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February 6, 2013

Joe Incardine
National Project Manager
BLM Phoenix District Office
Hassayampa Field Office
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

SUBJECT: Proposed APS Sun Valley to Morgan Project

Dear Mr. Incardine,

Thank you again for including the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in the Environmental Impact Statement process for the Sun Valley to Morgan 500/230 kV transmission line project. As you are aware, MAG has participated on this project as a cooperating agency and has consistently held the position on this project that transportation corridors should accommodate roadways as well as other transportation uses such as bike, pedestrian, pipelines, transmission lines, where appropriate and compatible with the roadway.

The preferred alternative states that a multiuse utility corridor would be established on BLM-managed public lands that would begin at the centerline of SR-74 and extend 0.5 –mile north, and also include the entire key-shaped block of BLM lands south of SR-74. It needs to be noted, that the SR-74 centerline will shift through this corridor to accommodate the ultimate SR-74 buildout concept that is proposed to include a 10 lane controlled access rural facility with a 60-foot wide open median. MAG supports the preferred alternative, however, details of the SR-74 expansion and the interaction of the proposed transmission line needs to be included in the EIS discussion to accurately portray the future transportation/utility corridor.

MAG will continue to support and work with the BLM on identifying a reasonable solution for the region and is more than willing to set up a meeting with the Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Public Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and MAG to make sure we can accommodate both the expansion of SR-74 and the proposed transmission line project.

Sincerely,

Eric Anderson
Transportation Director

Maricopa Association of Governments

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments in Maricopa County