

# CHAPTER VIII

## SUMMARY OF COORDINATION AND PUBLIC VIEWS

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### 8.1 NON-FEDERAL VIEWS AND PREFERENCES

The non-Federal views and preferences regarding ecosystem restoration measures, and problems they addressed, in general were obtained through coordination with the local sponsor and with other various local and regional public agencies, community groups, resource conservation groups and the public. These coordination efforts consisted of public meetings held during the reconnaissance and feasibility phases, through the maintenance of points of contact that any interested party could discuss matters, and a distribution list where notices of public meetings was distributed. Announcement of public meetings was made in local media providing the date, time, place and subject matter.

### 8.2 DIVISION OF PLAN RESPONSIBILITIES

The City of Phoenix has expressed willingness in continuing to be a non-Federal sponsor for project implementation. They have indicated support for the project and willingness to assume cost-shared financial obligations for its implementation. A letter of support acknowledging sponsorship requirements for the project is presented as Figure VIII-1. There is currently a significant interest in providing ecosystem restoration solutions with recreation opportunities on the Rio Salado Oeste reach of the Salt River.



**City of Phoenix**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

April 21, 2006

Colonel Alex Dornstauder  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 14P00  
Los Angeles, California 90017

**Re: Letter of Support for the Rio Salado Oeste Recommended Plan, Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study**

Dear Colonel Dornstauder:

The City of Phoenix, as the local sponsor, supports the recommended plan contained in the Rio Salado Oeste Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Report, for the Salt River between 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue through Phoenix.

This restoration plan is consistent with the overall vision and goals the city has for restoration of the Salt River. We are prepared to move forward with the Army Corps to the next level of design and construction. This includes the sponsor's commitment to secure our financial share for preconstruction engineering and design costs once the project receives Congressional authorization.

We thank the Army Corps for their commitment and involvement in constructing the upstream Rio Salado environment restoration project. The successful grand opening of Rio Salado for our residents and all of its visitors on November 5, 2005 was a great beginning in making the riverbed an asset for our community and a natural resource. We look forward to working with the Army Corps to extend the improvements downstream by making Rio Salado Oeste a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Williams".

Karen Williams  
Rio Salado Project Director  
City Manager's Office

**Figure 0-1 City of Phoenix Support Letter**

### **8.3 SUMMARY OF STUDY MANAGEMENT, COORDINATION, PUBLIC VIEWS AND COMMENTS**

The study team was made up of a multi-disciplinary group that consisted of several functional elements of the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor. The study team included study and project managers, engineers, hydrologic and hydraulic engineers, groundwater specialists, environmental specialists, cost estimators, designers, appraisers, economists, materials, geotechnical specialists, real estate specialists, and landscape architects.

Formal and informal coordination occurred with a variety of Federal, State, and local agencies in addition to the public involvement described above. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was distributed to local, State, and Federal Agencies and Tribal Governments for review and comment. Representatives from USFWS and AGFD participated in development of the functional assessment model and its application. The USFWS, AGFD, and FCDMC also participated in development of alternatives and their design. USFWS has provided a Coordination Act Report for this study, which can be found in the attached Final EIS. Further information pertaining to public meetings as well as public comments is also found in the EIS.

Letters from the US EPA, US Department of the Interior, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, and Arizona Game and Fish Department were all supportive of the restoration project. Additional letters of support were received from Audubon Arizona, Phoenix Community Alliance, Valley Forward, Phoenix Planning Commission, Phoenix Parks and Recreation Board, members of the Phoenix City Council and former members of the Rio Salado Advisory Committee. All correspondence and comments on the report are found in the attached Environmental Impact Statement.



# **CHAPTER IX**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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I recommend that the plan described herein for ecosystem restoration and recreation, be authorized for implementation as a Federal project. The total first cost of the project is currently estimated at \$164,950,295 under October 2006 prices. The Federal share is currently estimated at \$105,541,675.

I recommend that the Corps of Engineers participate in cost-shared monitoring and minor modifications, as may be required to ensure success of the project, as identified and described within the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.

My recommendation is subject to cost sharing, financing, and other applicable requirements of Federal and State laws and policies, including Public Law 99-663, the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended by Section 202 of Public Law 104-303, the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, and in accordance with the required items of local cooperation identified in Chapter VII which the non-Federal sponsor must agree to prior to project implementation.

The plans presented herein are recommended with such modifications thereof as in the discretion of the Commander, HQUSACE, may be advisable.

The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They do not reflect program and budgeting priorities in the formulation of a national Civil Works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the non-Federal sponsor, the State, interested Federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any modifications and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.



Alex C. Dornstauder  
Colonel, US Army  
District Engineer



## CHAPTER X

### REFERENCES

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