proposal for an access road (Alternative C) under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended. The road would provide legal access to a private residential subdivision in the vicinity of Quartzsite, Arizona. This proposal is described within the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) No. AZ-320-2007-023.

The EA is tiered to and in conformance with the *Yuma District Resource Management Plan*, as amended and its *Record of Decision* (BLM, May 1986 & February 1987). Any of the above referenced documents may be viewed at the Yuma Field Office during normal business hours.

The proposed action would assure that no significant adverse impacts would occur to the human environment in the following areas: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Cultural Resources, Environmental Justice, Farm Lands (Prime or Unique), Floodplain, Hazardous or Solid Waste, Native American Religious Concerns, Non-Native Invasive Species, Socioeconomic Resources, Threatened or Endangered Species, Water Quality (Ground or Surface), Wetlands/Riparian Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or Wilderness.

The proposed action does not significantly affect energy supply, distribution, and/or use and therefore a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me as is summarized above, it is my determination that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major Federal Action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

_/s/James T. Shoaff_____ ___7/14/08_____
James T. Shoaff Date
Yuma Field Manager

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365
www.az.blm.gov

Decision Record
For
La Paz County Road (AZA 33392)
EA AZ-320-2007-023

Decision

It is my decision to authorize a right-of-way grant for an access road, 41 feet wide by approximately 1,302 feet long on section 19 as described below, 41 feet wide by approximately 2,139 feet long on section 20 as described below, and 41 feet wide by approximately 33 feet long on section 30 as described below. The proposed access road will include a 16-foot-wide raised median. The road right-of-way will be approved under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, for a 20-year period with the right to renew. The road will provide legal access to a proposed residential subdivision. The road will affect the following public lands:

Gila and Salt River Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona

T. 3 N., R. 19 W.,
sec. 19, E½E½SE¼ (within);
sec. 20, W½W½SW¼ (within);
sec. 30, NE¼NE¼ (within).

The area described contains approximately 3.27 acres.

Rational for Decision

The rational for my decision can be supported with the *The Proposed Right-of-Way Access Road and Arroyos Preserve Subdivision near Quartzsite, Arizona Environmental Assessment* (EA AZ-320-2007-023) and the Finding of No Significant Impact. This decision is in conformance with the *Yuma District Resource Management Plan,* as amended and its Record of Decision (BLM, May 1986 & February 1987) and the *La Posa Recreation Plan*.

Management and Mitigation Consideration

1. Movement of all construction vehicles shall be restricted to the proposed ROW.

2. To prevent the introduction of invasive species, all earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at the contractor's storage facility before entering the construction site. In addition, to prevent the potential spread of invasive species to uncontaminated areas, all earth-moving and hauling equipment shall be washed at a designated location before leaving the construction site.
3. All disturbed soils that would not be landscaped or otherwise permanently stabilized by construction shall be seeded using species native to the project vicinity.
4. The removal of any plants shall be kept to a minimum to limit disturbance areas and to minimize re-vegetation requirements.

5. To avoid any adverse impacts to cultural and ecological resources, all personnel shall be educated on these matters, including the importance of these resources and the purpose and necessity of protecting them.
6. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered during project activities shall be immediately reported to the BLM authorized officer. All operations in the immediate area of the discovery shall be suspended until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. The ROW Holder shall be responsible for any costs associated with mitigating the discovery.
7. Archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) shall be completely avoided by project activities. A vehicle barrier shall be placed at the end of the road right-of-way. A fence shall be constructed around the cultural site in accordance with BLM standards. The fence will be placed by the Holder so that there is a 30-foot buffer between the fence and all site features and artifacts. The Holder shall attach BLM Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) signs to the protective fencing at intervals of 20 feet.
8. A qualified, BLM-permitted archaeological monitor shall be present during project activities to ensure that archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) is avoided. A letter report summarizing the results of the monitoring shall be submitted to the BLM. The monitor must be present until the protective fencing around site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) is installed.
9. The Holder shall monitor the condition of the fences along the sides of the right-of-way and around archaeological site AZ R:7:120 (ASM) on a regular basis, according to their maintenance schedule, but not less than once a year. Any damage to the fences shall be immediately repaired by the Holder.
10. Fugitive dust generated from construction activities shall be controlled by the contractor in accordance with local rules and ordinances.
11. During construction, stormwater pollution prevention measures shall be taken as required by the Clean Water Act. A NPDES permit must be obtained from the EPA before any construction activities begin.
12. Burning of construction trash such shall not be on BLM land.
13. All hazardous materials shall be contained and removed to a disposal facility authorized to accept such materials.
14. Liquid chemicals shall be stored in steel or polyethylene (PE) drums as provided by chemical supplier. Drums shall be stored on 2-barrel, platform-type units with a minimum sump capacity of 66 gallons and meeting EPA requirements for secondary containment. Liquid feed shall be pumped in 3/8-inch polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) lines contained in ½-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) conduit for secondary containment. Liquid contained in the sumps due to chemical spill may be fed to the treatment facility at a metered rate.
15. Dry chemicals shall be stored out of direct sunlight in manufacturer’s provided containers. Spill of dry tablets shall be promptly replaced in manufacturer’s type containers by personnel using appropriate PPE.
16. OHV proliferation shall be mitigated by placing standard BLM "Limited Use Area" signs at least every 1/4 mile along alternating sides of the right-of-way to deter unauthorized OHV.

Monitoring

Yuma Field Office staff will conduct compliance inspections throughout the life of the road right-of-way.

The Proposed Action will have no effect on the President's Energy Policy and a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

__/s/James T. Shoaff_____ ___7/14/08_____
James T. Shoaff Date
Yuma Field Manager