

# TOWN OF FLORENCE LIFT STATION & FORCE MAIN

## ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

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SEI Project #07861

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## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND NEED

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### 1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town of Florence (TOF) is planning to construct a sewer lift station and force main as described below:

**New Lift Station:** A lift station and force main will be constructed within the Towns' existing North Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) site. The proposed lift station will pump wastewater via the proposed force main to the Town's sewer collection system approximately 2 miles south.

**Force Main:** The proposed force main will begin at the existing North WWTP site, head east within the existing access road to SR79, turn south and follow SR79 to an existing sewer manhole near Jason Lopez Circle. Apart from the trench for the force main, other site subsurface improvements will include electrical, and controls conduits.

The TOF force main and lift station system will be located in a portion of Section 24, 25, and 36, Township 4 South, Range 9 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. The proposed projects will not involve any federal lands. All the identified project components will be located on lands in private holdings or City lands. After project construction is complete, the disturbed areas will be restored to current conditions or better. See **Figure 1** for the general project location and **Appendix A** for an aerial view of the proposed wastewater improvements.

Part of the planning process is preparation of an Environmental Information Document and solicitation of comments from all potentially concerned parties. Therefore, this Environmental information Document (EID) Report will assess the potential environmental impacts of the improvements proposed by the Town of Florence (TOF).

### 1.2 NEED FOR PROJECT

TOF is seeking federal funding from The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona. WIFA manages the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which provides funding for water infrastructure projects, as well as technical assistance to drinking water systems in Arizona. The funding source of the DWSRF is federal, therefore, proposed design and construction projects financed through WIFA are subject to a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-like review process to assess projects' effects on the environment. Hence, WIFA has hired Sunrise Engineering, Inc (SEI) to prepare the Environmental Information Documents and solicit comments from all potentially concerned parties.

## 2.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND IMPACTS

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### 2.1 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The first alternative is “No Action” or to not undertake the proposed project, thereby avoiding all environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed system. However, the advantages that come with upgrading the wastewater infrastructure outweigh the temporary disturbances to the surrounding environment in the area. The proposed lift station and force main, if constructed, will improve the existing wastewater treatment system by decommissioning the North WWTP and rerouting influent flows to the Town’s existing South WWTP. Furthermore, the proposed improvements will prevent the wastewater handling system from further deterioration and preclude any possible future violations of the municipal, state, and federal regulations. Therefore, this alternative does not meet the project objectives and is not acceptable.

The second alternative is the construction of the lift station and force main at a different location but the project siting, system size, and capacity have already been finetuned to meet the requirements of AAC-R18-9 and serve the appropriate service area. This alternative would have also necessitated continued operation of the North WWTP, thereby adding to the environmental impacts of the proposed project. Thereby, this alternative does not meet the project objectives either and is not acceptable.

### 2.2 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

The first alternative does not provide a true solution to improve the wastewater system as the existing infrastructure will continue to deteriorate. The area around the North WWTP will also continue to be impacted by the plant’s operation and consequent effluent discharge. From an economic perspective, the cost of operating and maintaining a treatment plant will be a lot higher than the costs incurred in installing a new lift station over the life of the equipment. For the above reasons, the impacts of the first alternative outweigh the temporary disturbances caused during the construction of the proposed project.

The location of the lift station was strategically chosen at the North WWTP since it’s the lowest point in the wastewater system for the service area. Locating it to another project site would not only jeopardize the hydraulics of the system but also necessitate keeping the North WWTP online to service some customers that will be unable to tie into the new force main. This will only add to the environmental and economic impact of the proposed project.

Due to the above-mentioned reasons, it was deemed suitable to only consider the proposed project as the most feasible option to improve TOF’s wastewater system.

## 2.3 SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVES

As mentioned previously, TOF's wastewater infrastructure at the North WWTP is aging. Alternative projects are limited to either taking no action or finding another project site for the lift station and force main. However, these alternatives will not allow TOF to decommission the North WWTP and direct influent flows to the South WWTP. Therefore, TOF has decided to move forward with the lift station and force main project investigated as a part of this report.

## 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROJECT

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The purpose of this EID was to determine if the proposed projects will have any significant impacts on the environment. To that effect, this section is organized by resource topics, with each resource discussion addressing the existing environmental setting as it relates to the proposed project. The order of the resource topics is in accordance with the "Guide for Preparing the Environmental Information Document for proposed Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects" prepared by WIFA.

### 3.1 LAND USE / IMPORTANT FARMLAND / FORMALLY CLASSIFIED LANDS

#### 3.1.1 GENERAL LAND USE

The proposed project will not involve any federal lands. The City and private lands served by the TOF are not surrounded by any National Forest. Most of the land that will be used for the proposed improvements generally consists of existing roads or areas that have been previously disturbed. Construction of the wastewater system improvements is not in conflict with any federal, or local law, regulation, or zoning ordinance.

A portion of the proposed force main will traverse through State Trust Land within Section 25 of T4S, R9E. Therefore, Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) was contacted regarding state trust lands involved in the proposed project. According to their response, there are several existing easements within the proposed area for the force main that will entail coordination with ASLD's Rights-of-Way (ROW) section, as well as application for the required ROW permit.

A site visit was conducted on January 27, 2021 to inspect the existing conditions of the project locations and it was concluded that the entire project will be located on previously disturbed lands and within the community limits.



Photograph 1 – Proposed Lift Station Location



Photograph 2 – Force Main - Heading East



Photograph 3 – Force Main - Existing Access Road  
towards SR79



Photograph 4 – Force Main - Turning South towards  
SR79





Photograph 5 – Force Main - Following SR79



Photograph 6 – Force Main - Following SR79



Photograph 7 – Force Main - SR79 towards Jason Lopez Circle



Photograph 8 – Existing Tie-In Manhole near Jason Lopez Circle

### 3.1.2 IMPORTANT FARMLAND AND PRIME RANGELAND

Prime farmland is land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops as delineated by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS was contacted regarding the possible impacts of the proposed projects and the response confirmed that the proposed project is exempt from National Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). Therefore, the project will not impact Prime or Statewide Important Farmlands and there is no need to complete the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form. Hence, mitigation is not required for important farmland or prime rangeland.

### 3.1.3 FORMALLY CLASSIFIED LANDS

The TOF lift station and force main will be located on private, public and state trust lands. As previously stated, ASD was contacted regarding state trust lands involved in the proposed project. The Tonto National Forest (TNF) is the closest national forest to this project area and yet it is more than 80 miles away as shown in **Appendix B**. Since McFarland Historic State Park is the nearest state park to the project area, Arizona State Parks & Trails was contacted regarding any potential impact of the proposed project. According to their response, no negative effect appears to exist.

The mentioned areas do not cross any of the proposed project locations. Therefore, none of the following Formally Classified Lands will be affected by the proposed projects and subsequently, mitigation is not required for Formally Classified Lands:

- National parks and monuments
- National forests and grasslands
- National natural landmarks
- National battlefield park sites
- National historic sites and parks
- Wilderness areas
- Wildlife refuges
- National sea shores, lake shores and trails
- State Parks
- National forests and grasslands

## 3.2 FLOODPLAINS

Upon investigation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website, the following Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were found for the project locations:

- 04021C0867E (FEMA, 2007) and 04021C0875E (FEMA, 2007)

According to FEMA maps, the proposed projects are situated in Zones A, AE, X, and D. These Zones are defined by FEMA as:

- Zone A - Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event. Because detailed hydraulic analyses have not been performed, no Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) or flood depths are shown.
- Zone AE - Areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event determined by detailed methods. BFEs are shown within these zones. (Zone AE is used on new and revised maps in place of Zones A1–A30).
- Zone X (shaded) – Moderate risk areas within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain, areas of 1% annual chance flooding where average depths are less than 1 foot, areas of 1% annual chance

flooding where the contributing drainage area is less than 1 square mile, and areas protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a levee. No Base Flood Elevations (BFE) or Base Flood Depths are shown within these zones.

- Zone D – Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.

A portion of the proposed force main was identified to be located either within a Floodway or crossing one. If a project location is found to be in a floodway or crossing one during the design/construction of the proposed projects, the contractor will perform a scour analysis and encase the pipeline to provide scouring protection. Refer to **Figure 2** and **Appendix C** for FEMA Maps of the area.

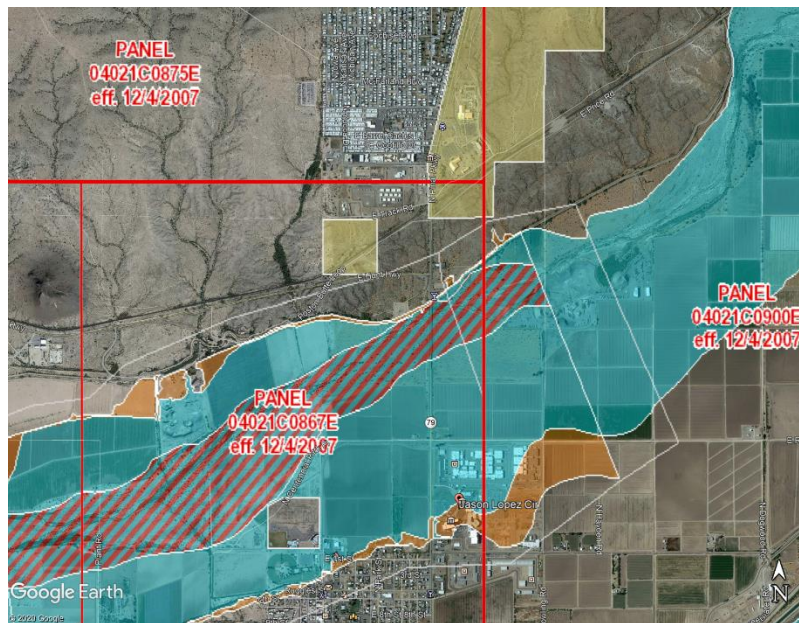


Figure 2 – FEMA Map

FEMA Region IX Office - U.S. Department of Homeland Security was also contacted concerning the possible impacts of the proposed projects. According to their response, TOF is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and needs to follow their flood plain management building requirements.

### 3.3 WETLANDS

Wetlands are defined as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (33 CFR 328.3[b], 40 CFR 230.3). For a wetland to qualify as jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and therefore be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the site must support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Other waters of the United States are sites that typically lack one or more of the three indicators.

According to NEPAAssist (EPA, 2020), there are a few wetlands outside the project locations such as R4SBA riverine, and small freshwater wetlands. Slight section of the proposed force main passes through R4SBA riverine. However, during the site visit conducted on January 27, 2021, wetlands were not observed within the project area. According to the [USFWS National Wetland Inventory](#), R4SBA riverine is an intermittent subsystem which comprises channels that contain flowing water only part of the year. When the water is not flowing, it may remain in isolated pools or surface water may be absent. Additionally, surface water is present for short periods (a few days to a few weeks) during the growing season, but the water table usually remains well below the ground surface for the majority of the season.

The project areas do not support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation either. Since there are no wetlands present in the project area, there will be no impacts that warrant any mitigation measures. A map showing the wetlands' location is provided in **Appendix D**.

### 3.4 HISTORIC / CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

WIFA consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on October 21, 2020, and it was determined that no historic properties are affected by the proposed project. Furthermore, it was reported that there are no known sites in the project vicinity, and the area has not been previously surveyed. However, because the project area is fully disturbed, no survey is recommended. See **Appendix E** for SHPO's cultural resources review.

Historic Preservation – Any ground disturbance resulting from work performed by, or on behalf of the project owner or contractor(s) that uncovers an apparent or suspected historical or archaeological artifact shall be immediately reported to the Agency. Work in the area of the discovery shall be immediately and temporarily stopped pending the notification process and further directions issued by the Agency after consultation with the SHPO.

As per **Appendix E**, there are no Indian Tribal Communities within or adjacent to the project areas. The nearest Tribe is Gila River Indian Community. Considering the above-mentioned facts, there are no mitigation measures required.

### 3.5 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

#### 3.5.1 FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was contacted, and an Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) report was generated. Maps of Arizona's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), Species of Economic Importance (SERI), Birds and Fish species were also obtained from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) Online Environmental Review Tool.



The IPaC report showing the list of Federally Listed Threatened (T), Endangered (E), or Candidate (C) Species that are native to the project area, along with the correspondence with USFWS and AZGFD's online list are provided in **Appendix F**.

According to AZGFD's response, the Sonoran Desert Tortoise is a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that has been noted in the project vicinity. Suitable habitat for this species might be present along or near the State Route 79 (SR79). Therefore, during construction within this vicinity, provided any encounter with this type of tortoise, crews should refer to the appropriate handling guidelines as presented in **Appendix F**.

Western Burrowing Owls are another special species regulated under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that have not been recorded within the project area. However, since SR79 might be a proper habitat for them, an occupancy survey has been recommended to verify this notion. See **Appendix F** for correspondence with USFWS for more information.

It is also advised to take proper measures to reduce any adverse impacts on surrounding vegetation and adjacent surface waters. See **Appendix F** for more details.

Furthermore, AZGFD has suggested to cover and/or backfill any trenching associated with the construction activities immediately to avoid any entrapment of wildlife. If these areas cannot be covered, escape ramps or fence can be installed around the site to prevent animals from entering the area. In regions with native vegetation, proposed ground disturbance of area of 0.25 acre or more should be in compliance with Arizona Native Plant Law regulations. Precautions to wash all equipment is necessary to avert the spread of invasive and harmful invasive species.

AZGFD has identified riparian areas within the vicinity of the proposed project. Since riparian areas provide essential movement corridors and habitat for fish and wildlife, it is advised to avoid, or mitigate any potential impacts to these areas during the planning stage of the project.

Considering the above-mentioned facts, there are no concerns or timing restrictions for the proposed improvements as long as the mitigation measures mentioned above are followed during construction.

### 3.5.2 CRITICAL HABITATS

According to the USFWS IPaC and NEPAAssist websites (**Appendix F**), there is no critical habitat within the project area. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

## 3.6 WATER RESOURCES

### 3.6.1 SURFACE WATER

According to NEPA's website, there are no water features such as water bodies, wild and scenic rivers, and watersheds passing through the project area. Refer to **Appendix G** for more information. Therefore, mitigation measures are not required since surface water will not be impacted.

### 3.6.2 GROUND WATER

This project does not lie within a sole source aquifer recharge area as designated by the EPA – Region 9. Therefore, the proposed project will not have any impact on sole source aquifers and mitigation measures are not required. See **Appendix G** for correspondence with EPA.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) was contacted regarding impacts of the proposed project on the water quality and quantity in the area. As per ADEQ's response, all appropriate permits must be obtained from ADEQ prior to construction.

## 3.7 AIR QUALITY

The proposed construction activities will temporarily generate a small amount of fugitive dust from excavation and backfilling activities. The quantities generated by the project will be relatively small and will only affect a localized area for a brief period. Violations of air quality standards will not occur during construction. Therefore, the impact associated with fugitive dust is considered less than significant.

Construction of the proposed projects will require obtaining required permits from ADEQ, since the project area is located in a non-attainment area for Particulate Matter 10 (PM10). See **Appendix H** for correspondence with ADEQ.

Hence, the contractor hired by the TOF must comply with local and state standards for air quality during construction, and will also be required to implement the following environmental protection measures:

- Equipment shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to minimize carbon emissions.
- Heavy equipment shall not be allowed to idle in excess of 5 minutes.
- No ground shall be disturbed when wind speed is in excess of 15 mph due to silty soil conditions and the proximity to adjacent administration areas.
- Disturbed areas shall be treated (sprayed) with water, prior to construction and as needed, during construction to minimize fugitive dust emissions.

### 3.8 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

- Designated Wild and Scenic River

According to the [National Wild and Scenic Rivers System](#), Arizona has two Wild and Scenic Rivers, Fossil Creek, and the Verde River, currently. However, these rivers are about 100 miles away from the proposed project area and do not cross those locations.

- Eligible or Potentially Eligible for Designation

Many rivers and reaches of rivers are eligible or can potentially be eligible for the Wild and Scenic designation. National Park Service (NPS) was contacted to determine if Gila River which is close to the proposed project area, is included as eligible or potentially eligible. According to their response, only the upper sections of the Gila River are eligible and included on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), not the sections passing through Florence. Furthermore, it was verified that the proposed project will not impact any Wild and Scenic Rivers listed on NRI.

Therefore, the project is not within 1 mile of a Wild and Scenic River, nor is the receiving waterbody of the project eligible or potentially eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic.

### 3.9 NOISE ABATEMENT AND CONTROL

Noise is a fundamental component of the human environment. High noise levels can be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of human and wildlife receptors located near the source of an obtrusive noise. While the physical intensity of a sound can be easily measured, the effect of a sound on a receptor is a complex and intangible value that must consider the combination of its intensity, duration, and time of day. Louder noises are perceived as acceptable if they last for short periods of time. Noise, which may be acceptable during the day, can be annoying or intolerable during evening or nighttime periods.

Construction of the proposed projects will not generate much noise throughout the process. The noise effect will be short-term and will cease to occur after construction is complete. To minimize the noise impact during the construction phase, the following environmental protection measure, or mitigation measure will be implemented:

- Construction activities for the proposed project will for the most part be limited to normal daylight working hours and exclude holidays to minimize the effects of construction-related noise levels. However, TOF may allow construction during weekends with prior approval. Standard noise control devices will be required on all construction equipment.

### 3.10 TRANSPORTATION

Construction activities may cause temporary road closures. The following environmental protection measure, or mitigation measure will be executed:

- TOF will require the Contractor to develop a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) for the Town's review and approval before beginning construction. The Contractor will be required to follow standard traffic control procedures currently recommended by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT).

The project construction activities will occur in small zones for short periods of time. While the construction activities will slow the traffic flow locally, implementation of the TCP will help reduce traffic accident risks. All the impacts will be local, for short periods of time, and will not continue once the construction activities are complete.

### 3.11 SOCIO-ECONOMIC/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

According to the United States Census Bureau, population estimate for Florence in 2010 and 2019 was 25,452 and 27,422, respectively. The information regarding the population density, minority, and low-income population obtained from EPA's Screening and Mapping Tool is provided in **Appendix I**.

According to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines, a minority population exists if the minority population of the affected area is greater than 50% of the affected area's population. According to NEPA, part of the proposed project area lies in that category. However, there will be no disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations as defined by environmental justice policies and directives. The reason for this is that the proposed project will not involve major facility construction, population relocation, health hazards, hazardous waste, property takings, or substantial economic impacts.

Implementation of the proposed project will have beneficial socio-economic impacts to the project area. The proposed projects will improve the wastewater system to meet both current and future fire suppression, and indoor and outdoor water demand within TOF's service area. The proposed project could potentially have a short-term beneficial effect by creating jobs and increasing revenue to local business during the construction phase.

Moreover, all residents in TOF's service area will be served and pay the same rate structure. All residents who live within the area will be permitted to hook-up to the system LOC. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in any significant adverse impacts and therefore any socio-economic/environmental justice and mitigation measures will not be required.

### 3.12 MISCELLANEOUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### 3.12.1 COASTAL RESOURCES

The project site is not located in a coastal area. Coastal resources will not be impacted, and therefore mitigation measures will not be required.



### 3.12.2 AESTHETICS

Construction activities and equipment for the lift station and force main may be considered a temporary aesthetic nuisance for a short period of time by local residents. Given the short-term duration of the construction activities, this impact is considered minor. This impact will not continue once the construction activities are complete.

Surface disturbance during the construction phase of the proposed projects will temporarily result in increased dust and haze, creating short-term impacts to visual resources. Completion of the proposed project will ultimately lessen the amount of dust and haze through stabilization of the soil and restoration of plant cover. Re-vegetation, where necessary, and naturalization of the disturbed areas will also reduce the short-term project-related dust and haze over the long term. Therefore, mitigation is not required for the impacts to aesthetics.

### 3.12.3 HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

According to NEPAassist (EPA, 2020), there is no hazardous waste (RCRAInfo), air pollution (ICIS-AIR), water discharges (NPDES), toxic releases (TRI), superfund (NPL), brownfields (ACRES), and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) sites located at any of the proposed construction sites as shown in **Appendix J**.

Trenching and backfilling for pipeline installation, as well as well construction could result in human health and safety issues. To minimize potential issues, the following environmental protection measures will be implemented:

- The construction area will be clearly fenced, marked, or flagged at the outer boundaries to define the limits of construction activities. All construction workers will be instructed that their activities will be confined to locations within the fenced, flagged, or marked areas.
- Excavation of the pipeline trench, including the manner of supporting excavation and provisions for access to the trench, will be in strict compliance with the current provisions for access, as determined by regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The maximum amount of open trench in any location will be 500 feet or the amount necessary to accommodate the lineal feet of pipe that can be installed in a single day, whichever is greater.
- Local ordinances will be followed as they relate to public safety and could include a notice of closure of use in the area during the construction phase, barricades for open trenches, signing etc. These measures will be implemented on all project lands.

#### 3.12.4 CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

For the proposed projects, the lift station site, and the force main pipeline, construction work will be within local road corridors where ROW will be utilized. The impacts of the implementation of the proposed project which utilize private lands and existing road ROW, and the required environmental protection measures have been discussed in the previous Sections. Additional environmental protection measures are not required.

#### 3.12.5 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

A geotechnical analysis has not been completed at this time but will be completed as part of the design/construction of the improvement projects. In the absence of a geotechnical analysis, the USDA NRCS Soil Survey Tool was used to generate a soil report. The soil report is provided in **Appendix K**.

### 3.13 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

TOF will obtain relevant ADEQ permits during design/construction of the proposed projects.

### 3.14 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

WIFA will review the EID.

## 4.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

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### 4.1 LAND USE / IMPORTANT FARMLAND / FORMALLY CLASSIFIED LANDS

The proposed project will not involve any federal lands. Therefore, mitigation measures or authorization for pipeline installation are not required.

A portion of the proposed force main will traverse through State Trust Land within Section 25 of T4S, R9E. ASLD was contacted regarding state trust lands involved in the proposed project. According to their response, there are several existing easements within the proposed area for the force main that will require coordination with ASLD's ROW section, as well as application for the required ROW permit.

### 4.2 FLOODPLAINS

A portion of the project was identified to be located in a Floodway or crossing one. If a project location is found to be in a floodway or crossing one during the design/construction of the proposed projects, the contractor will perform a scour analysis and encase the pipeline to provide scouring protection.

FEMA Region IX Office - U.S. Department of Homeland Security was also contacted concerning the possible impacts of the proposed projects. According to their response, TOF is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and needs to follow their flood plain management building requirements.

### 4.3 WETLANDS

A portion of the proposed force main passes through R4SBA riverine. However, during the site visit conducted on January 27, 2021, wetlands were not observed within the project area. Therefore, mitigation measures are not required since wetlands are not impacted.

### 4.4 HISTORIC / CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

WIFA consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on October 21, 2020, and it was determined that no historic properties are affected by the proposed project. Therefore, mitigation measures are not required.

### 4.5 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

There are no critical habitats in the project area. Hence, there are no concerns or timing restrictions for the proposed improvements as long as the mitigation are followed during construction.

#### 4.5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Cover and/or backfill any trenching associated with the construction activities immediately to avoid any entrapment of wildlife. If these areas cannot be covered, escape ramps or fence can be installed around the site to prevent small mammals and herpetofauna from entering the area.
- Disturbance should be reseeded with a native, weed-free seed mix, and precautions to wash all equipment is necessary to avert the spread of invasive and harmful weed species.
- Pre-construction surveys would inform the best practices and any further precautions required for these species. For instance, since SR79 might be a proper habitat for Western Burrowing Owls, an occupancy survey has been recommended to verify this notion. AZGFD has identified riparian areas within the vicinity of the proposed project. Since riparian areas provide essential movement corridors and habitat for fish and wildlife, it is advised to avoid, or mitigate any potential impacts to these areas during the planning stage of the project.
- During construction, provided any encounter with Sonoran Desert Tortoise within the project area (SR79), crews should refer to the appropriate handling guidelines as presented in **Appendix F**.

### 4.6 WATER RESOURCES

Mitigation measures are not required since significant impacts to water resources were not identified.

### 4.7 AIR QUALITY

Construction of the proposed projects will require obtaining required permits from ADEQ, since the project area is located in a non-attainment area for PM10.

#### 4.7.1 RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Equipment shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to minimize carbon emissions.
- Heavy equipment shall not be allowed to idle in excess of 5 minutes.
- No ground shall be disturbed when wind speed is in excess of 15 mph due to silty soil conditions and the proximity to adjacent administration areas.
- Disturbed areas shall be treated (sprayed) with water, prior to construction and as needed, during construction to minimize fugitive dust emissions

#### 4.8 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Mitigation measures are not required since the proposed project is not within 1 mile of a Wild and Scenic River, nor is the receiving waterbody of the project eligible or potentially eligible for designation as Wild and Scenic.

#### 4.9 NOISE ABATEMENT AND CONTROL

Construction activities for the proposed projects will be limited to normal daylight working hours and exclude weekends and holidays to minimize the effects of construction-related noise levels. Standard noise control devices will be required on all construction equipment. However, TOF may allow construction during weekends with prior approval. Standard noise control devices will be required on all construction equipment.

#### 4.10 TRANSPORTATION

TOF will require the Contractor to develop a TCP for the District's review and approval before beginning construction. The Contractor will be required to follow standard traffic control procedures currently recommended by ADOT.

#### 4.11 SOCIO-ECONOMIC/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Mitigation measures are not required since potential impacts were not identified.

#### 4.12 MISCELLANEOUS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

##### 4.12.1 COASTAL RESOURCES

Mitigation measures are not required since the project is not located within a coastal area.

##### 4.12.2 AESTHETICS

Mitigation measures are not required since no potential impacts were identified.

##### 4.12.3 HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The construction area will be clearly fenced, marked, or flagged at the outer boundaries to define the limits of construction activities. All construction workers will be instructed

that their activities will be confined to locations within the fenced, flagged, or marked areas.

- Excavation of the pipeline trench, including the manner of supporting excavation and provisions for access to the trench, will be in strict compliance with the current provisions for access, as determined by regulations of the OSHA. The maximum amount of open trench in any location will be 500 feet or the amount necessary to accommodate the lineal feet of pipe that can be installed in a single day, whichever is greater.
- Local ordinances will be followed as they relate to public safety and could include a notice of closure of use in the area during the construction phase, barricades for open trenches, signing, etc. These measures will be implemented on all project lands.

#### 4.12.4 CORRIDOR ANALYSIS

Environmental protection measures are not required.

### 5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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When the EID is in compliance with A.A.C. R18-15-106, WIFA will adopt the EID as the project's Environmental Assessment (EA). If the EA indicates that there will be no significant impacts on the environment, WIFA will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI will be publicly noticed and open for public review for 30 calendar days. After the 30-day period terminates and any questions and concerns have been addressed, the FONSI is finalized.

## 6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

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### 6.1 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

- Town of Florence
  - Christopher Salas, PE – Public Works Director/Town Engineer
- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA)
  - Samantha Lemke - Environmental Program Specialist
- Sunrise Engineering
  - Geoffrey Child, PE – Project Principal
  - Siddharth Mazumdar, EIT – Project Manager
  - Sepideh Hakim Elahi, EIT – Engineer-In-Training

### 6.2 GROUPS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- AZ State Land Department
- Arizona State Parks & Trails
- Bureau of Land Management - Wilderness Areas
- EPA Region 9
- FEMA Region 9 - U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- National Park Service
- State Historic Preservation Office
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Services
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Consultation with Tribes is undertaken by WIFA directly.

## 7.0 CERTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

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## 8.0 REFERENCES

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC Resource List: Find Location. Create Project. Available at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index>. Accessed on December 9, 2020.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey: Search by Address. Available at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed on December 10, 2020.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department Online Environmental Review Tool: Search by Address. Available at <http://ert.azgfd.gov/content/map>. Accessed on December 9, 2020.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2020. FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search by Address. Available at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search>. Accessed on December 18, 2020.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Pacific Southwest, Region 9 - Sole Source Aquifer Designation. Available at <https://archive.epa.gov/region9/water/archive/web/html/ssa.html>. Accessed on December 15, 2020.
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- U.S. Environmental Protection. 2020. NEPAAssit. Available at <https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepamap.aspx?wherestr=florence%2C+az>. Accessed on December 8, 2020.
- EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2019). Population data - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>. Accessed on December 9, 2020.
- EPA - Detailed Facility Report. Available at <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110002566189>. Accessed on January 21, 2021.
- U.S. Census Bureau: Available at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/florencetownarizona/PST120219> . Accessed on January 8, 2021.



# FIGURES

# FIGURE 1

General Location Map

# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A

## Project Location Aerial

## APPENDIX B

### Land Ownership

# APPENDIX C

## FEMA Maps

# APPENDIX D

## Wetlands

# APPENDIX E

## Cultural Resources



# APPENDIX F

## Biological Resources

# APPENDIX G

## Water Features and Sole Source Aquifer

# APPENDIX H

## Air Quality Data

# APPENDIX I

## Demographics

# APPENDIX J

## Hazardous Waste Site

# APPENDIX K

## USDA Soil Resource Report