



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

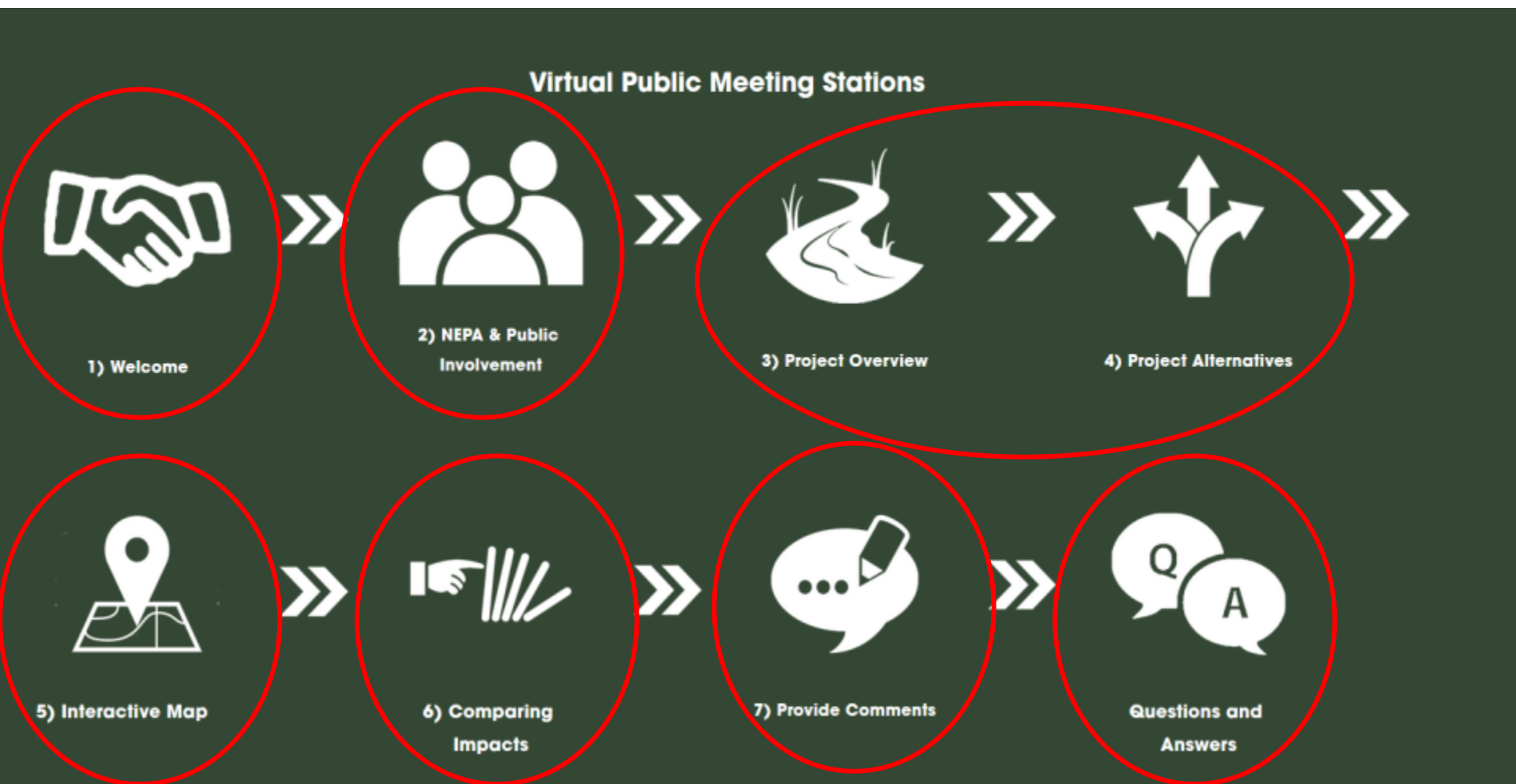


# New Mexico Unit of the Central Arizona Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Virtual Public Meeting  
April 17 – June 8, 2020

# Virtual Meeting Format

- Visit informational stations by clicking on the icons



# Brief Background

- The 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA) provided to New Mexico:
  - AWSA water: an annual average of 14,000 acre feet of water from the Gila River, its tributaries including the San Francisco River, and underground sources in NM diverted in accordance with the AWSA and Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement (CUFA)
  - AWSA water is in addition to the amounts in the 1935 U.S. District Court Decree and the 1964 U.S. Supreme Court Decree
- The New Mexico Unit of the Central Arizona Project (NM Unit) is a unit of the CAP in Southwest New Mexico to develop and consumptively use AWSA water



# Roles and Responsibilities

## U.S. Secretary of Interior, through Reclamation

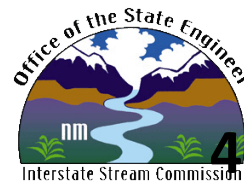
- Design, build, operate and maintain the NM Unit
- Conduct environmental compliance and issue a Record of Decision (ROD)
- Ensure compliance with terms of various laws and agreements
- Disburse \$66 million (adjusted for inflation) to the ISC for New Mexico projects
- Provide up to an additional \$62 million additional construction funding for the NM Unit if certain conditions were met; *denied funding extension request in Dec. 2019.*

## State of New Mexico, through the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (ISC)

- Act as the joint lead in the environmental compliance process with Reclamation
- Receive and make determinations on funding allocations for the purposes of, among other things, planning, environmental compliance, and costs of a NM Unit project, from the NM Unit Fund
- Administer the NM Unit Fund
- Approve any contracts

## NM CAP Entity

- Own and hold title to the NM Unit facilities once built
- Assume project responsibilities upon request to the Secretary of Interior; *holds the design authority and has requested transfer of the remaining ones in August 2018.*



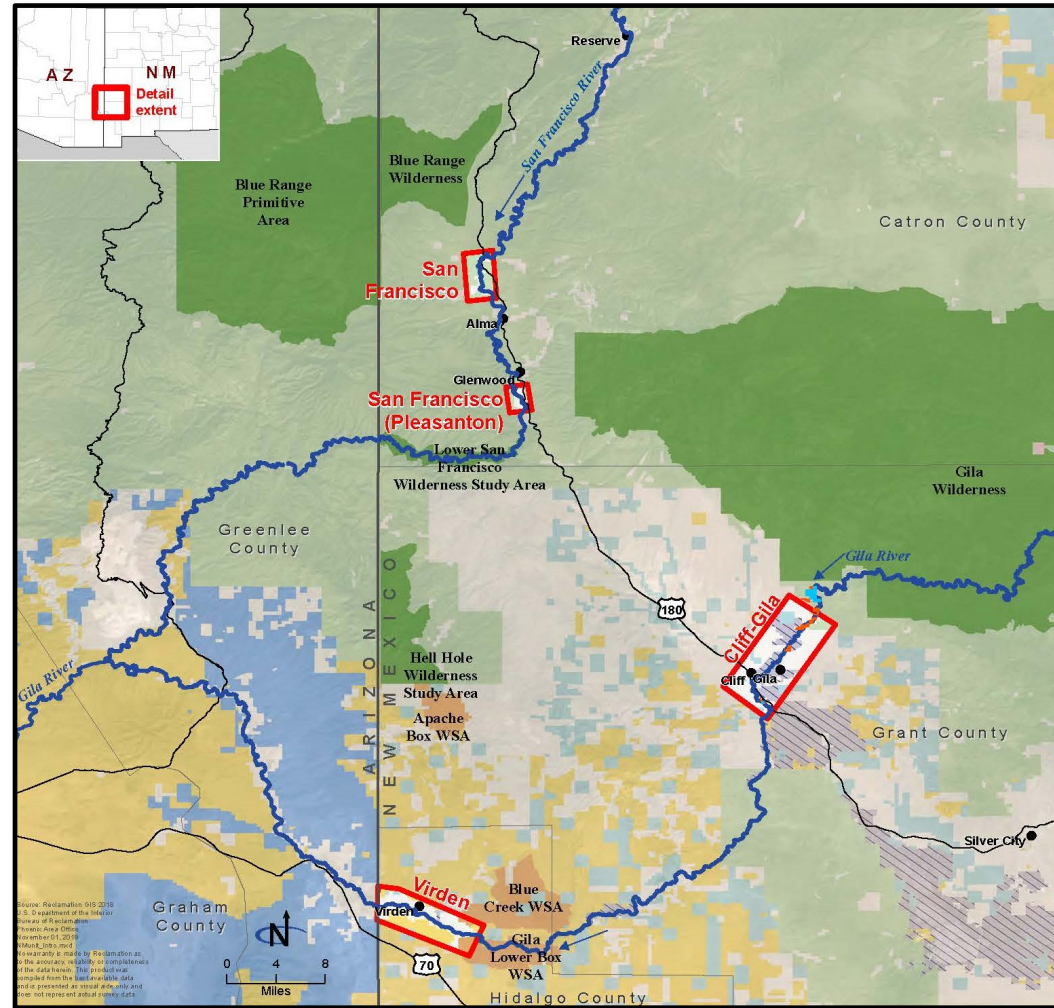
# Compliance Requirements

- Environmental compliance in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws and regulations
- NM Unit Agreement requirements signed between the U.S. Secretary of Interior and the New Mexico CAP Entity
- CUFA requirements, including:
  - NM Terms of Diversion
  - CAP water exchange in AZ and associated costs
- Permits to be obtained from the permitting agencies (e.g., NM Office of the State Engineer)
- Other



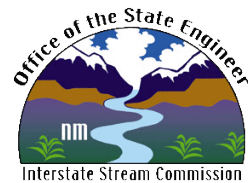
# Proposed Project

- The proposed NM Unit project is called the “Proposed Action.”
- Seeks to develop a portion of the AWSA water in Southwest New Mexico
  - Includes water diversion, storage, conveyance, and delivery infrastructure
  - Proposed in three agricultural valleys in the Gila/San Francisco Basin
  - No project component proposed in Luna County



# Purpose and Need for Action

- **Purpose:** Develop a NM Unit to allow for consumptive use of water from the Gila River, its tributaries, or underground water sources in southwestern New Mexico, diverted in accordance with the Consumptive Use and Forbearance Agreement (CUFA) and pursuant to the terms of the AWSA.
- **Needs:** (a) Develop water for delivery at the times, locations, and in quantities that will improve agricultural use, and (b) provide capability for future expansion for authorized beneficial purposes.



# NEPA Process Parties

- Proponent: New Mexico CAP Entity
- Lead Agencies: DOI/Reclamation and the ISC
- Cooperating agencies:
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - U.S. Bureau of Land Management
  - New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
  - San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District
  - Catron County
  - San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District





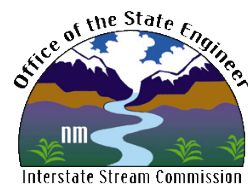
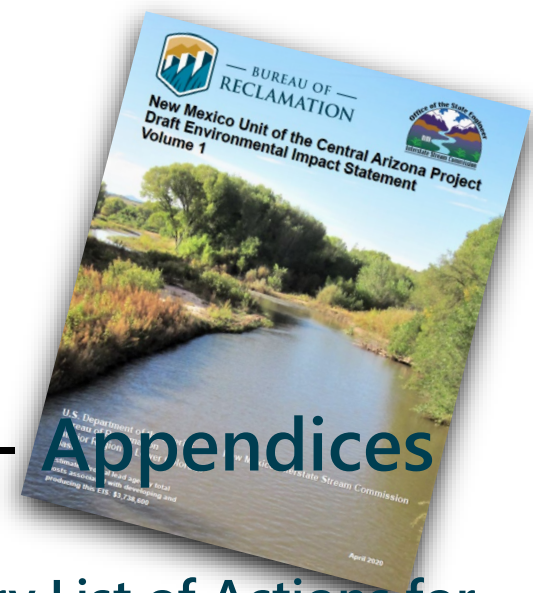
# Navigating the Draft EIS

## Volume 1

- Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need
- Chapter 2: Alternatives
- Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
- Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination

## Volume 2 - Appendices

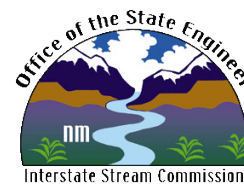
- Maps
- Preliminary List of Actions for the NM Unit
- Best Management Practices
- Scoping Issues
- Glossary
- References
- List of Preparers
- Index
- Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines



# Alternatives Under Consideration

Alternative	Location(s)	Average AWSA Diversion / <i>Consumptive Use</i>	Construction Cost
<b>Alternative A</b> (No Action)	NM Unit would not be constructed	0 AF/yr <i>0 AF/yr</i>	\$0
<b>Alternative B</b> (Entity's Proposed Action)	Cliff-Gila, Virden, and San Francisco	2,461 AF/yr <i>1,782 AF/yr</i>	\$52M
<b>Alternative C</b>	Cliff-Gila, Virden, and San Francisco	3,185 AF/yr <i>1,845 AF/yr</i>	\$92M
<b>Alternative D</b>	Virden Only	480 AF/yr <i>349 AF/yr</i>	\$7M
<b>Alternative E</b>	Cliff-Gila, Virden, and San Francisco	2,924 AF/yr <i>1,459 AF/yr</i>	\$165M

Source: Tables 2-3 and 2-4 NM Unit Draft EIS  
AF/yr – acre-feet per year



# Components by Action Alternative

	Cliff-Gila Valley	Virден Valley (same in all alternatives)	San Francisco Valley
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One permanent diversion structure to replace 3 push-up diversions</li> <li>Various conveyance improvements (reconstructing, partial lining, extending, widening, piping)</li> <li>Four new gravity-fed, clay-lined storage ponds (1,890 AF)</li> <li>Five production wells (120' deep; 500 gpm each)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses existing infrastructure (diversions and canals)</li> <li>Two clay-lined, gravity-fed storage ponds (551 AF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One permanent diversion structure to replace 2 push-up diversions</li> <li>Various conveyance improvements</li> <li>No storage</li> </ul>
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three semi-permanent diversions to replace 3 push-up diversions</li> <li>No conveyance improvements</li> <li>Four gravity-fed, clay-lined storage ponds (1,890 AF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses existing infrastructure (diversions and canals)</li> <li>Two clay-lined, gravity-fed storage ponds (551 AF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One semi-permanent diversion to replace one push-up diversion</li> <li>Various conveyance improvements</li> <li>One unlined reservoir in a side canyon (600 AF)</li> </ul>
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses existing infrastructure (diversions and canals)</li> <li>Two clay-lined, gravity-fed storage ponds (551 AF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One permanent diversion structure to replace 1 push-up diversion</li> <li>Various conveyance improvements and extensions</li> <li>Two new pump-fed, unlined ponds as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) basins and surface storage (1,820 AF)</li> <li>One gravity-fed clay-lined pond (258 AF)</li> <li>Three ASR wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses existing infrastructure (diversions and canals)</li> <li>Two clay-lined, gravity-fed storage ponds (551 AF)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One permanent diversion to replace 2 push-up diversions</li> <li>Various conveyance improvements</li> <li>One unlined reservoir in a side canyon (1,610 AF)</li> </ul>

# Alternatives – maps and details

## Virtual Public Meeting Stations



1) Welcome



2) NEPA & Public  
Involvement



3) Project Overview



4) Project Alternatives



5) Interactive Map



6) Comparing  
Impacts



7) Provide Comments



Questions and  
Answers

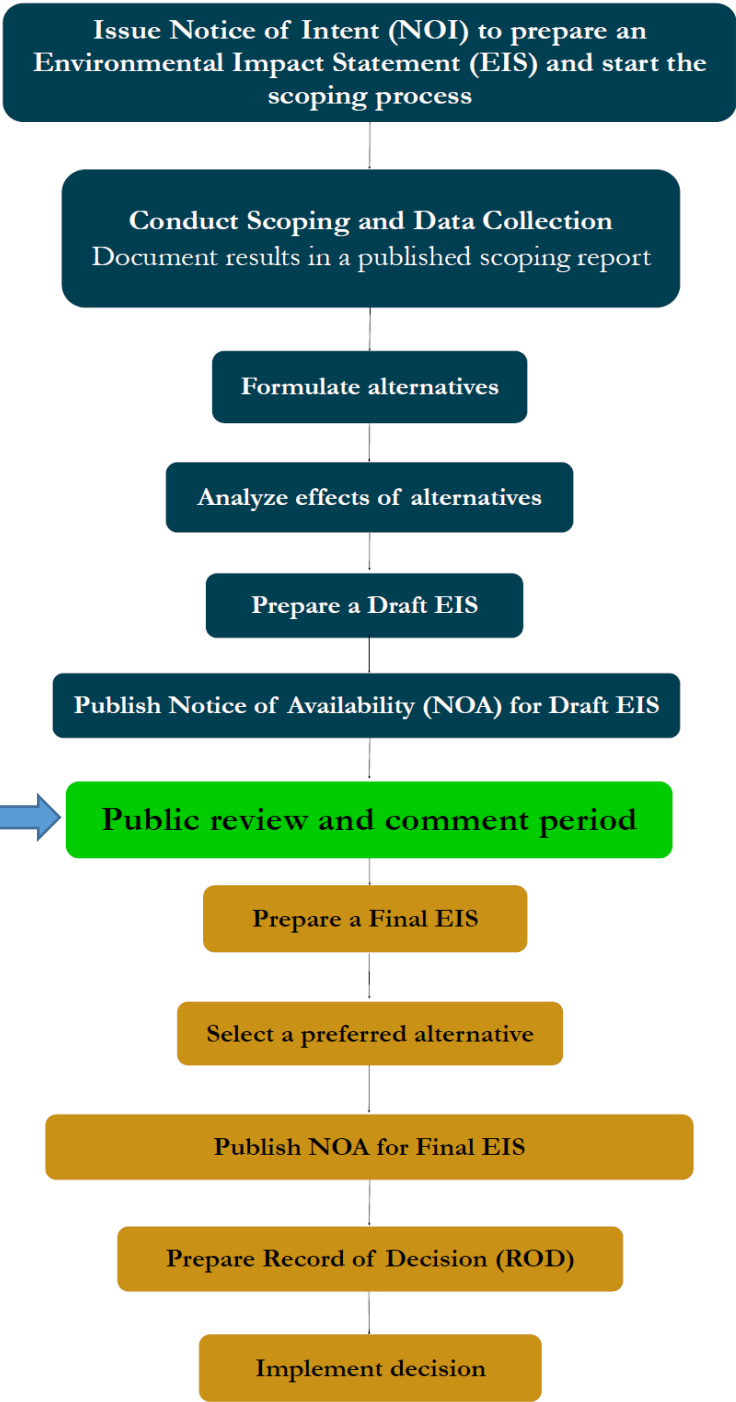
# Impacts

- Resource topics evaluated for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts include:
  - Water, biological, and cultural resources, geology and soils, land use, socioeconomics, Indian Trust Assets, Environmental Justice, and Public Health and Safety.
- The “Comparing Impacts” station includes a summary table of impacts.
- Of the action alternatives, Alternative D has the fewest environmental impacts due to the limited scope and footprint of the project components.



# Schedule

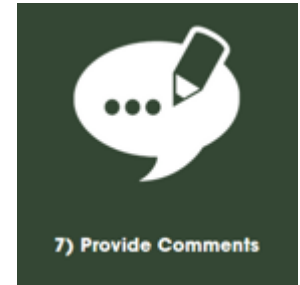
Notice of Intent	June 12, 2018
Scoping	June 12-July 20, 2018
Draft EIS (NOA)	April 24, 2020
Public Review	April 24 – June 8, 2020
Final EIS	October 2020
ROD	December 2020



# We Want to Hear from You

- Online: At the Provide Comments station
- Email: [NMUnitEIS@emp.si.com](mailto:NMUnitEIS@emp.si.com)
- Postal Mail:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
ATTN: NM Unit EIS  
6150 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306-4001



# For more information:

- Visit the project website at [www.nmuniteis.com](http://www.nmuniteis.com)
- Call Sean Heath, Reclamation Project Manager, at (623) 773-6250
- Call Ali Effati, ISC Project Manager, at (505) 827-5801
- Email: [NMUnitEIS@emp.si.com](mailto:NMUnitEIS@emp.si.com)

# Thank you!

