

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation Format for Actions Other Than Hazardous
Fuels and Fire Rehabilitation Actions**

Installation of a Telemetered Rain and Flowage Gauge (Rain Gage) AZA-035418
NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-P020-007-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: *Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO)*

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AZA-035418

Proposed Action Title/Type: Telemetered Rain and Flowage Gauge (Rain Gage)

Location of Proposed Action: Gila & SRM T. 1 S., R. 7 W., Sec. 5 SE1/4SW1/4SE1/4

Description of Proposed Action: Maricopa City Flood Control District has applied for a ROW to install a Telemetered Rain and Flowage Gauge (Rain Gage) near Centennial Wash that crosses Dobbins Road and will be place at a location north of Dobbins Road and west of 435th Avenue. The Gauge is a part of a public safety early warning security system project that will provide state, county, and local governments emergency agencies of potential flooding area. The gauge is installed and maintained by Maricopa District Hydrology personnel. The site will require maintenance twice a year. The gauge is installed by digging a hole 2 to 3 feet into the ground, approximately 12 inches x 12 inches. The gauge can be moved within two weeks of the time of notification or termination.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Lower Gila South

Date Approved/Amended: **6/1/1988**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Lower Gila Resource Area processes a variety of actions in the Lower Gila RMP/EIS area rights-of-way (ROW), communication sites, easements, permits, and unauthorized occupancy. All land cases would continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

C: Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 11.9:

BLM NEPA Handbook H1790-1 (J-3), Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 11.9 apply.

I considered a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

D: Signature

Review: *We have determined that the proposal is in accordance with the categorical exclusion criteria and that it would not involve any significant environmental effects (see Attachment 1). Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review.*

Prepared by: _____/S/_____

**Ben Parsons
Project Lead**

Reviewed by: _____/S/_____

**Leah Baker
Planning & Environmental Coordinator**

Approved by: _____/S/_____

**Emily Garber
Manager**

Contact Person(s)

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Leah Baker 623-580-5656 or Ben Parsons (623) 580-5637.

BLM Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances¹
Attachment 1

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:		
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The site is to monitor and measure the flow of rain fall in the area. The gauge will not have any adverse impact on the public land.
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The Gauge will have a minimal impact on all surrounding area.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The site will have minimal disturbance to the area.
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The gauge is non-intrusive and will blend with the terrain. The total disturbance of the area during installation would equip 2ft by 2ft.
5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: This action does not required further environmental analysis.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the		

¹ If an action has any of these impacts, you must conduct NEPA analysis.

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: Cultural survey has been completed and there is no significant cultural resource available in or around the site.
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: The site will not limit or provide any damage to wild life, plants life or threaten and endangered species.
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: This is a BLM site consultation is not mandatory or needed with Indian practitioners.
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rationale: N/A

Decision
Attachment 2

Project Description:

Maricopa City Flood Control District has applied for a ROW to install a Telemetered Rain and Flowage Gauge (Rain Gage) near Centennial Wash in the Dobbins Road and 435th Avenue vicinity.

Decision: Based on a review of the project described above and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the land use plan and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, with the following stipulations (if applicable).

Approved By: _____/S/_____ **Date:** __07/27/2012__

Emily Garber

Manager