

**United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2321 West Royal Palm Road, Suite 103
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
Telephone: (602) 242-0210 FAX: (602) 242-2513**

AESO/FA
22410-2007-FA-0006

November 7, 2006

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 2004-01493-SDM (PN) dated October 30, 2006, issued by the Army Corps of Engineers. Pinnacle Ridge Holdings have submitted an application for a Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) permit to construct the 718-acre Stone Bridge Mountain residential subdivision in Maricopa County, Arizona (Sections 4, 8, 9, T1N, R7E). 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.) (FWCA).

We believe it necessary to assess the total impact of the permitted development, including parts to be located on uplands above the ordinary high water mark and any secondary and cumulative effects. Your analysis should use standardized empirical methods to quantify and evaluate impacts on biological function and integrity of jurisdictional waters. Our rationale for this approach has been presented to your agency in comments on other 404 Public Notices such as Rocking K Ranch (974-0475-RJD), Lone Mountain (2000-01928-RWF), Whitestone (974-0218-RWF), Willow Ridge (2005-00230-MB), and others. These documents are located on our web site: <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizonaes>

We request that the permit be held in abeyance until we have had an opportunity to review the draft environmental assessment and mitigation plan, and provide substantive recommendations in accordance with the FWCA and section 404(m) of the CWA. We encourage you to coordinate with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. 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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