



Arizona Department of Transportation

## Agency Coordination Plan

State Route 410 - I-19 to I-10 - Design Concept Report and Tier 2  
Environmental Impact Statement

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by FHWA and ADOT.*

May 2025 | Version 1.1

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the Coordination Plan

Effective interagency coordination is the key to achieving environmentally responsible transportation decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations introduced the concepts of “lead agency” and “cooperating agency” to help streamline the environmental process, eliminate duplication in Federal, state, and local procedures, and integrate the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with other Federal environmental review and consultation requirements.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) enacted in 2005 addressed the many challenges facing our nation’s transportation system, such as improving safety, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency in freight movement, increasing intermodal connectivity, and protecting the environment. SAFETEA-LU further defined the role of agencies involved with a transportation project receiving Federal funds. The SAFETEA-LU Environmental Review Process Final Guidance, issued November 15th, 2006, defines the role of the Lead Agency, Participating Agencies, and Cooperating Agencies.

In 2012, the provisions of Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU were amended by Section 1305 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and further refined in 2015 by 1304(g) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU requires the lead agency(ies) for any federally funded project performing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to establish a plan for coordinating public and agency involvement during the environmental review process. MAP-21 continued this requirement and the FAST Act added that the Coordination Plan is required no later than 90 days after the publication of EIS Notice of Intent (NOI) and must include a schedule.

On January 20, 2025, Executive Order (E.O.) 14154, Unleashing American Energy, directed CEQ to propose rescinding CEQ’s NEPA regulations and to provide guidance on implementing NEPA. CEQ published an Interim Final Rule on February 25, 2025 in response to this direction. CEQ also has issued initial guidance on implementing NEPA in response to E.O. 14154.

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will act as the lead agency for environmental review, interagency coordination, and coordination with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) monitoring and audits. The FHWA retains some engineering decisions, project level air quality conformity determinations, and government-to-government Tribal consultation (if requested). The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA) and ADOT. Agency and stakeholder roles and responsibilities, which are contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures and 23 CFR Part 771 Environmental Impact and Related Procedures, are defined below. The agencies will also adhere to guidance contained in 23 U.S.C. 139 Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-Making.

This Project Coordination Plan for agency, public, and tribal involvement defines the process by which ADOT will communicate information about the study to the Cooperating agencies, Participating agencies, the public, and Tribes. The plan also identifies how input from agencies, Tribes, and the public will be solicited and considered, as well as facilitating and documenting the lead agencies' interaction with the agencies, the public, and Tribes.

This coordination plan facilitates and documents the lead agency's interaction with the public and other agencies. It describes how the coordination will be accomplished throughout the environmental review process. This coordination plan promotes an efficient and streamlined process and sound project management through coordination, scheduling, and early resolution of issues.

This coordination plan:

- identifies early coordination efforts
- identifies Cooperating and Participating agencies and stakeholders
- establishes the timing and methods for gathering Cooperating and Participating agencies' and stakeholders' input on the project's purpose and need, study area, range of alternatives, study methodologies and criteria, technical reports, findings of the draft EIS, preferred alternative, and avoidance, minimization and or mitigation strategies
- establishes the timing and methods for gathering public input on the project's purpose and need, study area, range of alternatives, issues of concern, environmental features, and findings of the draft EIS
- describes the communication methods for informing the community about the project
- establishes a conflict resolution process for the Cooperating agencies

This coordination plan was developed in conjunction with a separate Public Involvement Plan. It will be updated periodically to reflect any changes to the project schedule and other items that may require updating over the course of the project.

## 1.2 Background and Study Description

ADOT has prepared this coordination plan as required by Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU for the State Route (SR) 410 Sonoran Corridor Study. SR 410 is a major new transportation corridor proposed in Pima County, Arizona. It was designated by Congress as a high-priority corridor and future interstate facility under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. [FHWA and ADOT prepared a Tier 1-level](#)

[EIS for this study](#), and ADOT is now advancing it through preparation of a Tier 2 EIS. [The Record of Decision \(ROD\)](#) for the Sonoran Corridor Study's Tier 1 NEPA clearance was issued in 2021. The Tier 1 ROD identified Alternative 7 as the selected 2,000-foot-wide corridor alternative. (The Tier 1 study documents can be viewed [here](#).) The current study will examine a number of 400-foot-wide alternative transportation alignments based on the selected Tier 1 alternative. No funding has been identified for right-of-way acquisition or construction of the project; however, it is being advanced through a Tier 2 EIS, in accordance with NEPA and other regulatory requirements, to further define the project development process including the identification of infrastructure needs, costs, outreach, and implementation plan strategies. This study will build upon the Tier 1 EIS and identify and evaluate the engineering and environmental considerations of various design concept alternatives for the corridor, refining the 2,000-foot corridor selected in the Tier 1 EIS to a proposed 400-foot freeway alignment.

The Sonoran Corridor Study Area is bounded on the west by Interstate Route 19 (I-19), and on the northeast by Interstate 10 (I-10) (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Corridor Alternative selected in the Tier 1 EIS originates at I-19 near El Toro Road in the Town of Sahuarita and extends east to the alignment of Alvernon Way, then heads north to Old Vail Road, terminating at Interstate Route 10 (I-10) in the vicinity of Rita Road.

The proposed Sonoran Corridor has been acknowledged in local, regional, and statewide plans to achieve identified transportation objectives. Several of these plans are listed below, with the authors in parentheses.

- City of Tucson Major Streets and Routes Map, Amended 1/20/2016
- 2019-2023 State Transportation Improvement Program (ADOT)
- FY 2025-FY2029 Transportation Improvement Program (PAG)

## 1.3 Project Purpose and Need

The Tier 1 EIS identified the following purpose and need for the Sonoran Corridor study:

### 1.3.1 Project Purpose

The overall purpose of this study is to identify a high-priority, high-capacity, access-controlled transportation corridor that will:

- Improve the existing transportation network by affording better access to growth areas and existing activity centers;
- Reduce congestion and improve LOS that is predicted for the study area in 2045; and
- Provide a system linkage between I-19 and I-10 south of Tucson International Airport (TUS) that improves mobility associated with regional, interstate, and international travel.

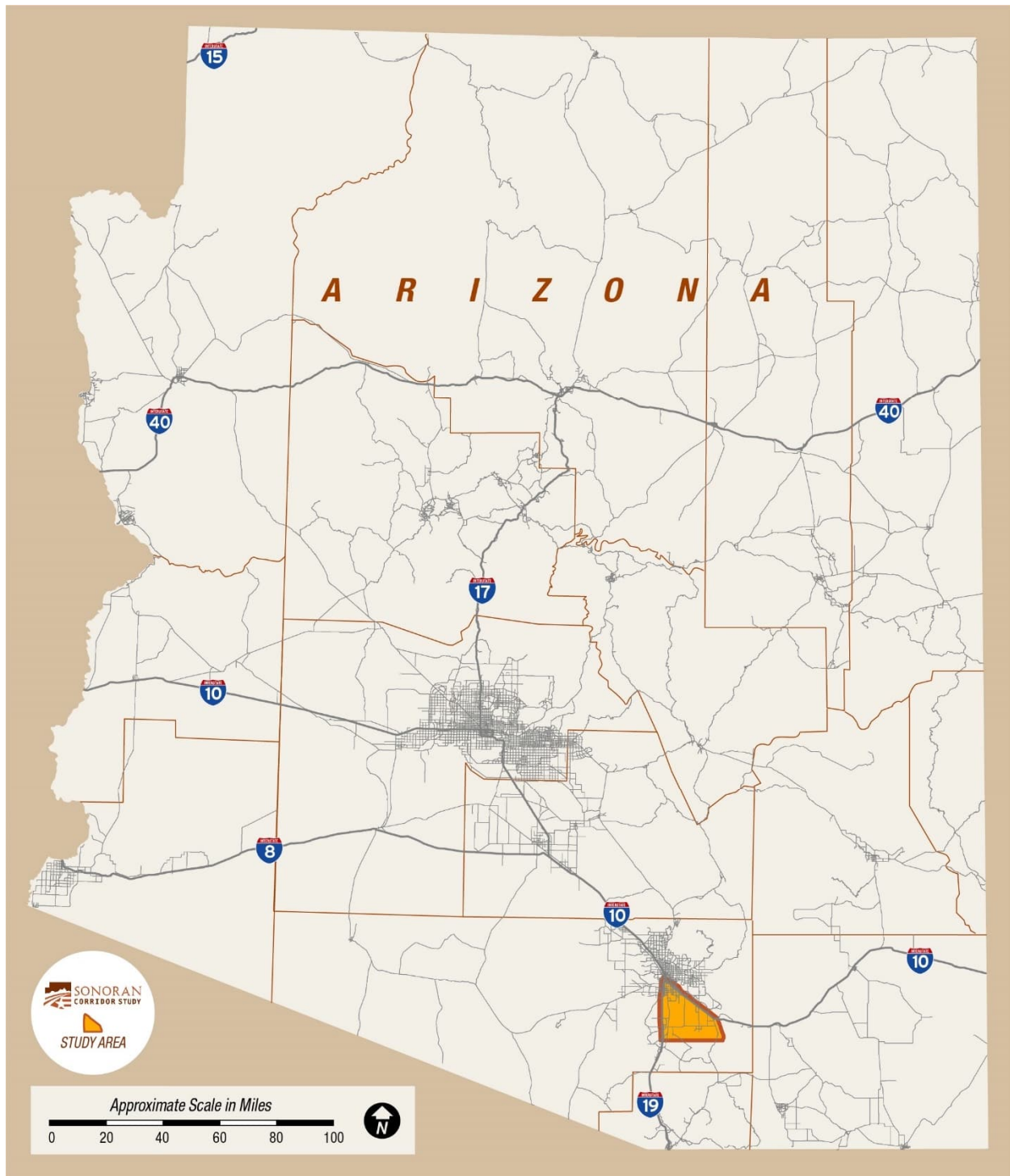


Figure 1. State Map



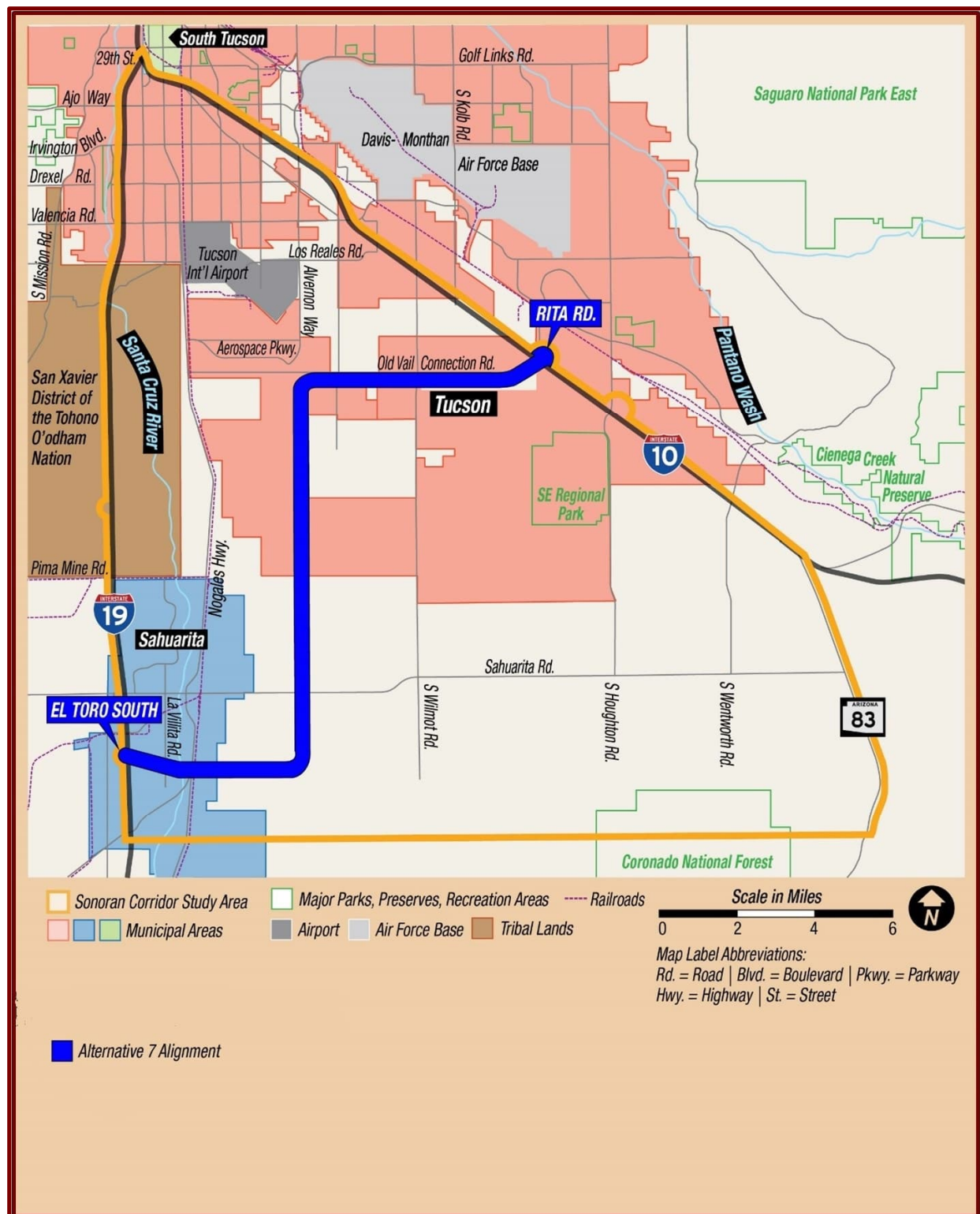


Figure 2. Study Area Map



### 1.3.2 Project Need

The following needs exist within the Sonoran Corridor study area:

- Population and employment growth—the current transportation network has limited ability to service new growth plans and provide access to existing activity centers.
- Congestion reduction—an increase of congestion and significant portions of the transportation network within the study area are expected to operate at an unacceptable level of service (LOS) by 2045. Insufficient system linkage—lack of a linkage connection between I-19 and I-10 south of TUS inhibits mobility that is associated with regional, interstate, and international travel.

The Purpose and Need identified in the Tier 1 EIS (available [here](#)) will be refined as the study team progresses through the Tier 2 process.

## 2 Lead Agency/Cooperating Agencies/Participating Agencies/Stakeholders

### 2.1 Lead Agency

The agencies discussed in this section (except for the lead agencies) have been formally invited by letter to participate in the study. All Cooperating and Participating agencies are responsible for:

- Participating in the scoping process
- Providing comments on the purpose and need, study methodologies and criteria, and range of alternatives
- Identifying issues of concern regarding the project's impacts on the natural and human environments
- Providing timely input on unresolved issues

ADOT is the lead agency and project sponsor for this project. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024 and executed by FHWA and ADOT, ADOT has assumed all of FHWA's project-level responsibilities under NEPA for state highway system projects, as well as environmental review, resource agency consultation, and other environmental regulatory compliance-related actions pertaining to the review and approval of projects in Arizona. ADOT's responsibilities in this role include managing the Section 6002 process, preparing the environmental impact statement, providing opportunity for Public, Tribal, and agency involvement, and approving the environmental document.

### 2.2 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies are specifically requested by the lead agency to participate during the environmental evaluation process for the project. NEPA regulations—codified in 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 771.111(d)—require that those federal agencies with jurisdiction by law (with permitting or land transfer authority) or with special expertise regarding any potential project-related environmental impact be invited to serve as Cooperating agencies for an EIS. A state or local agency with similar qualifications may also become a Cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

The regulations require the lead agency to invite certain agencies to be cooperating; however, those agencies are not required to accept the role. Specifically, 23 CFR 771.111 (d) states that “Any such agencies with special expertise concerning the action may also be invited to become cooperating agencies. Any such agencies with jurisdiction by law concerning the action must be invited to become cooperating agencies. Should a federal agency choose to decline Cooperating agency status, that agency will automatically be considered a Participating agency whether a written response is provided or not. If a federal agency should choose to decline both Cooperating and Participating status, that agency must submit a written response stating that it (1) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, (2) has no expertise or information relevant to the project, and (3) does not intend to submit comments on the project.

In November 2024, the agencies listed in Table 1 were invited to serve as Cooperating agencies for the Sonoran Corridor Study’s Tier 2 EIS. One Tier 1 Cooperating agency, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is not included in the Tier 2 study as the selected corridor alternative in the Tier 1 EIS does not involve Reclamation lands or facilities. The complete list of agencies invited to serve as Cooperating and Participating agencies during the Tier 1 EIS process may be found in Appendix A. The status of responses from each of these agencies is identified in the table. If new information indicates the need to request another agency to serve as a Cooperating agency, ADOT will issue an invitation to that agency.

*Table 1. Invited Cooperating Agencies*

| AGENCY                               | TIER 1 ROLE   | TIER 2 ROLE  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Federal Aviation Administration      | Accepted  | Accepted as Cooperating                            |
| Federal Railroad Administration      | Declined Cooperating;<br>accepted as Participating                | Participating (no response)                        |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers         | Accepted  | Accepted as Cooperating                            |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Accepted  | Accepted as Cooperating                            |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service       | Declined Cooperating;<br>accepted as Participating                | Accepted as Cooperating                            |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department     | Invited as Participating; accepted<br>as Cooperating upon request | Accepted as Cooperating                            |
| Arizona State Land Department        | Invited as Participating and<br>accepted                          | Invited as Cooperating and<br>accepted             |
| Western Area Power Administration    | Declined Cooperating; accepted<br>as Participating                | Declined Cooperating;<br>accepted as Participating |

Letters accepting the most recent (November 2024) invitations to serve as Cooperating agencies are included in Appendix B.

## 2.3 Participating Agencies

Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU created a category of agencies to participate in the EIS environmental review process: federal, state, tribal, regional, and local governmental agencies with an interest in the project. Nongovernmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as Participating agencies.

State, tribal, and local agencies are asked to respond affirmatively to the invitation to be designated as a Participating agency. If an agency fails to respond by the stated deadline, the agency will be considered a Participating agency. If an agency declines the invitation, the agency will be considered a stakeholder and continue to receive periodic project information.

The invited Participating agencies and their responses are shown in Table 2. In addition to those who were invited as Participating or Cooperating agencies during Tier 1 of the study; the Federal Bureau of Prisons was added as a Participating agency, as they have a facility directly adjacent to the Selected Corridor alternative. Designation as a Participating agency does not imply project support and, if applicable, does not provide an agency with increased oversight or approval authority beyond its statutory limits. Letters accepting the most recent (October 2024) invitations to serve as Participating agencies are included in Appendix C.

Meetings will be held with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies on an as-needed basis to discuss specific subjects of interest, concerns, and recommendations. This review process will include key milestone meetings with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies prior to the public information meetings and before the public hearings on the Draft EIS. Joint webinar updates will be held with agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies, as needed.

*Table 2. Invited Participating Agencies*

| AGENCY                                 | TIER 1 ROLE  | TIER 2 ROLE                 |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Federal                                |  |                             |
| U.S. Customs and Border Protection     | Participating (No Response)                          | Participating (No Response) |
| U.S. Air Force, Davis-Monthan AFB      | Participating (No Response)                          | Participating (No Response) |
| National Parks Service                 | Invited as Cooperating,<br>accepted as Participating | Participating (No Response) |
| Natural Resources Conservation Service | USDA accepted as<br>Participating (No Response)      | Participating (No Response) |

| AGENCY  | TIER 1 ROLE  | TIER 2 ROLE                          |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Federal Emergency Management Agency   | Participating (No Response)                          | Participating (No Response)          |
| Federal Transit Administration  | Invited as Participating,<br>Declined invitation     | Stakeholder (Declined<br>Invitation) |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs  | Invited as Cooperating,<br>accepted as Participating | Participating (No Response)          |
| Federal Bureau of Prisons   | None   | Participating (No Response)          |
| State   |  |                                      |
| Arizona Air National Guard (now Arizona<br>Department of Emergency and Military<br>Affairs) | Participating (No Response)                          | Accepted as Participating            |
| Arizona Department of Corrections   | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| Arizona Department of Environmental<br>Quality  | Accepted (No Response)                               | Participating (No Response)          |
| Arizona Department of Public Safety   | Accepted (No Response)                               | Participating (No Response)          |
| Arizona Department of Water Resources   | Accepted (No Response)                               | Participating (No Response)          |
| Arizona State Parks and Trails  | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| Regional  |  |                                      |
| Pima Association of Governments   | Accepted   | Accepted as Participating            |
| Tucson Airport Authority  | Accepted   | Accepted as Participating            |
| County  |  |                                      |
| Pima County   | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| Pima County Regional Flood Control District   | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| Local Municipality  |  |                                      |
| City of South Tucson  | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| City of Tucson  | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |
| Green Valley Council  | Accepted   | Accepted as Participating            |
| Town of Sahuarita   | Accepted   | Participating (No Response)          |

| Tribal Governments                        |                        |                             |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tohono O'odham Nation                     | Accepted (No Response) | Accepted as Participating   |
| San Xavier District                       | Accepted               | Added as Participating      |
| Pascua Yaqui Tribe                        | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| Ak-Chin Indian Community                  | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| Gila River Indian Community               | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| San Carlos Apache Tribe                   | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| Tonto Apache Tribe                        | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| White Mountain Apache Tribe               | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |
| Yavapai-Apache Nation                     | Accepted (No Response) | Participating (No Response) |

## 2.4 Cooperating and Participating Agency Summary

Table 3 lists the agencies that have accepted the invitation to serve as a Cooperating agency, as well as the agencies and Tribal governments will be serving as Participating agencies, under ADOT as the lead agency.

*Table 3. Cooperating and Participating Agency Summary*

| TIER 2 COOPERATING AND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES | ROLE          |
|---|---------------|
| <i>Federal Agency</i>                         |               |
| Federal Aviation Administration               | Cooperating   |
| Federal Bureau of Prisons                     | Participating |
| U.S. Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base  | Participating |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                  | Cooperating   |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency          | Cooperating   |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service                | Cooperating   |
| Western Area Power Administration             | Participating |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <i>State Agency</i>   |               |
| Arizona Air National Guard / Department of Emergency and Military Affairs | Participating |
| Arizona Department of Corrections   | Participating |
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality                               | Participating |
| Arizona Department of Public Safety                                       | Participating |
| Arizona Department of Water Resources                                     | Participating |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department  | Cooperating   |
| Arizona State Land Department   | Cooperating   |
| Arizona State Parks and Trails  | Participating |
| <i>Regional Agency</i>  |               |
| Pima Association of Governments   | Participating |
| Tucson Airport Authority  | Participating |
| <i>County</i>   |               |
| Pima County   | Participating |
| Pima County Regional Flood Control District                               | Participating |
| <i>Local Municipality</i>   |               |
| City of South Tucson  | Participating |
| City of Tucson  | Participating |
| Green Valley Council  | Participating |
| Town of Sahuarita   | Participating |
| <i>Tribal Government</i>  |               |
| Tohono O'odham Nation   | Participating |
| San Xavier District   | Participating |
| Pascua Yaqui Tribe  | Participating |
| Ak-Chin Indian Community  | Participating |
| Gila River Indian Community   | Participating |
| Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community                                 | Participating |

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| San Carlos Apache Tribe     | Participating |
| Tonto Apache Tribe          | Participating |
| White Mountain Apache Tribe | Participating |
| Yavapai-Apache Nation       | Participating |

## 2.5 Stakeholders

State and local agencies that were invited to serve as Participating agencies but formally declined the invitation, as well as members of the public that have expressed an interest in the project and have provided contact information, will be included in the list of stakeholders and receive any email updates or other notifications. Any agency that is not designated as a Cooperating or Participating agency, as well as the public, will be free to comment on the study. The lead agency will take substantive comments of any interested parties into consideration throughout the study process.

## 2.6 Contact Information

Contacts for the invited Cooperating and Participating agencies are listed in Appendix D.

# 3 Coordination Activities

This section describes coordination activities to be conducted throughout the environmental review process, including initial coordination, coordination points (milestones), and distribution of information.

## 3.1 Early Planning Phase

On February 27, 2024, ADOT notified the Tier 1 Cooperating and Participating Agencies and project area stakeholders of a planned early agency coordination/scoping planned to be held March 27, 2024.

The Sonoran Corridor study team hosted a hybrid (virtual and in-person) early agency scoping meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the project and the corridor constraints and opportunities to be considered. It was also intended to allow for agency and stakeholder input on the scope of the study, as well as gather input on concerns and desires related to the project area. The meeting provided opportunities for agencies and stakeholders to ask questions and make comments.

The meeting was hosted in person at the Pima Association of Governments (PAG), 1 E Broadway Blvd. Suite #401, in Tucson, and online through Zoom. Participants could also call into the meeting if they were not able to participate in person or online. The meeting featured a presentation by the project team, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Project team members from ADOT and the WSP consultant team served as moderators, presenters, and panelists to hear comments and respond to questions during the meeting.



Additional project team staff were present to assist in facilitating the meeting and Q&A session. Participants were notified that study-related materials, including the presentation, would be made available following the meeting. The presentation was emailed to attendees on Friday, April 12, 2024.

Eleven (11) people attended the meeting in person and 66 attended virtually through Zoom. Representatives from the following agencies were in attendance:

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality | Sahuarita                            |
| Arizona Department of Public Service        | San Xavier District                  |
| Arizona Department of Transportation        | Southern Arizona Leadership Council  |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department            | Tohono O’odham Nation                |
| Arizona State Land Department               | Tucson                               |
| Arizona State Parks Department              | Tucson Airport Authority             |
| Coronado National Forest                    | Tucson Water                         |
| Federal Aviation Administration             | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers         |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency         | U.S. Customs and Border Protection   |
| Green Valley Council                        | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| Pima Association of Governments             | Western Area Power Administration    |
| Pima County                                 |                                      |

Subsequent Study Progress Meetings were held the third Thursday of every month beginning on April 18 to present updates on the alternatives development and solicit comments on the study process to date from potential Cooperating and Participating Agency points of contact invited to the online meetings. ADOT anticipates formally initiating the NEPA process in early 2025 by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register. This Project Coordination Plan would be updated at that time.

### 3.2 NEPA EIS Process Coordination Points, Information Distribution, and Required Actions

Table 4 lists key coordination points (study milestones), including which agency is responsible for activities during that coordination point and specifying the information required at each coordination point; how the lead agency will make information available to Cooperating agencies, Participating agencies, and the public; and who is responsible for transmitting that information and by what means. Table 4 also lists the anticipated date that the identified information would be distributed to the public. Note that dates in brackets are tentative or pending. Review times for documents distributed to Cooperating and Participating agencies at each coordination point are 30 calendar days, unless noted otherwise. It is important to note that the schedule is subject to change and that periodically through the EIS process the schedule in the Coordination Plan will be updated to reflect the current approach and understanding. When these changes are made to update the schedule, an email notice will be sent to the Cooperating and Participating agencies and the draft Coordination Plan will be updated on the project website.

Table 4. Sonoran Corridor Key Coordination Points and Study Milestones

| COORDINATION POINT                          | LEAD AGENCY ACTION  | RECIPIENTS   | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION   | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT  | SUBMITTAL (DATE)   |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| EARLY PLANNING PHASE                        |   |  |  |  |  |
| Early Agency <b>Coordination Invitation</b> | Invite agencies to an early agency coordination meeting           | Tier 1 Cooperating and Participating agencies and Potential new Cooperating and Participating agencies | Email containing Zoom link and website address, with ADOT letter and Figure 1 and 2 attached | Attend Early Agency Scoping Meeting in person or Register for Zoom Webinar   | February 27, 2024  |
| Early Agency Scoping <b>Meeting</b>         | Present corridor features and alternatives development criteria   | Early Agency Scoping Meeting invitees  | PowerPoint presentation live and on Zoom   | Comments on the study process to date  | Meeting/webinar held on March 27, 2024; comments were taken at the meeting           |
| <b>Study Progress Meetings</b>              | Present updated alternatives status and development               | Potential Cooperating and Participating Agency points of contact (POCs)                                | Microsoft Outlook Teams Meeting Invitation   | Comments on the study process to date  | Meetings held on April 18 and May 16, 2024 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month) |
| Early Public Scoping                        | Update web-based information and solicit input on Social Pinpoint | Stakeholders and agencies  | Stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website                                   | Use Social Pinpoint (online survey and comment map) to provide input on future SR 410 use and prepare for public scoping | Released July 31, 2024; comment period closed September 1, 2024                      |

| COORDINATION POINT                               | LEAD AGENCY ACTION   | RECIPIENTS  | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION  | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT  | SUBMITTAL (DATE) |
|--|--|---|---|--|------------------|
| <b>Invitation to Cooperating Agencies (CA)</b>   | Invite agencies to be Cooperating Agencies in the Sonoran Corridor Study process   | Agencies listed in Table 1                                      | Email containing CA invitation letter on ADOT letterhead and CA Acceptance Form | Complete and return CA Acceptance Form within 30 days  | October 2024     |
| <b>Invitation to Participating Agencies (PA)</b> | Invite agencies to be Participating Agencies in the Sonoran Corridor Study process   | Agencies listed in Table 2                                      | Email containing PA invitation letter on ADOT letterhead and PA Acceptance Form | Complete and return PA Acceptance Form within 30 days  | October 2024     |
| <b>Agency Coordination Plan</b>                  | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with the Agency Coordination Plan; solicit comments from Cooperating agencies | Agencies listed in Table 3                                      | Email containing Agency Coordination Plan                                       | Cooperating agencies: review and comment within 30 days  | February 2025    |
|  |  |   |   | Participating agencies: courtesy review only   |                  |
| <b>Purpose and Need</b>                          | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with draft purpose and need statement; solicit comments                       | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Cooperating agencies | Draft distributed by email  | Review and comment on preliminary purpose and need statement and issues of concern (30-day comment period) | April 2025       |

| COORDINATION POINT         | LEAD AGENCY ACTION   | RECIPIENTS  | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION   | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT                                   | SUBMITTAL (DATE)  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
|                            |  | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Participating agencies | Draft distributed by email concurrent with Cooperating agency review | Courtesy review only  | April 2025  |
|                            |  | Stakeholders  | Stakeholder email blast of availability, website                     | No action required  | Available with the Notice of Intent (NOI)                     |
| T I E R 2 E I S P H A S E  |  |   |  |   |   |
| Notice of Intent (NOI)     | Publish Notice of Intent in Federal Register; invite agencies and the public to scoping meetings | Cooperating and Participating agencies                            | Review NOI in Federal Register; review letter                        | Comments on Notice of Intent                                    | May 2025  |
|                            |  | Stakeholders  | Review NOI in Federal Register; review website                       |   |   |
| Public and Agency Meetings | Conduct Scoping Meetings   | Cooperating and Participating agencies                            | Direct email notification and invitation                             | Input on the project to better define the scope of the project. | Agency scoping to occur within 30 days after NOI is published |
|                            |  | Stakeholders  | Stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website           |   | Public scoping to occur after agency scoping June 2025        |

| COORDINATION POINT  | LEAD AGENCY ACTION   | RECIPIENTS  | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION   | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT   | SUBMITTAL (DATE)                       |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Preliminary Range of <b>Alternatives and Constraints Analysis</b> | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development of alternatives and identify/evaluate constraints within the 400-foot corridor                | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Cooperating and Participating agencies | Progress meeting, workshop, and one-on-one meetings; draft distributed by email  | Collaboration and input on preliminary range of alternatives and constraints analysis completed within the 2,000-foot corridor          | [Draft available for comment May 2025] |
| Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies                     | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies opportunity to collaborate on the development and review of the methodologies and level of detail required for the analysis of alternatives | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Cooperating and Participating agencies | Project meeting webinar (Teams); also, electronically in written form for review | Collaboration and input through the development of methodologies and comment on proposed methodologies document (30-day comment period) | [August 2025]                          |
| <b>Range of Alternatives for Evaluation in EIS</b>                | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies, and stakeholders, with range of alternatives   | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Cooperating and Participating agencies | Draft distributed by email   | Review and comment on alternatives for the EIS, issues of concern, and expected project impacts (30-day                                 | [September 2025]                       |

| COORDINATION POINT  | LEAD AGENCY ACTION   | RECIPIENTS  | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION                                   | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT   | SUBMITTAL (DATE)   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--------------------|
|   | being considered;<br>solicit<br>comments   |   |  | comment period)   |                    |
| <b>Evaluation of Alternatives and Evaluation Criteria</b> | Provide Cooperating and Participating agencies with the range of alternatives considered and evaluation criteria | Agencies and Tribal governments serving as Cooperating and Participating agencies | Draft distributed by email                                 | Review and comment on the range of alternatives and evaluation criteria (30-day comment period)   | [Fall/Winter 2025] |
| <b>Range of Alternatives Public Information Meeting</b>   | Conduct Public Meeting to Present Range of Alternatives  | Stakeholders  | Stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website | Participate and comment on the Preferred Alternative  | [February 2026]    |
| <b>Administrative Draft EIS (Admin DEIS) Review</b>       | Provide Admin DEIS for review  | Cooperating agencies  | Admin DEIS distributed electronically                      | Substantive comments on the Admin DEIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval (30-day comment period) | [Summer 2026]      |
| <b>Public review of Draft EIS (DEIS) and DCR</b>          | Publish DEIS for review  | Cooperating and Participating agencies  | Direct electronic distribution of DEIS and DCR             | Comments on range of alternatives, affected environment,  | [November 2026]    |

| COORDINATION POINT   | LEAD AGENCY ACTION  | RECIPIENTS                             | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION  | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT   | SUBMITTAL (DATE) |
|--|---|--|---|---|------------------|
|  |   | Stakeholders                           | Notice of Availability (NOA) in Federal Register; stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website; hard-copy DEIS and DCR available for review at selected locations; public hearing | impact analysis, and identified preferred corridor (45-day minimum public review period, including public hearings)                           |                  |
| <b>Identification of Selected Alternative and Phased Implementation Plan</b> | Detailed evaluation of alternatives, including selection of the Preferred Alternative; draft Phased Implementation Plan | Cooperating and Participating agencies | Draft documents distributed electronically and at progress meetings, workshop, one on one meetings  | Comments on Evaluation of the Preferred Alternative and Draft Phased Implementation Plan  | To be determined |
| <b>Review of Administrative Draft Final EIS (Admin Draft FEIS)</b>           | Provide Admin Draft FEIS for review   | Cooperating agencies                   | Admin Draft FEIS distributed electronically   | Substantive comments on the Admin Draft FEIS and identification of any issues that could substantially delay approval (30-day comment period) | [Summer 2027]    |



| COORDINATION POINT                   | LEAD AGENCY ACTION   | RECIPIENTS                             | INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION   | REQUESTED ACTION OF RECIPIENT  | SUBMITTAL (DATE) |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| Final EIS / Record of Decision (ROD) | Combined FEIS / ROD includes responses to comments on DEIS and any refinements to the Selected Alternative | Cooperating and Participating agencies | Direct electronic distribution of FEIS / ROD to agency recipients (POCs) on mailing list   | All stakeholders can review the documents and have 150 days from the date of Notice of Availability to protest | [October 2027]   |
|                                      |  | Stakeholders                           | NOA in Federal Register; stakeholder email blast; newspaper advertisements; website; hard-copy FEIS / ROD available for review at selected locations |  |                  |

## 4 Permitting and Approvals Timetable

Table 5 through Table 8 provide draft timetables for known permits and approvals needed for the project. Additional permits and approval activities may be needed in order to issue a project decision document or construct the project, including those listed below:

- USFWS, Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation
  - Pima pineapple cactus
  - Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl
  - Yellow-billed cuckoo
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
  - Formerly Used Defense Sites
  - Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Santa Cruz River bridge crossing
- Arizona State Land Department, Right-of-Way easement
- Federal Aviation Administration, Release of Obligated Property

During the EIS process, ADOT will work with the project’s Cooperating agencies and other resource or land-managing agencies identified in this section to obtain further information on the approvals required and their timeframes.

Table 5. ADOT - EIS Timetable

| MILESTONE  | TARGET DATE   |
|--|---------------|
| Issuance of NOI to prepare EIS and Scoping outreach  | May 2025      |
| Official Notice of Availability of Draft EIS published in the Federal Register beginning the public comment period | November 2026 |
| Issuance of a combined Final EIS and ROD   | October 2027  |

Table 6. ADOT - Cultural Resources and Section 106 Timetable

| MILESTONE  | TARGET DATE     |
|--|-----------------|
| Consultation initiated with State Historic Preservation Office, Tribal governments, and other consulting parties | August 21, 2024 |
| Class III survey and reporting; continuing Section 106 consultation  | June 2025       |
| Programmatic Agreement; continuing Section 106 consultation  | December 2025   |
| Section 106 consultation concluded   | March 2026      |

Table 7. ADOT - Section 4(f) Timetable

| MILESTONE                                      | TARGET DATE   |
|--|---------------|
| Determination of Applicability of Section 4(f) | February 2027 |
| Concurrence from Officials with Jurisdiction   | May 2027      |
| Approval/Conclusion of Section 4(f)            | August 2027   |

Table 8. USACE - Clean Water Act Section 404 Timetable

| MILESTONE   | TARGET DATE                 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Approved Jurisdictional Delineation for Santa Cruz River and Remaining Study Limits   | June 2025                   |
| Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative Consistency Analysis   | TBD – During project Design |
| Completion of Required Permits*   | TBD – During project Design |
| * If required, permits under Section 404, 401, and 402 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained at a time closer to construction when there is sufficient design detail to prepare the permit application. |                             |

Table 9. USFWS – Section 7 Consultation

| MILESTONE  | TARGET DATE   |
|--|---------------|
| Section 7 consultation initiated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | November 2026 |
| Biological Opinion issued by USFWS                                   | March 2027    |
| Section 7 consultation concluded                                     | April 2027    |

The Sonoran Corridor Study project website has up-to-date project information. This website will be updated at each of the major milestones noted, and stakeholders will be alerted through email blasts when substantive updates have occurred (see <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/sonoran-corridor-sr-410-study>).

## 4.1 Study Schedule

Review times for documents distributed to Cooperating and Participating agencies at each coordination point are 30 calendar days, unless noted otherwise. It is important to note that the schedule is subject to change, and that periodically through the EIS process, the schedule in the Coordination Plan will be updated to reflect the current approach and understanding. When these changes are made to update the schedule, an email notice will be sent to the Cooperating and Participating agencies, and the draft Coordination Plan will be updated on the project website.

## 5 Tribal Engagement

The Tier 1 study identified substantial interest from several Native American Tribes, and the Tier 2 study area is within the ancestral lands of multiple Native American Tribes. ADOT will continue to coordinate and regularly report on the study's progress with the Tribal governments throughout the EIS and Section 106 process in accordance with policies and procedures established by ADOT and/or FHWA. Section 106 consultation will follow procedures maintained by ADOT's Historic Preservation Team and 36 CFR 800. ADOT will ensure that Tribes, in particular cultural resources staff, are involved in project development beyond just the scope of the Section 106 process. Tribal governments' participation in the NEPA process and understanding the project as a whole are important to the overall process, including the development of projects' purpose and need and alternatives, as well as other project considerations, such as the identification of biological resources and environmental justice communities and impacts. ADOT will communicate with the Tribes throughout the NEPA process.

To support our commitment to working with Tribal governments, ADOT employs a Tribal relations team with two department-wide Tribal liaisons, a Native Nations Ambassador in the State Engineer's office, a Contract Agent in the Right-of-Way Group, and a Tribal liaison with ADOT Environmental Planning. Together, this team will keep Tribes informed, consulted, and aware of this project.

The Tribes were notified of the public meetings in February 2024 and will be notified about any future public information meetings or public hearings to be conducted. ADOT formally invited nine federally recognized Tribes in Arizona to be Participating agencies in the NEPA process.

ADOT will continue to hold breakout meetings as the cultural studies progress to provide status updates, discuss methodology, share technical information, and discuss findings and recommendations. ADOT will accommodate similar meetings with the other Tribes if requested.

Tribal entities that were invited to serve as Participating agencies but did not respond to the invitation will be considered Participating agencies and receive any email updates or other notifications. The nine tribes listed in Table 2 are also consulting parties per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and will be included in continuing consultation throughout the environmental review process.

## 6 Public Outreach

### 6.1 Outreach Conducted to Date

Public outreach was conducted in August 2024 to provide the public with an overview of the recently initiated study and solicit public input to be considered when developing the range of feasible alternatives for the Sonoran Corridor alignment, interchange locations, and other features. A public comment period was open from August 1 through September 1, 2024. A summary of the outreach conducted and input received is documented in the Public Involvement Summary Report will be made available on the project website.

## 6.2 Continued Outreach

ADOT developed a Public Involvement Plan for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 2 Study in compliance with FHWA and other federal and state regulations. The EIS process conducted for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 2 Study will promote informed decision-making by federal, state, and local agencies.

ADOT will continue the collaboration, communication, and cooperation between all who are involved in environmental decisions, including government officials, private businesses, and the public as the project moves through the NEPA process.

Stakeholder and public input continue to provide important insight as the project team analyzes constraints within the 2,000-foot Tier 1 Selected Corridor Alternative to identify a specific alignment for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 2 EIS and DCR. Public input will be integrated into the evaluation process before decisions are made.

## 7 Conflict Resolution

SAFETEA-LU provides a formal process for resolving serious issues that may delay the proposed project or result in denial of a required approval for the proposed project. ADOT or the Governor of Arizona may invoke the Section 6002 process for issue resolution at any time. However, the informal conflict resolution process discussed below should be considered the first option for issue resolution prior to invocation of Section 6002.

Should an issue come to an impasse, the general process for addressing and resolving the issue would be:

1. Involved parties will identify and agree on what the issue to be resolved is at the project manager level.
2. The ADOT manager at the area, district, or section level will initiate the conflict resolution process.
3. ADOT will notify the Cooperating agency manager at the regional or deputy level.
4. ADOT will compile and submit all pertinent information to involved parties.
5. Involved parties will determine whether all information necessary for issue resolution has been received.
6. ADOT will hold a formal meeting (involving the first three tiers of management) to resolve the issue, followed by a 30-day review/decision period.
7. A decision will be made, recorded, and passed on to the appropriate team members
8. The process is completed.

If issue resolution does not occur, a discussion of the issue and why resolution could not be reached will be submitted to the heads (administrator, director, or commander) of the Cooperating agencies for further formal review. This involves publishing a notification of the issue(s) that could not be resolved in the Federal Register, with details of meetings held to date, and an FHWA-led meeting of the heads of all

involved agencies, project sponsor, governor, appropriate Senate and House committees, and the Center for Environmental Quality for resolution or further action by notified parties.

Resolution in this context means that the agencies involved agree on how to proceed so that they are able to reach decisions on matters within their authority. This agreement should be in the form of a signed document.

## 8 Revision History

Once finalized, changes to the Agency Coordination Plan will be logged in Table 10.

Note that if a schedule item in the coordination plan requires modification, concurrence on the schedule change is required only if the schedule is being shortened, and then only from the lead agency, not all Cooperating and Participating agencies.

*Table 10. Revision Log*

| Version | Date    | Section                  | Revision description and justification  |
|---------|---------|--------------------------|---|
| 1.1     | 3/28/25 | Participating Agencies   | Invited PAs not responding to invitation were included as PAs                               |
|         | 4/29/25 | Permitting and Approvals | Added milestone target dates  |
|         | 5/16/25 | Participating Agencies   | Updated Tribal contacts per ADOT information and added PA contacts per invitation responses |
|         |         |                          |   |
|         |         |                          |   |
|         |         |                          |   |

## Appendix A- Agencies Invited as Cooperating and Participating Agencies During the Tier 1 EIS

### Invited Cooperating Agencies

Table A- lists the eleven federal agencies invited to act as Cooperating Agencies for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 1 EIS process along with their response to the invitation. Of those, four federal agencies accepted the invitation, and seven federal agencies opted to be a Participating Agency instead. One state agency, AGFD, requested and was granted Cooperating Agency status based on its jurisdictional authority and State Trust responsibility for the management of Arizona's wildlife resources and special expertise regarding wildlife resources within the Sonoran Corridor study area. After the Reasonable Range of Corridor Alternatives was identified, the TON was also invited to be a Cooperating Agency, owing to one of the corridor alternatives crossing tribal land; however, no response was received. The BIA, although originally requesting to be a Participating Agency, was invited a second time to be a Cooperating Agency; however, they wished to remain a Participating Agency. As such, the total number of Cooperating Agencies is five. Agency responses to invitation letters and scoping input are appended to the Agency and Public Scoping Summary, which is included in the study documents on the project website<sup>1</sup>.

Table A-1. Tier 1 Invited Cooperating Agencies

| AGENCY   | RESPONSE TO INVITATION   |
|--|--|
| Federal  |  |
| Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)                       | Accepted as participating agency   |
| Bureau of Land Management (BLM)                      | Accepted as participating agency   |
| Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)                | Accepted   |
| Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)                | Accepted as participating agency   |
| National Park Service (NPS)                          | Accepted as participating agency   |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)                 | Accepted   |
| U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation)             | Accepted   |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)         | Accepted   |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)               | Accepted as participating agency   |
| U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Coronado National Forest | Accepted as participating agency   |
| Western Area Power Administration (Western)          | Accepted as participating agency   |
| State  |  |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)              | Invited as participating agency; accepted as cooperating agency upon request |

<sup>1</sup> <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/sonoran-corridor-tier-1-environmental-impact-statement/documents>



### Invited Participating Agencies

A total of 5 federal agencies, 10 state agencies, and 21 regional, county, municipal, and Tribal agencies and utility providers were invited to act as Participating Agencies (Table A-). One federal agency, the Federal Transit Administration, declined to participate. The other four were designated as Participating Agencies when they failed to respond to the invitation. Of the remaining agencies invited to act as Participating Agencies, 12 accepted the invitation and 21 were assigned Participating Agency status when they failed to respond to the invitation.

Table A-2. Tier1 Invited Participating Agencies

| AGENCY  | RESPONSE TO INVITATION         |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Federal   |                                |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)          | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Federal Transit Administration (FTA)                | Declined                       |
| U.S. Air Force (USAF), Davis-Monthan Air Force Base | Accepted (non-response)        |
| U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)            | Accepted (non-response)        |
| U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)               | Accepted (non-response)        |
| State   |                                |
| Arizona Air National Guard (AANG)                   | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC)                | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC)            | Accepted                       |
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)  | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Arizona Department of Public Safety (ADPS)          | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Arizona Department of Water Resources               | Accepted (non-response)        |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)             | Accepted as cooperating agency |
| Arizona State Land Department (ASLD)                | Accepted                       |
| Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)   | Accepted                       |
| Arizona State Parks and Trails                      | Accepted                       |
| Regional  |                                |
| Pima Association of Governments (PAG)               | Accepted                       |
| Tucson Airport Authority (TAA)                      | Accepted                       |
| County  |                                |
| Pima County   | Accepted                       |
| Pima County Flood Control District                  | Accepted                       |
| Local Municipality                                  |                                |
| City of South Tucson                                | Accepted                       |
| City of Tucson                                      | Accepted                       |
| Green Valley Council                                | Accepted                       |
| Town of Sahuarita                                   | Accepted                       |

Table A-2. Tier1 Invited Participating Agencies (continued)

| AGENCY   | RESPONSE TO INVITATION               |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Utility  |                                      |
| Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District   | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Central Arizona Project (CAP)                      | Covered under Bureau of Reclamation. |
| Trico Electric Cooperative                         |                                      |
| UNS Energy Corporation/Tucson Electric Power (TEP) | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Tribal   |                                      |
| Ak-Chin Indian Community                           | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Gila River Indian Community                        | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Pascua Yaqui Tribe                                 | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community          | Accepted (non-response)              |
| San Carlos Apache Tribe                            | Accepted (non-response)              |
| San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation         | Added                                |
| Tohono O'odham Nation                              | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Tonto Apache Tribe                                 | Accepted (non-response)              |
| White Mountain Apache Tribe                        | Accepted (non-response)              |
| Yavapai-Apache Nation                              | Accepted (non-response)              |

## Appendix B – Cooperating Agency Invitation and Acceptance Letters

### Cooperating Agency Invitation Letter

Re: Invitation to become a Cooperating Agency in the Environmental Review Process for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is initiating engineering and environmental studies for the Sonoran Corridor between Interstate 19 (I-19) and Interstate 10 (I-10). The study area is shown in Figures 1 and 2. The purpose of this letter is to formally extend an invitation to your agency to act as a Cooperating Agency.

This Tier 2 Study (Sonoran Corridor) will build upon the prior Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, which concluded in August 2021 and established the general location of a new 20-mile-long highway route between I-19 and I-10 in Pima County. The Selected Alternative in the Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD) was a 2,000-foot-wide corridor, within which subsequent Tier 2 studies would identify the specific 400-foot highway alignment.

ADOT anticipates the preparation of an EIS for the project, which will be carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 United States Code 327. The EIS process will be formally initiated when the proposal is sufficiently developed with a preliminary description of the alternatives that the EIS and DCR will consider. The Notice of Intent (NOI) is anticipated to be published in early to mid-2025. Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the Sonoran Corridor.

With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Cooperating Agency with ADOT in the development of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the subject project in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C 139(d), cooperating agencies are responsible for providing comments, responses, studies, or methodologies on those areas within their special expertise or jurisdiction of the agency; and to use the environmental review process to address any environmental issues of concern to the agency. As a Cooperating Agency, you would be requested to provide the following during the development of the Tier 2 EIS:

- Meaningful and early input on refining the purpose and need, range of alternatives, methodologies, and level of development required by your agency to evaluate impacts to your resource(s);
- Participation in coordination meetings, and/or field visits, as appropriate;
- Timely reviews and comments on the NEPA documents that explain the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, anticipated impacts and mitigation; and

- Identification of the impacts and important issues to be addressed in the Tier 2 study pertaining to the intersection of the alternatives with the resource(s) in your jurisdiction.

Please return the attached form indicating your agency's acceptance or denial of this invitation no later than 30 days from the receipt of this letter. If you accept, please identify the appropriate contact person within your organization for continuing communication. Responses can be submitted to Taylor Zimmer, ADOT Senior Environmental Planner, at [tzimmer@azdot.gov](mailto:tzimmer@azdot.gov); or to Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager, at [tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov), 1611 W. Jackson St., MD 310B, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

In order to keep accounting of responses and information documentation, agencies that do not reply to this invitation will be listed as Participating Agencies, but it would be appreciated if a positive reply with current contact information were submitted.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Taylor Zimmer, ADOT Senior Environmental Planner, at 480.349.8832 or [tzimmer@azdot.gov](mailto:tzimmer@azdot.gov); or Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager, at 602.712.8542 or [tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the Sonoran Corridor Study

Sincerely,

Taylor Zimmer  
Sonoran Corridor Study  
ADOT Senior Environmental Planner

Enclosures

Cc:

Agency Contact (with enclosures)

Ecc:

Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by FHWA and ADOT.*

Draft Cooperating Agency Acceptance Form

# Sonoran Corridor Study Cooperating Agencies Acceptance Form

Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement

Yes, the *[complete agency name]* \_\_\_\_\_  
wishes to be a **Cooperating Agency** under Section 40 CFR 1501.6 and 40 CFR 1508.5 of the Council on  
Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement  
(EIS).

Or;

Thank you, but the *[complete agency name]* \_\_\_\_\_  
wishes to be a **Participating Agency** under Section 40 CFR 1501.6 and 40 CFR 1508.5 of the Council on  
Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 EIS.

Or;

No, the *[complete agency name]* \_\_\_\_\_ does  
not wish to be a Cooperating Agency or a Participating Agency under Section 40 CFR 1501.6 and 40 CFR  
1508.5 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 EIS.

***[Note: A Cooperating Agency that fails to respond or chooses not to continue as a Cooperating Agency  
will be designated a Participating Agency for the project.]***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Contact  
for this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Tazeen Dewan

Project Manager  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
1611 W. Jackson St., MD 310B  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 712-8542  
[tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov)

## Appendix C – Participating Agency Invitation and Acceptance Letters

### Draft Participating Agency Invitation Letter

Re: Invitation to become a Participating Agency in the Environmental Review Process for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is initiating engineering and environmental studies for the Sonoran Corridor between Interstate 19 (I-19) and Interstate 10 (I-10). The study area is shown in Figures 1 and 2. The purpose of this letter is to formally extend an invitation to your agency to act as a Participating Agency.

This Tier 2 Study (Sonoran Corridor) will build upon the prior Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, which concluded in August 2021 and established the general location of a new 20-mile-long highway route between I-19 and I-10 in Pima County. The Selected Alternative in the Tier 1 Record of Decision (ROD) was a 2,000-foot-wide corridor, within which subsequent Tier 2 studies would identify the specific 400-foot highway alignment.

ADOT anticipates the preparation of an EIS for the project, which will be carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 United States Code 327. The EIS process will be formally initiated when the proposal is sufficiently developed with a preliminary description of the alternatives that the EIS and DCR will consider. The Notice of Intent (NOI) is anticipated to be published in early to mid-2025. Your agency has been identified as one that has jurisdiction and/or special expertise within the Sonoran Corridor.

With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a Participating Agency with ADOT in the development of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the subject project in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.8 of the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C 139(d), participating agencies may have an interest in this project, because of the potential for intergovernmental issues and/or impacts within your agency's legal jurisdiction. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal or has any specialized expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

As a Participating Agency, you will be afforded the opportunity to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socio-economic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:



- Participate in the NEPA process by providing early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives, methodologies and level of detail required in the alternative evaluation and environmental studies;
- Identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts. Participate in the issue resolution process if possible;
- Provide meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues; and
- Participate in coordination meetings, and/or field visits, as appropriate.

Your agency does not have to accept this invitation. If, however, you elect not to become a Participating Agency, you must decline this invitation in writing, indicating that your agency has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project, no expertise or information relevant to the project, and does not intend to submit comments on the project. The declination may be transmitted electronically to Taylor Zimmer, ADOT Senior Environmental Planner, at [tzimmer@azdot.gov](mailto:tzimmer@azdot.gov); or to Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager, at [tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov). Please include the title of the official responding.

Your agency will be treated as a Participating Agency unless your written response declining such designation as outlined above is transmitted no later than 30 days from the receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Taylor Zimmer, ADOT Environmental Planner, at 480.349.8832 or [tzimmer@azdot.gov](mailto:tzimmer@azdot.gov); or Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager, at 602.712.8542 or [tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov). Thank you for your cooperation and interest in the Sonoran Corridor Study

Sincerely,

Taylor Zimmer  
Sonoran Corridor Study  
ADOT Senior Environmental Planner

Enclosures

Cc:  
Agency Contact (with enclosures)

Ecc:  
Tazeen Dewan, ADOT Project Manager

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ADOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 25, 2024, and executed by FHWA and ADOT.*

Draft Participating Agency Acceptance Form

# Sonoran Corridor Study Participating Agencies Acceptance Form

Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement

Yes, the *[complete agency name]* \_\_\_\_\_  
wishes to be a **Participating Agency** under Section 40 CFR 1501.6 and 40 CFR 1508.5 of the Council on  
Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement  
(EIS).

Or;

No, the *[complete agency name]* \_\_\_\_\_ does  
not wish to be a Participating Agency under Section 40 CFR 1501.6 and 40 CFR 1508.5 of the Council on  
Environmental Quality (CEQ) for the Sonoran Corridor Study Tier 2 EIS.

Unless requested otherwise, your agency will be listed as a stakeholder agency and continue to receive  
information on the project.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Contact  
for this project: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Tazeen Dewan  
Project Manager  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
1611 W. Jackson St., MD 310B  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
(602) 712-8542  
[tdewan@azdot.gov](mailto:tdewan@azdot.gov)

## Appendix D – Tier 2 Invited Cooperating and Participating Agency Contacts

### Invited Cooperating Agencies

#### **Federal Aviation Administration**

Mr. Mike Williams, Division Manager  
3800 N. Central Ave., Ste. 1025  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
[mike.n.williams@faa.gov](mailto:mike.n.williams@faa.gov)

#### **Federal Railroad Administration**

Mr. Amit Bose, Administrator  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS 20 W36-430  
Washington, DC 20590  
[fraga@dot.gov](mailto:fraga@dot.gov)  
[Michael.York@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.York@dot.gov)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles  
Division

Ms. Alexandra Ryan, ADOT Liaison  
Regulatory Division, Arizona Branch  
Phoenix, AZ  
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[lisa.a.schutzberger@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.schutzberger@usace.army.mil)

#### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Mr. Clifton Meek, NEPA Reviewer –  
Transportation  
Region 9  
San Francisco, CA  
[meek.clifton@epa.gov](mailto:meek.clifton@epa.gov)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ms. Laura Stewart  
Arizona Ecological Services Field Office  
[laura\\_r\\_stewart@fws.gov](mailto:laura_r_stewart@fws.gov)  
[robert\\_lehman@fws.gov](mailto:robert_lehman@fws.gov)

Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Ms. Cheri Bouch r, Project Evaluation Program  
5000 W Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086  
[PEP@azgfd.gov](mailto:PEP@azgfd.gov)  
[kmatthiesen@azgfd.gov](mailto:kmatthiesen@azgfd.gov)

Arizona State Land Department  
Ms. Karen Dada, Assistant Director  
Real Estate Division  
1110 W Washington St  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
[kdada@azland.gov](mailto:kdada@azland.gov)  
[msaedi@azland.gov](mailto:msaedi@azland.gov)  
[mpatel@azland.gov](mailto:mpatel@azland.gov)

U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area  
**Power Administration**  
Ms. Abigail Wilmington, Environmental Project  
Manager, Desert Southwest Region  
[wilmington@wapa.gov](mailto:wilmington@wapa.gov)  
[NOrtega@wapa.gov](mailto:NOrtega@wapa.gov)

### Invited Participating Agencies

#### **Federal**

#### **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Mr. Peter Bidegain, Supervisory Border Patrol  
Agent, Public Lands Liaison Agent Program  
Department of Homeland Security  
[peter.b.bidegain-iii@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:peter.b.bidegain-iii@cbp.dhs.gov)

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base  
U.S. Air Force  
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**National Park Service**

Ms. Stephanie MacDonald, Environmental  
Protection Specialist  
3636 N. Central Ave., Suite 410  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
[stephanie\\_macdonald@nps.gov](mailto:stephanie_macdonald@nps.gov)

U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service** Ms.  
Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist  
230 N. First Ave., Suite 509  
Phoenix, AZ 85003  
[keisha.tatem@usda.gov](mailto:keisha.tatem@usda.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Mr. Aaron Clark,  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer  
[aaron.clark@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:aaron.clark@fema.dhs.gov)

**Federal Transit Administration Region 9**

Mr. Ray Tellis, Regional Administrator  
888 S. Figueroa St., Ste 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[ray.tellis@dot.gov](mailto:ray.tellis@dot.gov)

Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region  
Ms. Jessie Durham, Regional Director  
2600 N. Central Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
[jessie.durham@bia.gov](mailto:jessie.durham@bia.gov)

**Federal Correctional Institution Tucson**

U.S. Bureau of Prisons  
8901 S. Wilmot Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85756  
[TCX-ExecAssistant\\_S@bop.gov](mailto:TCX-ExecAssistant_S@bop.gov)

**State**

**Arizona Air National Guard**

Chief Master Sgt. Rachel Landegent  
161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing  
3200 E Old Tower Rd  
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[legislative@azdema.gov](mailto:legislative@azdema.gov)  
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Arizona State Prison Complex Tucson  
Warden John McAdorey  
10000 S Wilmot Rd  
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Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Dr. Erin Jordan, Section Manager  
Surface Water Quality Improvement  
1110 Washington St, Ste 160  
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[tews.aaron@azdeq.gov](mailto:tews.aaron@azdeq.gov)  
[harris.justin@azdeq.gov](mailto:harris.justin@azdeq.gov)

Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Col. Jeffrey Glover, Director  
<https://www.azdps.gov/contact-0>  
[twiedemann@azdps.gov](mailto:twiedemann@azdps.gov)

Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Mr. Thomas Buschatzke, Director  
[tbuschatzke@azwater.gov](mailto:tbuschatzke@azwater.gov)

Arizona State Parks  
Mr. Robert Broscheid, Executive Director  
[rbroscheid@azstateparks.gov](mailto:rbroscheid@azstateparks.gov)

**Regional**

**Pima Association of Governments**

Mr. Rick Ellis, Director, Transportation Services  
[rellis@pagregion.com](mailto:rellis@pagregion.com)

Tucson Airport Authority  
Mr. John "Dutch" Voorhees,  
Vice President / Chief Revenue Officer  
[jvoorhees@flytucson.com](mailto:jvoorhees@flytucson.com)  
[srobidoux@flytucson.com](mailto:srobidoux@flytucson.com)

### County

#### Pima County

Mr. Carmine DeBonis

Deputy County Administrator

[Carmine.DeBonis@pima.gov](mailto:Carmine.DeBonis@pima.gov)

#### Pima County Regional Flood Control District

Mr. Eric Sheep, Director

[eric.sheep@pima.gov](mailto:eric.sheep@pima.gov)

### Municipal

#### City of South Tucson

Ms. Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager

[vmoreno@southtucson.org](mailto:vmoreno@southtucson.org)

#### City of Tucson

Mr. Michael Ortega, City Manager

[citymanager@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:citymanager@tucsonaz.gov)

#### Green Valley Council

Ms. Debbie Kenyon, President

[President@gvcouncil.org](mailto:President@gvcouncil.org)

[mcallisterromo@gvcouncil.org](mailto:mcallisterromo@gvcouncil.org)

#### Town of Sahuarita

Mr. Shane Dille, Town Manager

[sdille@sahuaritaaz.gov](mailto:sdille@sahuaritaaz.gov)

[babramovitz@sahuaritaaz.gov](mailto:babramovitz@sahuaritaaz.gov)

[ggalovale@sahuaritaaz.gov](mailto:ggalovale@sahuaritaaz.gov)

### Tribes

#### Tohono O'odham Nation

Mr. Peter Steere,

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Mr. Jefford Francisco,

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#### San Xavier District

Mr. Austin Nuñez, Chairman

Mr. Mark Pugh, Planning Administrator

Mr. John Baskett, Principal Planner

Mr. Camden Walsh, Planner

[anunez@waknet.org](mailto:anunez@waknet.org)

[mpugh@waknet.org](mailto:mpugh@waknet.org)

[jbaskett@waknet.org](mailto:jbaskett@waknet.org)

[Cwalsh@waknet.org](mailto:Cwalsh@waknet.org)

#### Pascua Yaqui Nation

Mr. Julian Hernandez, Chairman

Dr. Karl Hoerig,

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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[Karl.Hoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov](mailto:Karl.Hoerig@pascuayaqui-nsn.gov)

#### Ak-Chin Indian Community

Mr. Gabriel Lopez, Chairman

Ms. Elaine F. Peters, Director, Cultural Resources  
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Ms. Tracy Wind,

Cultural Resources Specialist

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[TWind@ak-chin.nsn.us](mailto:TWind@ak-chin.nsn.us)

#### Gila River Indian Community

Mr. Stephen Roe Lewis, Governor

Ms. Reylynne Williams, Tribal Historic

Preservation Officer

Larry Benallie, Jr., Archaeological Compliance  
Officer

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[Larry.BenallieJr@gric.nsn.us](mailto:Larry.BenallieJr@gric.nsn.us)

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

Mr. Martin Harvier, President

Mr. Shane Anton, Tribal Historic Preservation  
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Ms. Angela Garcia-Lewis, Cultural Preservation  
Compliance Supervisor

Ms. Martha Martinez, NAGPRA Coordinator

Ms. Sunday Eiselt, Tribal Archaeologist

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San Carlos Apache Tribe

Mr. Terry Rambler, Chairman

Ms. Vernelda Grant, Tribal Historic Preservation  
Officer

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[apachevern@yahoo.com](mailto:apachevern@yahoo.com)

Tonto Apache Tribe

Mr. Calvin Johnson, Chairman

Ms. Jeri De Cola, Cultural & NAGPRA  
Representative

[cjohnson@tontoapache.org](mailto:cjohnson@tontoapache.org)

[jdecola@tontoapache.org](mailto:jdecola@tontoapache.org)

White Mountain Apache Tribe

Mr. Kasey Velasquez, Chairman

Mr. Mark Altaha, Tribal Historic Preservation  
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**Yavapai-Apache Nation**

Ms. Tanya Lewis, Chairwoman

Mr. Marley Juan, Preservation and Technology  
Department Coordinator

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