

**United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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Telephone: (602) 242-0210 FAX: (602) 242-2513**

AESO/FA
22410-2008-FA-0004

December 12, 2007

Ms. Cindy Lester
Chief, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3636 North Central Avenue Suite 900
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1936

Dear Ms. Lester:

Thank you for Public Notice SPL-2006-1396-AP (PN), issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on November 19, 2007. Surprise Grand Vista JV I, LLC has applied for a Section 404 Clean Water Act permit to construct the 5,500-acre Grand Vista residential development in Maricopa County, Arizona (Sections 3-10, 15, 17, T5N, R2W; Section 12, T5N, R3W; and Sections 31, 33, T6N, R2W). These comments are provided under the authority of, and in accordance with, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended U.S.C. 661 et. seq.).

We believe it necessary to assess the total impact of development, including secondary and cumulative effects above and below the ordinary high water mark. Your analysis should use standardized empirical methods to quantify and evaluate impacts on the biological function and integrity of jurisdictional waters. Our rationale for this approach has been presented in comments on Rocking K Ranch (974-0475-RJD), Lone Mountain (2000-01928-RWF), Whitestone (974-0218-RWF), Willow Ridge (2005-00230-MB), and others posted on our website at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/>.

We request the permit be held in abeyance until we and other appropriate resource agencies have reviewed the environmental assessment and mitigation plan. We encourage you to coordinate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Environmental Protection Agency. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mike Martinez (x224) or Debra Bills (x239).

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven L. Spangle
Field Supervisor

Ms. Cindy Lester

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cc: Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco, CA
Chief, Habitat Branch, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ

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