United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Cruces District Office
1800 Marquess
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005
www.nm.blm.gov

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
6841 (03000)

SEP 08 2006

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103, Phoenix, AZ 85021

From: District Manager, Las Cruces District Office

Subject: Endangered Species Act Coordination and Consultation for the SFPP El Paso to Phoenix Expansion Project (AESO/SE 22410-2006-1-0470), Request for Consultation and Concurrence on Determinations

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finds that the proposed SFPP El Paso to Phoenix Expansion Project (EPX) may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, the endangered Pima pineapple cactus (*Coryphantha scheeri robustispina*). Based on information contained in the attached Biological Assessment (BA), the BLM also finds that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, either the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris curasoae yerbabuenae*) or jaguar (*Panthera onca*); both endangered species. As the lead Federal agency, the BLM is requesting formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on affects to the Pima pineapple cactus; and concurrence on our finding of no adverse effects on the lesser long-nosed bat and jaguar. Conservation measures set forth in the BA will be incorporated into the project description of the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared concurrently as part of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Appended to the BA are the Spill Prevention and Control Plan, the Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan for Construction Activities, and the Noxious Weed Management and Rehabilitation Plan from the EA. These appendices provide assurances to USFWS that stringent measures will be taken to prevent impacts from pollutants and introduction of noxious weeds. As part of the formal consultation process, we are requesting the USFWS provide a draft of the Biological Opinion to allow us an opportunity to review the "Terms and Conditions."

As described in our request for project evaluation (Memorandum dated May 31, 2006), SFPP, Inc., operating partnership for Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P., is proposing to construct a petroleum products pipeline divided into three segments that will generally parallel existing pipelines along SFPP's present route from El Paso, Texas, to Phoenix, Arizona. This project, the SFPP El Paso to Phoenix Expansion Project, will provide additional capacity for petroleum products into the Tucson/Phoenix markets. The SFPP plan is to begin construction May 2007. The project is divided into four logical segments from east to west. The segments are based on continuous or contiguous areas where the new pipeline is proposed for construction. The routes of the new segments were dictated largely by the location of the existing pipeline.

BLM is the lead Federal agency for compliance with NEPA, as well as the lead for compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. Mark Cochran of CH2M HILL is the consultants' Lead Biologist for this project.

Please feel free to contact Scott Cooke, Renewable Resource Advisor, at 520-439-6416, or Mark Cochran of CH2M HILL at 520-293-5054, if you require further information or wish to discuss this project.

Attachments
Biological Assessment

cc:
Jason Allen, BLM Las Cruces DO
Scott Cooke, BLM Gila District
Dave Cornman, SFPP/Kinder Morgan Energy Partners
Regan Giese, CH2M HILL
Gabe Valdes, CH2M HILL
Mark Cochran, CH2M HILL