APPENDIX A

AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE
PROJECT NEWSLETTERS

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Arizona Division
400 East Van Buren Street
One Arizona Center Suite 410
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2264

July 13, 2005

In Reply Refer To: HA-AZ
NH-303-B(AJX)
TRACS No. 303L MA H5946 01E
Loop 303 @ I-17
Section 106 Initial Consultation

Ms. Kathleen Wesley-Kitcheyen, Chair
San Carlos Apache Tribe
P. O. Box 0
San Carlos, Arizona 85550

Dear President Wesley-Kitcheyen:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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At this time, FHWA is also inquiring whether you have any concerns regarding historic properties of religious or cultural importance to your community within the project area. If you have such concerns, any information you might provide within 30 days of receipt of this letter would be considered in the project planning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jon Shumaker at (602) 712-8858 or via email at jshumaker@azdot.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Kathy W. Kitcheyan
Signature for San Carlos Apache Tribe

7-28-05
Date

Enclosures

cc:
Vernelda Grant , Tribal Archaeologist(w/enclosures)
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Dr. Todd Bostwick, Archaeologist
Pueblo Grande Museum
4619 E. Washington
Phoenix AZ 85034

Dear Dr. Bostwick:

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Todd Bostwick
Signature for City of Phoenix

8-12-05
Date

Enclosures

co:
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Dr. David Jacobs, Compliance Specialist
State Historic Preservation Office
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear ~~Dr. Jacobs~~: David:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for SHPO

20 JULY 05
Date

Enclosures

cc: Jon Shumaker, ADOT

Ralph Ellis

From: Jon Shumaker
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2005 10:08 AM
To: Steve Thomas; Ralph Ellis
Subject: NH-303-B(AJX) TRACS 303L MA H5946 01E Loop 303 @I-17

Importance: High

Contacts: Steve Thomas

Gentlemen,

Following up on this project and the issue of splitting out the TI as a Federal project, I just phoned Connie Stone (BLM Archaeologist) and John Czaplicki (Bureau of Reclamation Archaeologist). I explained to them the change in the project--that the TI has been Federalized due to the need for a Change of Access review, and that for the TI portion only, their agencies had no involvement. I then asked if they had any interest or concerns, and they said none whatsoever for this portion. I indicated we would would continue to consult with them on the other state-funded portion of the project.

Please call or email if you have any other questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Jon

Jon Shumaker
Historic Preservation Specialist/Planner II
Environmental & Enhancement Group
Arizona Department of Transportation
205 S. 17th Ave.; Room 213E; Mail Drop 619E
Phoenix AZ 85007

602-712-8858 *Phone*
602-712-3066 *FAX*
jshumaker@azdot.gov *Email (NEW! 10/19/04)*

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Arizona Division
400 East Van Buren Street
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Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2264

July 13, 2005

In Reply Refer To: HA-AZ
NH-303-B(AJX)
TRACS No. 303L MA H5946 01E
Loop 303 @ I-17
Section 106 Initial Consultation

Ms. Joni Ramos, President
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Route 1, Box 216
10005 East Osborn
Scottsdale, Arizona 85256

Dear President Ramos:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for SRP-M IC

Date

Enclosures

cc:
Wechonie Schurz (w/enclosures)
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Arizona Division
400 East Van Buren Street
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Section 106 Initial Consultation

Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Tribe
Cultural Preservation Office
P. O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Dear Mr. Kuwanwisiwma:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

_____ _____

Signature for Hopi Tribe Date

Enclosures

cc:
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

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Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2264

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TRACS No. 303L MA H5946 01E
Loop 303 @ I-17
Section 106 Initial Consultation

Ms. Jamie Fullmer, Chair
Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 West Datsi
Camp Verde, Arizona 86322

Dear Chairperson Fullmer:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS
Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for Yavapai-Apache Nation

Date

Enclosures

cc:
Chris Coder (w/enclosures)
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Mr. Ernest Jones, Sr., President
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe
530 East Merritt
Prescott, Arizona 86301-2038

Dear President Jones:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

Date

Enclosures

cc:
Nancy Hayden (w/enclosures)
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Mr. Raphael Bear, Chair
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
P. O. Box 17779
Fountain Hills, Arizona 85269

Dear Chairman Bear:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

_____ _____
Signature for Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Date

Enclosures
cc:
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas: cdm

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Mr. Steve Ross
Cultural Resource Manager
Arizona State Land Department
1616 W. Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Ross:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

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Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for ASLD

Date

Enclosures

cc:
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Arizona Division
400 East Van Buren Street
One Arizona Center Suite 410
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-2264

July 13, 2005

In Reply Refer To: HA-AZ
NH-303-B(AJX)
TRACS No. 303L MA H5946 01E
Loop 303 @ I-17
Section 106 Initial Consultation

Ms. Barbara Stocklin
City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office
200 W. Washington
9th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Dear Ms. Stocklin:

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), in a letter dated December 3, 2003, consulted with you regarding planning for an element of the Phoenix metropolitan area regional freeway system known as the Estrella Freeway (State Route 303 Loop), located between Happy Valley Road and Interstate 17 (I-17), in Maricopa County. A portion of this project, the 43rd Avenue to I-17 segment, is now considered to be a Federal undertaking due to the need for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review and approve a Federal Change of Access Report. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of this change in the lead consultation agency from ADOT to the FHWA for this segment only.

FHWA is consulting with your office pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This project is state-funded, and would occur on ADOT right-of-way, ADOT easement across Arizona State Trust land administered by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD), City of Phoenix (COP) land, and private land. Consulting parties for this project include ADOT, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), ASLD, COP, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, and the Hopi Tribe.

The scope of this project would involve the construction of a connecting freeway between 43rd Avenue and I-17, and the construction of new traffic interchanges at Lone Mountain Road, Dove Valley Road, and Dixileta Drive. At this time, FHWA and ADOT are in the initial planning phases of the project and are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Design Concept Report (DCR).

URS Corporation (URS) prepared a cultural resources records review for the proposed corridor alternatives. The report, *"Cultural Resources Records Review for the Proposed Estrella Freeway (State Route 303L), Happy Valley Road to Interstate 17, Maricopa County, Arizona"* (Cox and Rogge 2003) was previously submitted for your review and comment.

BUCKLE UP AMERICA

The enclosed table (Summary of Cultural Resources within the Area of Potential Effect) identifies the properties within the area of the federal undertaking. It is FHWA's recommendation that none of these properties are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that a finding of "no adverse effect" is appropriate for this project. If you concur with these recommendations, please sign the concurrence line below and return to FHWA.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jon Shumaker at (602) 712-8858 or via email at jshumaker@azdot.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

STEPHEN D. THOMAS

Robert E. Hollis
Division Administrator

Signature for City of Phoenix

Date

Enclosures

cc:
SThomas
JShumaker (619E)
SDThomas:cdm

ESTRELLA FREEWAY

SR303 Happy Valley Road to I-17 and New River Corridor

Project Update

January 2005

Project History

The Estrella Freeway (SR 303L) is an important part of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) designed to accommodate future traffic demands. The SR 303L is planned to extend northward from Happy Valley Parkway to the Lone Mountain section line and then eastward to I-17. A second corridor that is designed to supplement SR 303L and to meet the long term needs in the general area is also under study. This second corridor is called the New River Corridor. It is planned to extend northward from SR 303L just west of New River and continue across Carefree Highway west of New River Road and tie into I-17 near the community of New River. This new corridor does not currently have a state route designation. The portion of the New River Corridor from future SR 303L to Carefree Highway is included in the MAG RTP for right-of-way preservation. It is the intent of ADOT, to abandon Carefree Highway as a state route when alternative routes are available.

These planned corridors were determined by your input at a public meeting held on February 19, 2003, and by extensive coordination with the local jurisdictions and land management agencies responsible for the area. Several alignment (location) alternatives were developed for SR 303L and were presented along with a recommendation at a public meeting on November 19th, 2003. Since that time, the project team has worked closely with the many affected agencies to refine and develop the plans for these corridors and presented those plans in an Initial Design Concept Report (IDCR) completed on September 7, 2004.

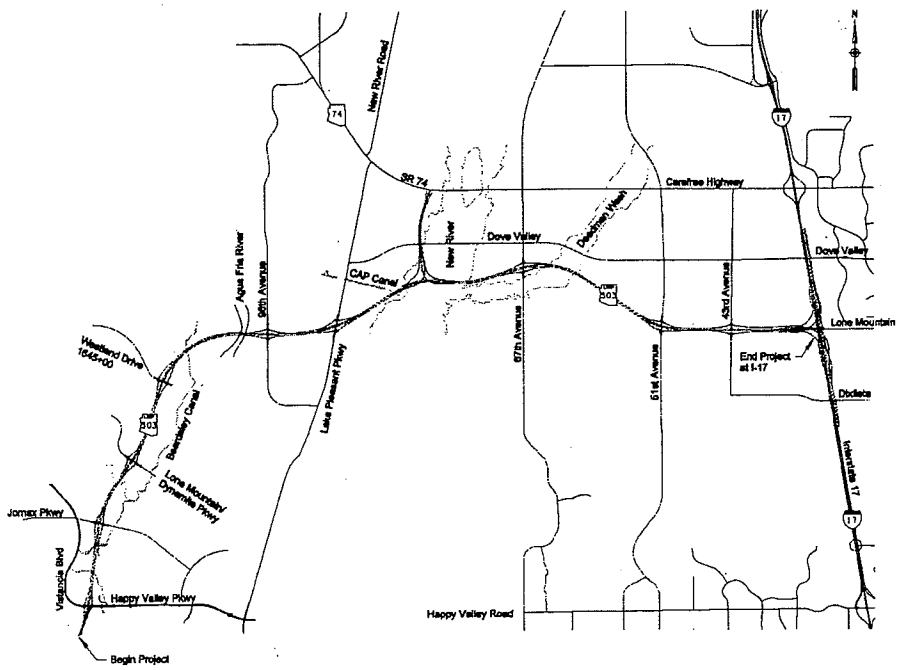
Estrella Freeway SR 303L Preferred Alignment

The preliminary alternative recommendation presented at the public meeting on November 19th was selected as the preferred alignment shown below. Comments on the IDCR have been received from the affected agencies and the Draft DCR will be prepared and completed in the spring of 2005. In addition, a Draft Environmental Assessment document will be completed, and a public hearing is scheduled for late in the spring of 2005.

SR 303L is part of the adopted MAG Regional Transportation Plan and most funding will be provided through Proposition 400 recently passed by the voters in Maricopa County. The initial construction of SR 303L from Happy Valley Parkway to I-17 is planned to begin in fiscal year 2008. The initial construction will include two travel lanes in each direction and interchanges at existing arterials.

New River Corridor Alignment Alternatives

The New River Corridor is also considered an important link in the future freeway system. It is anticipated that it will provide much needed traffic relief for I-17, especially during weekend peak periods. Several alignment alternatives and I-17 interchange location alternatives were identified and refined for the New River Corridor. In addition to the New River Corridor from existing SR 74 (Carefree Highway) northward to I-17 new the community of New River, SR 74 is planned to be extended directly eastward from where it passes south of Lake Pleasant and interchange with the New River Corridor approximately two miles



ESTRELLA FREEWAY

SR303 Happy Valley Road to I-17 and New River Corridor

Project Update

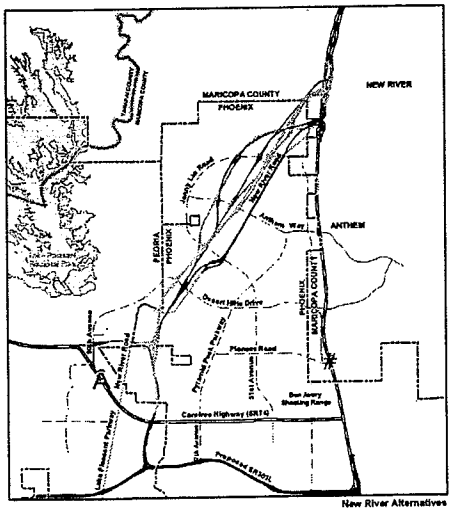
ADOT

January 2005

URS Corporation
7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85020

north of existing Carefree Highway. The alternative alignments have been further refined and evaluated. Working closely with affected agencies, a preliminary recommendation has been prepared by the consulting team for your review and comment. This recommendation, along with the alternatives studied will be presented at the public meeting scheduled for January 27, 2005.

Based upon public and agency comments, a preferred alignment will be selected and the process will be documented in an alignment selection report to be completed this winter. Later in the year, a DCR and environmental overview document for the New River Corridor will be completed. Construction of the New River Corridor is not funded or included in the MAG Regional Transportation Plan at this time To aid right-of-way preservation, a request to adopt the alignment and amend the plan likely will be forwarded to MAG upon completion of the DCR.



New River Alternatives

Now It's Your Turn

In addition to the public meetings held in February 2003 and November 2003, numerous coordination meetings have occurred with local, state, and federal agencies, and property owners in the area. The information obtained in these meetings helped further define constraints within each segment, and helped identify alignment options.

We are now ready to present the New River Corridor alignment options, our engineering and environmental evaluation of those alternatives, and our preliminary recommendation for the alignment for the New River Corridor. Please join us for a public meeting on:

Thursday, January 27, 2005
Boulder Creek
High School Cafeteria
40404 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway
Anthem
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

In addition to the New River Corridor, the preferred alignment and design concept for SR 303L will be presented for your review and comment.

A brief presentation is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. After the presentation, you are invited to review project display boards and speak with project staff one-on-one. Representatives from ADOT will be available to discuss the project and answer project-related questions.

Please plan to attend this public meeting to provide us with your thoughts, comments, questions, and concerns. Your input will be greatly appreciated. If you have questions in advance of the meeting, you may contact Erin Seibel at 602-648-7405 or David French at 602-648-2475.

(Insert map showing Boulder Creek High School location)

ESTRELLA FREEWAY

SR303 Happy Valley Road to I-17 and New River Corridor

Project Update

October 2003

Project History

For the past few months, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has been conducting detailed alignment studies of the two corridors of the Estrella Freeway, the Lone Mountain Corridor and the New River Corridor. These two corridors were determined by your input from a public meeting held on February 19, 2003, and extensive coordination with the different agencies in the area.

To simplify the alignment studies, the Lone Mountain Corridor was further divided into four smaller sections based on different environmental elements in each area.

- Segment 1 is from Happy Valley Road to the Agua Fria River
- Segment 2 is from the Agua Fria River to 43rd Avenue
- Segment 3 is from 43rd Avenue to I-17
- Segment 4 is from SR303L to SR74

The New River Corridor is denoted as Segment 5.

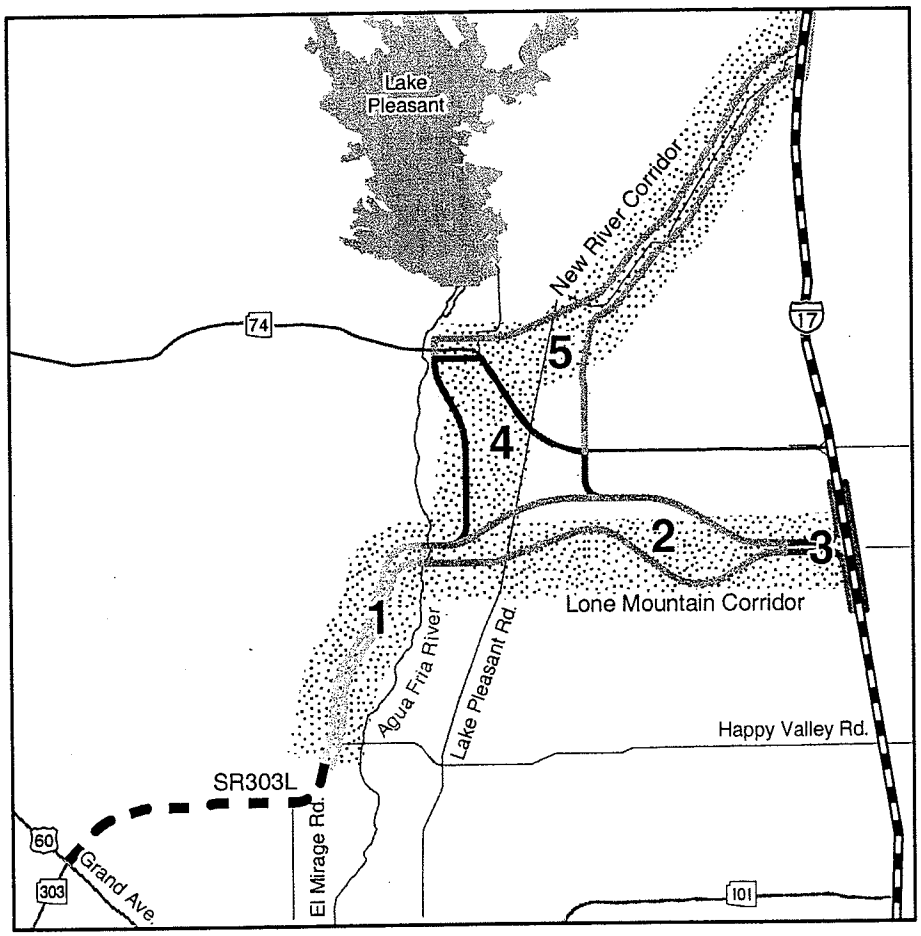
Several alternative alignments have been identified for each segment listed above. Working closely with many affected agencies, these alternatives have been evaluated and a preliminary recommendation has been prepared by the consulting team for your review and comment.

Three separate environmental documents will be prepared for the above projects. The first will be for Segments 1, 2 and 4, while a second will address Segment 5 (SR 74 to New River). Both will be prepared in accordance with the *Action Plan of the Arizona Department of Transportation for State-Funded Highway Projects.* A third will be drafted specifically for Segment 3, the connection to I-17 at Lone Mountain, and will be prepared in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* and the policies of the Federal Highway Administration because the project will add a point of access to I-17.

Now It's Your Turn

Since the first public meeting in February 2003, numerous coordination meetings have occurred with local, state, and federal agencies, and property owners in the area. The information obtained in these meetings helped further define constraints within each segment, and helped identify alignment options.

We are now ready to present the alignment options, our engineering



URS Corporation
7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85020

and environmental evaluation of the alternatives, and our preliminary recommendation for the alignment for the Lone Mountain Corridor. Please join us for a public meeting on:

Wednesday, November 19, 2003
Sandra Day O'Connor High School Cafeteria
25250 N. 35th Avenue
(35th Avenue and Happy Valley Road)
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Exit I-17 at Happy Valley Road and go west to 35th Avenue.

A brief presentation scheduled at 6:30 p.m. will present potential alignment options and the associated environmental studies. After the presentation, you are welcome to review project display boards and speak with project staff one-on-one. Representatives from ADOT will be available to informally discuss the project and answer project-related questions.

Please plan to attend this public meeting to provide us with your thoughts, comments, questions, and concerns. Your input will be greatly appreciated.

Persons with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Annie DeChance, 7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85020. (Phone: 602.371.1100; Fax: 602.371.1615). Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 2003
Sandra Day O'Connor High School Cafeteria
25250 N. 35th Avenue
(35th Avenue and Happy Valley Road)
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

ESTRELLA FREEWAY

SR303 Happy Valley Road to I-17

Newsletter #1

February 2003

In 1985, the Maricopa Association of Governments adopted the Estrella Freeway/Loop 303 as part of their Regional Freeway System. Since that time, various studies and reports have been completed, including a Feasibility/Location Study done by Maricopa County Department of Transportation in 2001. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has recently begun preliminary roadway studies for a portion of the proposed State Route 303 (Estrella Freeway) in the northwest portion of Maricopa County from approximately Happy Valley Road to Interstate 17.

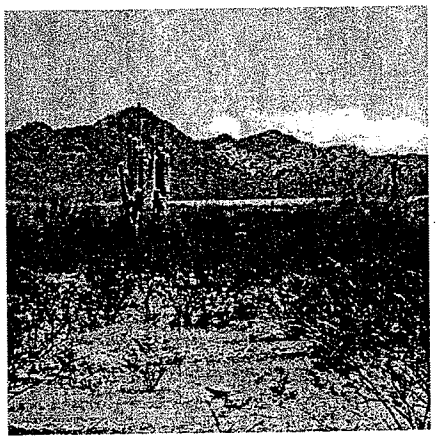
Various potential freeway corridors are being considered in these studies that will conclude with preliminary roadway design and engineering work and preparation of a Design Concept Report (DCR). The DCR will contain the evaluation of alignment options, (i.e. where the Estrella Freeway will be located) and the preliminary design of the chosen option. The evaluation will include input from the public and local government agencies and jurisdictions. The alignment options also will take into account existing and planned land uses, and engineering and cost considerations.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will address potential impacts to the natural and human environment (i.e. native plants and animals and current residents) for each alignment option. The EA is required on the project for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The DCR and EA will be prepared concurrently.

Ultimately, the objective of this process is to identify the corridor(s) that best meets the long-term needs of the region, minimizes the impacts to the natural and human environment, and fits with the objectives of the overall Regional Freeway System.

Why Build Another Freeway?

In the next 40 years, the area north of Loop 101 is expected to be fully developed. Identifying new transportation routes within the region to increase mobility is always a challenge. We have a great opportunity to decide where Loop 303 will be before houses and businesses are built along the route. This new freeway will help serve this growing area and help avoid unreasonable traffic impacts on existing developed areas. Depending on the growth in the area, timing of various projects, and regional funding, Loop 303 could be constructed initially as either a 4-lane divided highway or a 6-lane freeway.



Preliminary Project Schedule

Several public meetings will be held during the course of preparation of the DCR and EA. Subsequent meetings will be held when the alignment and design concepts are further developed.

The current schedule is to complete the DCR and EA in 2004. Construction of the project would occur after 2004 and is dependent upon the availability of funding.

We Need to Hear From You!

Please attend the meeting to see the broad alternatives that have been developed to date and to give us your ideas on where this roadway should be built. By providing your information to us at this early stage we can design the Estrella Freeway to meet the long-term needs of the area and minimize the impacts to the environment. Please join us for a public meeting scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 19th, 2003
Ben Avery Shooting Range
Activity Center
4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd.
(Carefree Highway west of I-17)
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A brief presentation scheduled at 6:30 p.m. will present potential preliminary freeway corridors. After the presentation, you are welcome to review display boards and speak with project staff. Representatives from ADOT will be available to informally discuss the project and answer project-related questions. Please plan to attend this public meeting to provide us with your thoughts, comments, questions and concerns. This is the first step in a long process, but we cannot do it without your help.

Corridors Being Considered

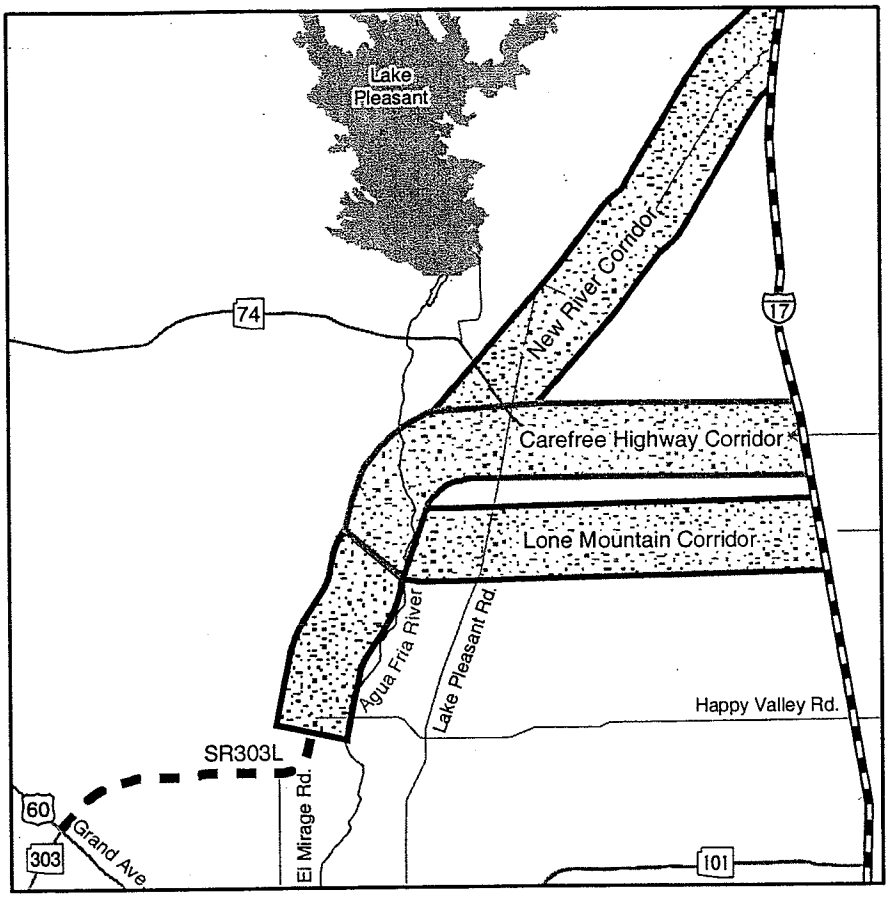
Three freeway corridors have been identified for consideration. All of the corridors start at Happy Valley Road west of the Aqua Fria River and extend northeast, parallel to the river to a point near the Lone Mountain Section Line, as illustrated in black on the adjacent map.

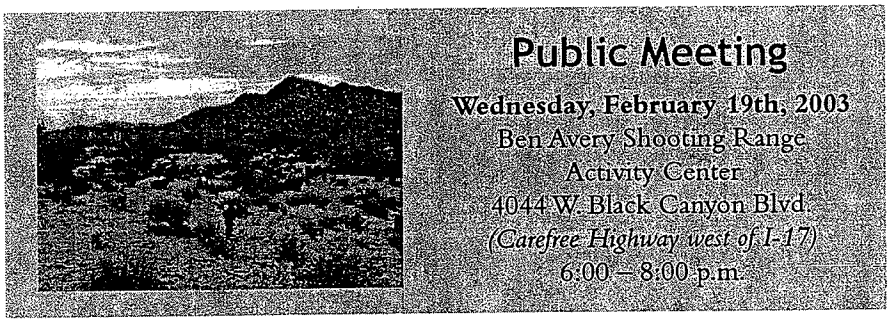
The three study corridors are as follows:

- **Lone Mountain Corridor** - extends eastward to I-17 generally along the Lone Mountain Section Line. (Red)
- **Carefree Highway Corridor** - extends eastward to I-17 generally along the Carefree Highway Section Line. (Green)
- **New River Corridor** - continues northeastward to I-17 in the general vicinity of New River Road. (Blue)

The final corridor selected could be one of these single corridors identified, or a combination of the New River corridor with either of the other two corridors.

In addition, a No Build option is being analyzed, which would not introduce any new regional corridors. Another option being considered would construct an at-grade (street-level) arterial road along the Lone Mountain corridor. This route would not be a state highway.





URS Corporation
7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85020

ESTRELLA FREEWAY

SR303 Happy Valley Road to I-17

Project Update

ADOT

July 2003

On February 19, 2003, the **Arizona Department of Transportation** (ADOT) conducted a public scoping meeting at the Ben Avery Shooting Range regarding the Estrella Freeway, State Route 303, from Happy Valley Road to I-17. Four corridor alternatives were presented at this meeting:

- Lone Mountain Corridor
- Carefree Highway Corridor
- Lone Mountain/New River Corridor
- Carefree Highway/New River Corridor

Approximately 170 people attended the meeting and 65 written comments were received to date. Most respondents favored the Lone Mountain Corridor.

Since the public scoping meeting in February, considerable coordination with public agencies has been conducted and all comments received from the public and agencies have been documented and evaluated. The purpose of this update is to inform you of the corridor ADOT has selected for further analyses.

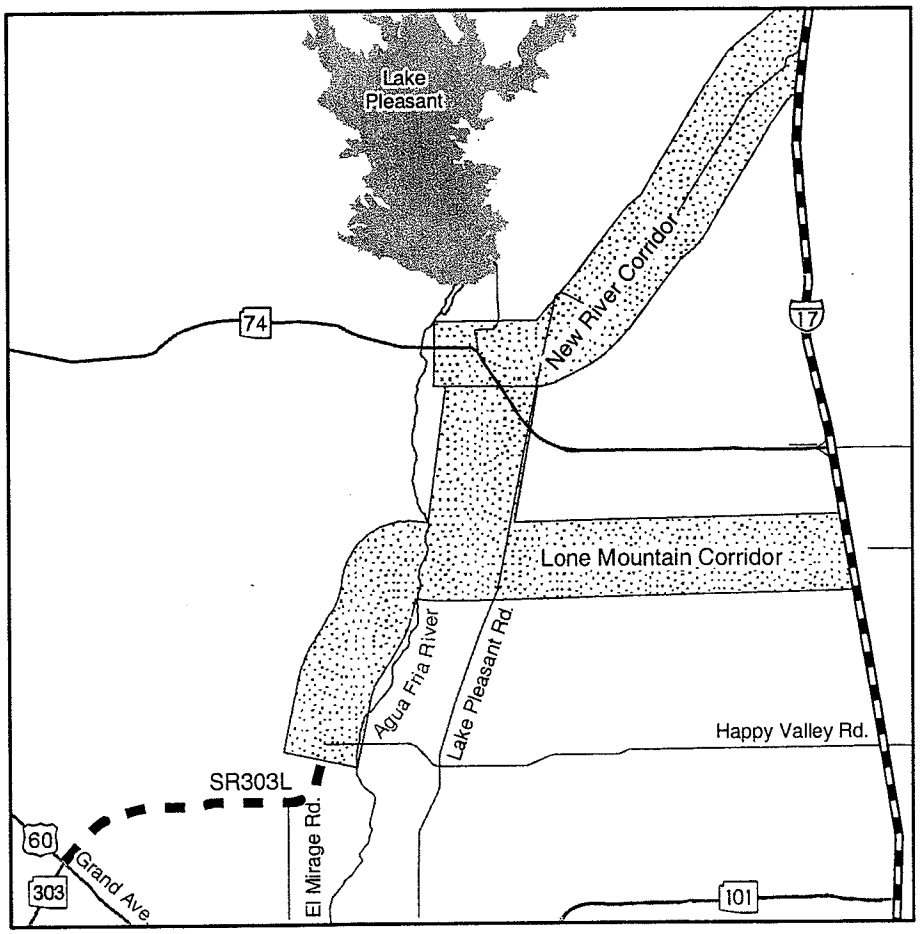
Based on preliminary engineering, traffic, environmental analyses, and input received from the public and agencies, ADOT has identified the Lone Mountain Corridor as the preferred corridor for the Estrella Freeway. A connection will also be included to the existing SR 74 from the Lone Mountain Corridor.

ADOT also has identified the New River Corridor as an additionally preferred corridor to meet the long term needs of the area. These two corridors will accommodate both SR 74 and SR 303L. The SR 74 designation on the Carefree Highway will be removed from the portion that lies between this new corridor and I-17.

More detailed alignment studies have begun in the two corridors that will result in the selection of a preferred alignment for the routes and preliminary design concepts. Separate Environmental Assessments (EA) also will be prepared for the two corridors. The EAs will be prepared in accordance with the *Action Plan of the Arizona Department of Transportation for State-Funded Highway Projects*. The construction of the roadways will depend on the availability of funding, the rate of development in the area, and the increase in traffic in the corridors.

We anticipate hosting a public information meeting in early 2004. Information presented at this meeting will include alignment options (where the freeway could be constructed) and environmental studies evaluating the alternative alignments. If you are receiving this newsletter, you will also receive an invitation to the public information meeting.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mary Viparina, 602.712.8483 or Mr. Dave French, 602.648.2475.



URS Corporation
7720 N. 16th Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85020

APPENDIX B

EPHEMERAL WASHES CROSSED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Table B-1
Summary of Wash Areas within the Proposed Right-of-way at the Ephemeral Wash Crossings

Station	Roadway	Length	Width	Wash Areas (Estimated from Aerials)			Wash Name	Blueline on USGS 7.5" Quad Map	Comments
		Right-of-Way to Right-of-Way		Potential Fill Area		Anticipated Fill Area			
(ft)		(ft)	(ft)	(sf)	(acres)	(acres)			
2120+70	SR 303L	650	4	2600	0.0597	0.0597			Crosspipe @ 2120+15
2143+60	SR 303L	600	4	2400	0.0551	0.0551		Yes	Crosspipe @ 2142+76
2157+00	SR 303L	850	4	3400	0.0781	0.0781		Yes	Crosspipe @ 2159+90, Braded Wash, Total anticipated fill area would be 0.3283 acres
2158+60	SR 303L	890	10	8900	0.2043	0.2043			
		500	4	2000	0.0459	0.0459			
1179+80	I-17	390	4	1560	0.0358	0.0358			Existing Crosspipes @ 1179+80 and 1190+00, Total anticipated fill area would be 0.3025 acres.
1190+00	I-17	430	10	4300	0.0987	0.0987		Yes	
		600	10	6000	0.1377	0.1377			
		330	4	1320	0.0303	0.0303			
TOTAL					0.7456	0.7456		3	

NOTES: Crossings can be located and viewed in the Design Concept Report based on the stations contained in this table.

APPENDIX C

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT'S TORTOISE HANDLING GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING SONORAN DESERT TORTOISES ENCOUNTERED ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Revised January 17, 1997

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has developed the following guidelines to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoises, and to promote the continued existence of tortoises throughout the state. These guidelines apply to short-term and/or small-scale projects, depending on the number of affected tortoises and specific type of project.

Desert tortoises of the Sonoran population are those occurring south and east of the Colorado River. Tortoises encountered in the open should be moved out of harm's way to adjacent appropriate habitat. If an occupied burrow is determined to be in jeopardy of destruction, the tortoise should be relocated to the nearest appropriate alternate burrow or other appropriate shelter, as determined by a qualified biologist. Tortoises should be moved less than 48 hours in advance of the habitat disturbance so they do not return to the area in the interim. Tortoises should be moved quickly, kept in an upright position at all times and placed in the shade. Separate disposable gloves should be worn for each tortoise handled to avoid potential transfer of disease between tortoises. Tortoises must not be moved if the ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees fahrenheit unless an alternate burrow is available or the tortoise is in imminent danger.

A tortoise may be moved up to two miles, but no further than necessary from its original location. If a release site, or alternate burrow, is unavailable within this distance, and ambient air temperature exceeds 105 degrees fahrenheit, the Department should be contacted to place the tortoise into a Department-regulated desert tortoise adoption program. Tortoises salvaged from projects which result in substantial permanent habitat loss (e.g. housing and highway projects), or those requiring removal during long-term (longer than one week) construction projects, will also be placed in desert tortoise adoption programs. *Managers of projects likely to affect desert tortoises should obtain a scientific collecting permit from the Department to facilitate temporary possession of tortoises.* Likewise, if large numbers of tortoises (>5) are expected to be displaced by a project, the project manager should contact the Department for guidance and/or assistance.

Please keep in mind the following points:

- These guidelines do not apply to the Mohave population of desert tortoises (north and west of the Colorado River). Mohave desert tortoises are specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- These guidelines are subject to revision at the discretion of the Department. We recommend that the Department be contacted during the planning stages of any project that may affect desert tortoises.

- Take, possession, or harassment of wild desert tortoises is prohibited by state law. Unless specifically authorized by the Department, or as noted above, project personnel should avoid disturbing any tortoise.

RAC:NLO:rc

APPENDIX D

STATE OF ARIZONA NOXIOUS WEEDS

APPENDIX D
STATE OF ARIZONA NOXIOUS WEED LIST – 2006

Scientific Name	Common Name
Prohibited Noxious Weeds	
Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Aegilops cylindrica	jointed goatgrass
Alhagi pseudalhagi	camelthorn
Alternanthera philoxeroides	alligator weed
Cardaria pubescens	hairy whitetop
Cardaria chalepensis	lens-podded hoary cress
Cardaria draba	globed-podded hoary cress
Carduus acanthoides	plumeless thistle
Cenchrus echinatus	southern sandbur
Cenchrus incertus	field sandbur
Centaurea calcitrapa	purple starthistle
Centaurea iberica	Iberian starthistle
Centaurea squarrosa	squarrose knapweed
Centaurea sulphurea	Sicilian starthistle
Centaurea solstitialis	yellow starthistle
Centaurea diffusa	diffuse knapweed
Centaurea maculosa	spotted knapweed
Chondrilla juncea	rush skeletonweed
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed
Coronopus squamatus	creeping wartcress
Cucumis melo	Dudaim melon
Cuscuta spp.	dodder
Drymaria arenarioides	alfombrilla
Eichhornia crassipes	floating water hyacinth
Eichhornia azurea	anchored water hyacinth
Elytrigia repens	quackgrass
Euphorbia esula	leafy spurge
Halogeton glomeratus	halogeton
Helianthus ciliaris	Texas blueweed
Hydrilla verticillata	hydrilla
Ipomoea spp.	morning glory, all species except *Ipomoea carnea, Ipomoea arborescens*
Ipomoea triloba	three-lobed morning glory
Isatis tinctoria	dyers woad
Linaria genistifolia var. dalmatica	dalmation toadflax
Lythrum salicaria	purple loosestrife
Medicago polymorpha	burclover
Nassella trichotoma	serrated tussock
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle
Orobanche ramosa	branched broomrape
Panicum repens	torpedo grass
Peganum harmala	African rue
Pennisetum ciliare	buffelgrass
Portulaca oleracea	common purslane
Rorippa austriaca	Austrian fieldcress
Salvinia molesta	giant salvinia
Senecio jacobaea	tansy ragwort

Scientific Name	Common Name
Solanum carolinense	Carolina horsenettle
Solaum viarum	tropical soda apple
Sonchus arvensis	perennial sowthistle
Stipa brachychaeta	puna grass
Striga spp.	witchweed
Trapa natans	water-chesnut
Tribulus terrestris	puncturevine
Regulated Noxious Weeds	
Cenchrus echinatus	southern sandbur
Cenchrus incertus	field sandbur
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed
Eichhornia crassipes	floating water hyacinth
Medicago polymorpha	burclover
Pennisetum ciliare	buffelgrass
Portulaca oleracea	common purslane
Salvinia molesta	giant salvinia
Tribulus terrestris	puncturevine
Restricted Noxious Weeds	
Acroptilon repens	Russian knapweed
Aegilops cylindrica	jointed goatgrass
Alhagi pseudalhagi	camelthorn
Cardaria draba	globed-podded hoary cress
Centaurea diffusa	diffuse knapweed
Centaurea maculosa	spotted knapweed
Centaurea solstitialis	yellow starthistle
Cuscuta spp.	dodder
Eichhornia crassipes	floating water hyacinth
Elytrigia repens	quackgrass
Euryops sunbcarnosus subspec. *vulgaris*	sweet resinbush
Halogeton glomeratus	halogeton
Helianthus ciliaris	Texas blueweed
Ipomoea triloba	three-lobed morning glory
Linaria genistifolia var. dalmatica	dalmation toadflax
Onopordum acanthium	Scotch thistle