

Finding of No Significant Impact

Pima Freeway (Loop 101) Project
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Based on the attached final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Pima Freeway (Loop 101) project for a proposal to grant an easement for a 183 acre right-of-way for the development of a two-lane, three mile freeway across the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community lands in Maricopa County, Arizona, I have determined that by implementation of the agency proposed action and environmental mitigation measures as specified in the EA, the proposed Pima Freeway (Loop 101) will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. In accordance with Section 102 (2) ©) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required.

This determination is supported by the following findings:

1. Agency and public involvement was conducted and environmental issues related to development of Pima Freeway (Loop 101) were identified. Alternative courses of action and mitigation measures were developed in response to environmental concerns and issues.
2. The EA discloses the environmental consequences of the proposed action and three potentially viable alternatives, which include the “no action” alternative.
3. Protective measures will be levied to protect air, noise and water quality, as outlined in Chapter V, Mitigation Measures.
4. The proposed action is planned not to jeopardize threatened and endangered species. See Chapter V, Section E.
5. There are no adverse effects on historic properties for the purpose of 36 CFR 800.9 (b) by preserving archeological value through conduct of appropriate research in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines. Should undiscovered archeological remains be encountered during project ground-disturbing activities, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations 36 CFR 800.11 be followed.
6. Impacts to public health and safety are mitigated through implementation of safety measures described in Chapter V, Section A (6).
7. Impacts to floodplains affected by the proposed alternative have been evaluated in accordance with E.O. 11988. A wetland area would be affected, however, mitigation has been established in the form of a land exchange to compensate for the loss of habitat. See Chapter V, Section A (4), Section LB (2) and Section C (6).

8. The cumulative effects to the environment are mitigated to avoid or minimize effects of implementation of the proposed project.

9. The proposed action would improve the economic and social conditions of the affected Indian community.

Agency Superintendent
Salt River Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

Date