



SONORAN CORRIDOR STUDY

Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement

*References, Glossary,
List of Preparers*

October 2020 | P9101 01P
Federal Aid No. 410-A(BFI)



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

ADOT

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Sonoran Corridor

Pima County, Arizona

Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement

**Project No. P9101 01P / Federal Aid No. 410-A(BFI)
Submitted pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(c), 49 U.S.C. § 303, and 33 U.S.C.
§ 1251**

By the

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

and

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

With the following Cooperating Agencies


FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION


US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

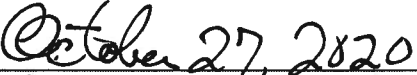
US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION


US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT


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Date of Approval


Date of Approval



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ABSTRACT

This Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (Draft Tier 1 EIS) evaluates alternatives for the Sonoran Corridor located in Pima County, Arizona. The purpose of this study for the Sonoran Corridor is to identify a high-priority, high-capacity, access-controlled transportation corridor south of the Tucson International Airport that will improve access to high growth areas and existing activities; improve future traffic levels of service by reducing congestion levels anticipated by 2045; and provide a system linkage for regional, interstate, and international mobility needed for the study area. The Draft Tier 1 EIS evaluates a Reasonable Range of Corridors, which includes three corridor alternatives and the No-Build Alternative to characterize the potential effects of each on the social, economic, and natural environment. The No-Build Alternative represents the existing transportation system, with committed improvement projects that are programmed for funding.

The objective of this Draft Tier 1 EIS is to provide sufficient information for the public, agencies, and Tribes to comment on the overall analysis used to identify the Preferred Alternative for the Sonoran Corridor. Based on the analysis presented in this Draft Tier 1 EIS, Corridor Alternative 7 has been identified as the Preferred Alternative. After consideration of public and stakeholder input received during the Draft Tier 1 EIS public comment period, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will identify a Selected Alternative in the Final Tier 1 EIS. The Record of Decision (ROD) will describe the basis for the decision, and provide strategies to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

The FHWA will issue a single document that consists of the Final Tier 1 EIS and ROD pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 304a(b) and 23 U.S.C. 139(n)(2) unless FHWA determines that statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of such a combined document. Should a corridor alternative be selected, further project design would take place, allowing more specific analysis of potential environmental impacts to be documented through a Tier 2 NEPA study.

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Draft Tier 1 EIS Public Comment Period

ADOT, in conjunction with the FHWA, have made the Draft Tier 1 EIS available for public review and comment. The Draft Tier 1 EIS was published in the Federal Register on November 6, 2020. Submit your comments on the Sonoran Corridor Draft Tier 1 EIS during the public review and comment period: November 6, 2020 through January 8, 2021. All comments received during the comment period will be documented and responded to in a combined Final Tier 1 EIS/ROD. All comment methods listed below are considered equal. After reading the Draft Tier 1 EIS, please provide specific written or spoken comments on its contents.

Comments can be provided in the following manner:

- During the public hearing or virtual public engagement event
- Online: <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/sonoran-corridor-tier-1-environmental-impact-statement/documents>
- Phone: 1.855.712.8530 (bilingual)
- Mail: Sonoran Corridor Tier 1 EIS Study Team
c/o Joanna Bradley
1221 S. Second Avenue, MD T100
Tucson, AZ 85713
- Email: Projects@azdot.gov

The Draft Tier 1 EIS is available at <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-studies/sonoran-corridor-tier-1-environmental-impact-statement/documents>, and for review only and at no charge at the following locations:

Repositories for the Public Review of the Draft Tier 1 EIS

- ADOT Southcentral District Office, 1221 S. Second Ave., Tucson, AZ 85713, by appointment only between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Call 520.235.3494 to make an appointment. Call at least 48 hours in advance to view the document. Only one person at a time will be granted access to the document. Please wear a mask and gloves to your appointment.
- Sahuarita Town Hall, Clerk's Office, 375 W. Sahuarita Way, Sahuarita, AZ, 520.822.8801 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.
- Joyner-Green Valley Library, 601 N. La Canada Dr., Green Valley, AZ, 85614, 520.594.5295.
- Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Ave., Tucson AZ, 85701, 520.594.5564.

Vendor Locations for Purchase of the Draft Tier 1 EIS

- Hard copy versions of the Draft Tier 1 EIS are available for purchase and pick up at The UPS Store, 2004 E. Irvington Road, Tucson, AZ 85714, 520.889.0077. Contact the store for cost and details.
- A hard copy version can be ordered online at www.FedEx.com, with delivery at requestor's expense.

Public Hearing and Virtual Public Engagement events on the Draft Tier 1 EIS

A Public Hearing will be held to provide project information and accept formal comments on the Draft Tier 1 EIS. Date and location of the Public Hearing is provided below. Because of public health concerns and government requirements, attendance will be limited to provide for adequate social distancing. Participants must pre-register to reserve time to attend the Public Hearing in person. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/SonCor> or call (520) 327-6077 (bilingual) to reserve a time slot to attend the Public Hearing event.

- **PUBLIC HEARING**

- **Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 5p.m.–8 p.m.**
DoubleTree Suites – Tucson International Airport
Ballroom Royale
7051 South Tucson Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85756

In addition, you can participate in the Virtual Public Engagement event either online or by phone. The Virtual Public Engagement event supplements the Public Hearing, and it provides another opportunity for you to give official, recorded comments on the Draft Tier 1 EIS. To participate in the Virtual Public Engagement event, click on the online access link or call the phone access number provided below.

- **VIRTUAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

Thursday, December 3, 2020, 5p.m. – 8p.m.

- **Online Access:** bit.ly/SCEIS2020 (or you can use the full webex link: <https://meetings.webex.com/meetings/onstage/g.php?MTID=e755bc109da6c91bac638939e717a2837>)
 - Meeting Number (Access code): 146 242 8979
 - Event Password: SCEIS2020
- **Phone Access:** 1 (408) 418-9388
 - Meeting Number (Access code): 146 242 8979

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- Appendix B Cost Estimate Comparison of Alternatives**
- Appendix C Population Data for the Sonoran Corridor Study Area**
- Appendix D Section 106 Consultation**
- Appendix E Draft Programmatic Agreement**
- Appendix F Section 4(f) Resources within the Sonoran Corridor Study Area**
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- Appendix H San Xavier District Allottee Letters**

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G GLOSSARY

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Active Management Area | An area designated by the State of Arizona that heavily relies on mined groundwater. |
| Affected Environment | As defined by NEPA, this is the “environment of the area(s) to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration” (40 CFR 1502.15). |
| Analysis Area | The Analysis Area is the area under evaluation for direct effects. It may vary by resource, and would be defined in each section of Chapter 3 as appropriate. |
| archaeological site | An archaeological site is the physical remains of past human activity, including habitation and various more limited activities that date to the prehistoric or historic era and are at least 50 years old. |
| Area of Potential Effects (APE) | The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is the area where a federal undertaking could directly or indirectly alter the character or use of historic property listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. |
| Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) | The Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) is the official publication of Arizona’s codified rules and is published by the Administrative Rules Division (Division). State agencies, boards and commissions, are given rulemaking authority from the state Legislature. |
| Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) | The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is the state agency that is tasked with protecting and enhancing public health and the environment. The ADEQ accomplishes this by administering the State’s environmental laws and delegated federal programs to prevent air, water, and land pollution and ensure cleanup. |
| Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) | The Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) are binding regulations that have been passed by the Arizona State Legislature and signed in to law by the Governor. |
| Avoidance Alternative | An alternative that entirely avoids the use of Section 4(f) properties. A key requirement of Section 4(f) compliance is an attempt to show whether or not a property can be completely avoided while meeting the project purpose and need. When the alternatives under consideration use land from one or more Section 4(f) properties, alternatives that avoid each of the properties must be evaluated. |
| Background (Visual Resource Impacts) | The zone that extends from 3 to 5 miles to infinity miles away from the viewer. |
| Biotic Community | A distinct assemblage of plants and animals that are characteristic of the surrounding soils, geology, climate, and other environmental conditions that interact to develop its distinctiveness from other communities within a region. |
| Candidate Species | A species proposed and under formal consideration by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as either Threatened or Endangered. |
| Census Designated Place | Delineated by the US Census Bureau for statistical purposes, they show settled concentrations of populations in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. They usually coincide with a visible feature or boundary of an adjacent incorporated place but are not legally incorporated themselves. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Census Tract | Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity. The primary purpose of census tracts is to provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of statistical data. |
| Class 1 Air Shed | An area in which visibility is protected more stringently than under the national ambient air quality standards and includes national parks, wilderness areas, monuments, and other areas of special national and cultural significance. |
| Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) | The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) is a US federal government program designed to fund the cleanup of sites contaminated with hazardous substances and pollutants. Sites managed under this program are referred to as “Superfund” sites. |
| Cooperating Agency | Cooperating Agencies are, by definition in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.5 and 23 Code of Federal Regulations 771.111(d), federal agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in the study. |
| Critical Habitat | A term defined and used in the Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat is a specific regulatorily defined geographic area that contains features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat also may include areas that are not currently occupied by the species but will be needed for its recovery. |
| Cumulative effects | Incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time” (CFR title 40, sec. 1508.7). An action cannot contribute to the cumulative effects on a resource if it will not have a direct or indirect effect on that resource. |
| Decibels | Unit of measure for noise levels. Weighted sound levels are usually expressed in units called A-weighted decibels. |
| Declaration of Environmental Use Restriction | A Declaration of Environmental Use Restriction (DEUR) is a restrictive land use covenant that is required when a property owner elects to use an institutional (i.e., administrative) control or engineering (i.e., physical) control as a means to meet remediation goals. The DEUR runs with and burdens the land, and requires maintenance of any institutional or engineering controls. |
| Department of Defense (DoD) | The Department of Defense (DOD) is an executive branch department of the federal government of the US charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government concerned directly with national security and the US Armed Forces. |
| Direct Economic Effects | Changes in economic activity as a direct consequence of the investment. |
| Displacement | The removal of a residence or business as a result of the ROW needs for a project. Displacements can result from total takes of a property, as well as from partial takes or access changes that render the property useless for its current purpose. As a specific alignment would be needed in order to determine potential displacements, these impacts would be determined during Tier 2 evaluations. |

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| Earthen Berm | Earth berm are long mounds of earth running parallel to the highway and can range from five to fifty feet in height. They are used to block the “line of sight” between the noise source (the vehicles on the roadway) and the receiver, providing. |
| Earth Fissure | Cracks which form in deep alluvium-filled basins in response to the land subsidence. |
| Employment | Total number of part- and full-time jobs measured in job-years. |
| Endangered Species | A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. |
| Environmental Consequences | Possible effects caused by the Build Corridor Alternatives or the No Build Alternative |
| Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) | A comprehensive study of potential environmental impacts related to federally-assisted projects, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The first version released to the public and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review is the Draft EIS, which is followed by the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). |
| Environmental Justice Populations | An environmental justice population is present is the percentage of minority and/or low-income individuals in the population exceeds 50 percent of the total population; or is 10 or more percentage points greater than in the counties comprising the Section in which the CT or CDP is located. |
| Executive Order (EO) | A declaration by the president or a governor which has the force of law, usually based on existing statutory powers, and requiring no action by the Congress or State Legislature. |
| Existing Land Use | Categorization of the homogenous type of use the built environment is currently occupied by. Existing land uses are generalized in this report to differentiate major use types (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.). |
| Existing Noise Levels | The noise resulting from natural and mechanical sources and from other human activity usually present in a particular area. |
| Feasible and Prudent | This concept is essential to the Section 4(f) process. It refers to how practical an alternative is in its attempt to avoid the use of a Section 4(f) property. The term feasible refers to whether a project can be built using current construction methods, technologies, and practices. The term prudent refers to specific measurement criteria that are defined in the regulations (23 CFR 774 et seq.). FHWA is required to choose an avoidance alternative only if it is prudent and feasible. |
| Floodplain | An area adjacent to a stream or river that is susceptible to flooding. |
| Floodway | The channel of a river or other watercourse and adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. |
| Foreground | The zone that extends from the viewer to 0.25–0.5 mile away from the viewer. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) | Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) are properties that were owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the US and under the jurisdiction of the US Secretary of Defense. The term also refers to the US military program created in 1986 for assessment and environmental restoration, if any, led by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Many of these properties were determined to be in need of environmental cleanup, with restoration projects planned or ongoing. |
| General/Comprehensive Plan | Broad and long-range planning strategies to guide a city's or county's future development goals; required to be updated every 10 years under Arizona state statutes ARS §9-461.05 and ARS §11804. |
| Historic Districts and Buildings | As used in this analysis, a historic district is a concentration, linkage, or continuity of primarily buildings, typically more than 50 years old and united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A historic building typically is more than 50 years old and was created principally to shelter any form of human activity. |
| Historic Properties | Districts, buildings, sites, structures, or objects included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. |
| Historic Structure | A historic structure is a facility dating to the historic era, typically more than 50 years old, constructed usually for purposes other than creating human shelter. |
| Impaired Waters | Waters on the Section 303(d) list for Arizona. Includes water bodies that do not meet water quality standards for the specified beneficial uses of that waterway, even after point sources of pollution have installed the minimum required levels of pollution control technology. |
| Important Bird Area | An international program with the purpose of identifying a network of sites that maintain the long-term viability of wild bird populations. |
| Indirect effects | Effects caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. |
| Invasive Species | Non-native plant or animal species that are well-suited or adapted to colonizing and spreading in areas that are generally disturbed, often crowding out native species. Some species are identified by federal or state regulation while others are identified by individual federal, state, or tribal agencies as being a problem. |
| Job Year | A single job that lasts one year. Ten job-years could consist of one job that lasts ten years, ten jobs that last one year each, or other combinations. |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (LWCF) | Regulates the use of parklands that were purchased or developed with LWCF funds |
| Land Ownership/Management | Broad categorization of underlying ownership patterns, such as federal, state, local, or private entities. Does not specify individual parcel-level ownership. |
| Lead Federal Agency | Designated to supervise the preparation of the environmental analysis and is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of NEPA. The Lead Federal Agency for this Tier 1 EIS is the FHWA. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) | An underground storage tank (UST) that has had a release of a regulated substance (typically petroleum) is called a leaking UST (LUST). Even with upgrade requirements and improvements in leak prevention, some UST systems will have a release. |
| Least Overall Harm | If multiple alternatives under consideration result in use of Section 4(f) property and no feasible and prudent avoidance alternatives exist, the alternative that will cause the least overall harm (after factoring in mitigation measures) must be selected. Least Overall Harm is determined by the following factors: ability to mitigate adverse impacts, relative severity of remaining harm after mitigation, relative significance of property, the degree to which each alternative meets the purpose and need for the project, substantial difference in costs among the alternatives, and the views of the officials with jurisdiction over the 4(f) properties. |
| L_{eq} | The equivalent steady-state, A-weighted sound level in a stated period of time. The average noise level over a period of time. |
| Level of Service (LOS) | A measure of the traffic conditions on a road or at an intersection. The individual levels of service are characterized using factors such as speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic density, and comfort and convenience. Level of service designations range from A to F, with LOS A representing the best operating (free flow) conditions and LOS F the worst (congestion). |
| Limited English Proficiency (LEP) | Populations who speak English "less than very well" according to collected census data. |
| Low-Income Populations | Populations in households with a median household income that is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. |
| Maintenance Area | An area that was designated as nonattainment and has been redesignated to attainment. |
| Master Planned Community | Broad plan for a large residential development that typically includes a wide mix of uses interspersed throughout the community, including open space, major office/commercial employment clusters, industrial/manufacturing, public facilities, and other amenities. Can often build out over a 25 to 30+year planning cycle. |
| Middleground | The zone that extends from 0.25 to 0.5 mile to 3 to 5 miles away from the viewer. |
| Minority Populations | People who identify themselves with one or more of the following categories: Black; Hispanic or Latino; a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race; Asian American; American Indian or Alaskan Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. |
| Mitigation | Measure(s) designed to lessen or eliminate negative impacts resulting from a proposed project or action. Mitigation could include avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing or eliminating the impacts, or compensating for the impact by providing substitute resources or environment. |

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| Mixed Use | Mixed use land use classification is a type of urban development that blends residential, commercial, office, and public institutional uses, where those functions are physically and functionally integrated. |
| National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) | Procedural law requiring federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives for a proposed action, including the No Build Alternative. |
| National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 | The NHPA, enacted in 1966, is the fundamental basis for our Nation's historic preservation program. The law established a policy for the federal government, in cooperation with other nations, the states, Tribes, local governments, and private organizations and individuals, to foster preservation of prehistoric and historic resources in harmony with current social and economic goals for the benefit of present and future generations. Section 106 of NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and other interested parties, the effects of their undertakings on properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP, and seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. |
| National Priorities List (NPL) | CERCLA or Superfund sites that are eligible for long-term remedial action are placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). |
| National Register Eligible | Under certain federal regulations, including Section 106 and Section 4(f), any property that meets the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is considered an historic resource, regardless of whether it is currently on the National Register. Resources meeting these criteria are termed "National Register eligible." |
| National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) | The NRHP is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains the NRHP to support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. To be eligible a property must be 50 years old unless it has special historic significance, and have national, state, or local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Properties also must have sufficient historic integrity to convey their historic values, and meet at least one of four criteria: A be associated with significant historical events or trends. B be associated with historically significant people. C have distinctive characteristics of a style or type, or have artistic value, or represent a significant entity whose components may lack individual distinction. D have yielded or have potential to yield important information. |
| No-Build Alternative | An option evaluated within an Environmental Impact Statement that considers the social, economic, and environmental impacts of not building the proposed project under consideration. The No-Build Alternative includes projects that have been programmed but have not been constructed. |
| Nonattainment Area | An area considered to have air quality worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as defined in the Clean Air Act. |
| Notice of Intent (NOI) | A notice in the Federal Register that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and considered. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Participating Agency | Participate in developing the purpose and need and alternatives and identify potential impacts during scoping and the Draft Tier 1 EIS. |
| Planned Land Use | Categorization of the anticipated future use of the built environment, based on long-range planning conducted by each municipality and county. Future land uses are generalized in this report to differentiate major use types (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.). |
| Prime Farmland | Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor and without intolerable soil erosion. Prime Farmland includes land that possesses the above characteristics but is being used to produce livestock and timber. It does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage (7 CFR 658.2). |
| Programmatic Agreement (PA) | A formal, legally binding agreement between a state Department of Transportation (DOT) and other state and/or federal agencies. A PA establishes a process for consultation, review, and compliance with one or more federal laws, most often with those federal laws concerning historic preservation. |
| Proximity impact | Indirect impacts that are so severe that the protected activities, features, and attributes qualify a property for protection under Section 4(f) are diminished; examples of proximity impacts are noise and visual impacts |
| Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions | In context of the indirect and cumulative effects analysis, these are activities or projects that are planned or proposed, and it is reasonable to assume that they might occur in the future. |
| Receiver | Location where noise levels are monitored, measured, modeled, and analyzed. Receiver sites are typically residences, schools, parks, or other noise-sensitive land uses. |
| Record of Decision (ROD) | A formal decision granted by the FHWA (or other lead agency) that provides a written record of the agency's decision regarding a proposed Project or Action under evaluation in an EIS, and represents the culmination of the NEPA process. The ROD also documents any conditions or commitments to mitigation contained in the Final EIS. |
| Regulation | A rule or order issued by an executive authority or regulatory agency of a government that implements a law passed by a legislative body and having the force of law. |
| Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) | The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) protects communities and resource conservation through regulations, guidance, and policies that ensure the safe management and cleanup of solid and hazardous waste, and programs that encourage source reduction and beneficial reuse. |
| Riparian Habitats | Vegetation, habitats, or ecosystems that are associated with bodies of water (streams or lakes) or are dependent on the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. |

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| Scoping | As part of the preparation of an EIS, NEPA requires there be an early and open process for determining the scope of the issues to be addressed by a study. This process is commonly known as “scoping,” during which an agency will solicit public input. |
| Section 106 | Regulations pertaining to the protection of historic properties, under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). Under Section 106, federal agencies are required to identify and evaluate cultural resources and consider the impact of projects they fund, license, permit or assist on historic properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. |
| Section 106 Consultation | Section 106 of the NHPA requires a historic preservation review process for projects that have a potential to affect historic properties. The Lead Federal Agency identifies the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and other potential parties to consult with during this review process. These parties provide comments on their special knowledge of, concern for, or mandated regulatory role relative to historic properties related to the project. |
| Section 4(f) | Regulations pertaining to the protection of publicly owned parks, recreations areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, and historic sites from federally funded transportation projects, under the US Department of Transportation Act. |
| Section 6(f) | Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) of 1965 protects property that was purchased or developed using LWCFA funds. |
| Sole Source Aquifer | An aquifer that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water for its service area, and for which there are no reasonably available alternative drinking water sources should the aquifer become contaminated. |
| Sound levels | Measurement of cumulative sound (noise) exposure. Hourly Equivalent Sound Levels (Leq) describe exposure over 1 hour. |
| Special Designated Lands | Added designations to parcels of land, typically federally or stateowned, through some form of special authority (e.g., executive order). |
| Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) | The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) on October 17, 1986. SARA reflected EPA's experience in administering the complex Superfund program during its first six years and made several important changes and additions to the program. It also required EPA to revise the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) to ensure that it accurately assessed the relative degree of risk to human health and the environment posed by uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that may be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). |
| Threatened Species | A species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. |
| Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement | A programmatic approach for identifying existing and future conditions and understanding the comprehensive effects of the project on the region. Allows the NEPA process to move forward with no identified funding and lays the groundwork for where the corridor would be located |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Tier 2 Environmental Analysis | Determines the specific alignment and construction footprint, as well as the location of traffic interchanges. This effort would document the evaluation of more specific project-level issues, such as individual property acquisitions, relocations, displacements, and mitigation. |
| Tiered Environmental Impact Statement | A two-round evaluation of a project instead of preparing a single environmental impact statement (EIS) as the basis for approving an entire project. In Tier 1, the agency typically prepares an EIS that analyzes a program or large project on a broad scale. In Tier 2, the agency prepares one or more additional National Environmental Policy Act documents, which examine individual projects or sections in greater detail. |
| Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) | Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. |
| Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) | Traditional cultural properties are districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that have associations with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community and (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. They may be eligible for the NRHP. |
| Underground Storage Tank (UST) | An underground storage tank (UST) system is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least ten percent of its combined volume underground. Federal and state UST regulations apply only to underground tanks and piping storing either petroleum or certain hazardous substances. |
| Unique Farmland | Land other than Prime Farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Its characteristics include the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Examples of such crops include citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables (7 CFR 658.2). |
| United States Code (U.S.C.) | A comprehensive body of laws passed by Congress and organized topically under 50 titles. A typical citation to the code (e.g., 16 USC § 703-712) gives the title number (a number from 1 to 50), the abbreviated title of the code itself (USC), and the section number under which the statute may be found. |
| United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) | The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is the federal agency created for the purpose of protecting human health and the environment by writing and enforcing regulations based on the laws passed by the US Congress. |
| Viewshed | All of the surface area visible from a particular location (e.g., an overlook) or sequence of locations (e.g., a roadway or trail). |
| Visual Impacts | Changes to visual resources, viewers, or visual quality. |
| Visual Resources | Components of the natural, cultural, or project environments which are capable of being seen. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) | Through ADEQ's Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP), property owners, prospective purchasers and other interested parties investigate or clean up a contaminated site in cooperation with ADEQ. ADEQ reviews these voluntary remedial actions and provides a closure document for successful site remediation that is accepted by all relevant ADEQ programs. |
| Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) | The Arizona Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) was created under the State of Arizona Environmental Quality Act of 1986 to support hazardous substance cleanup efforts in the state. The fund is dependent upon legislative appropriations, cost recovery from responsible parties, corporate income tax and special fees. The program identifies sites that are most in need of cleanup and adds them to the WQARF Registry. Sites on the registry receive first consideration for distribution of funds. The WQARF program also identifies, assesses and cleans up soil, groundwater and surface water contaminated with hazardous substances. The program conducts these efforts throughout Arizona with support from state and federal funds. The program also oversees privately-funded cleanup efforts. |
| Water Resources | Defined for the purposes of the EIS to include sensitive waters, impaired waters, groundwater, waters of the US, wetlands, and floodplains. |
| Waters of the United States | Includes traditional navigable waters (TNWs), relatively permanent tributaries, and adjacent wetlands, as defined in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 328.3(a). |
| Wetlands | Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. |
| Wildlife Connectivity | The ability for wildlife to disperse or move between habitats and across landscapes. Connectivity within the landscape is maintained by having comparable habitat patches being close together or linked by corridors of suitable habitat so that wildlife can use or move between the habitat patches. |

P LIST OF PREPARERS

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