

GILA RIVER BASIN
NEW RIVER
AND PHOENIX CITY STREAMS
ARIZONA

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

DREAMY DRAW DAM
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA



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Prepared by

U.S. Army Engineer District
Los Angeles, California

March 1972

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AND PHOENIX CITY STREAMS
ARIZONA

DREAMY DRAW DAM
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA

() Draft (X) Final Environmental Statement

Responsible Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Los Angeles, Calif.

1. Name of action: (X) Administrative () Legislative

2. Description of action: Initiate construction, on receipt of funds, of flood control improvements consisting of a dam and detention basin, a dike, and a spillway in Dreamy Draw, Maricopa County, Ariz.

3a. Environmental impacts: The proposed project would provide protection for the downstream northeastern part of the City of Phoenix, Ariz., from floods originating on the 1.3-square-mile drainage area upstream from the recommended improvements. The riparian and upland desert landscape in the project area would be altered by the creation of the borrow area and the construction of the flood control structures.

b. Adverse environmental effects: In general, construction of the recommended improvements would not have an adverse impact on the appearance of the project area. In fact, removal of solid waste would improve the appearance of the basin area. About 3 acres of animal habitat would be destroyed.

4. Alternatives: (a) Debris basin with concrete spillway and channel improvements; (b) concrete channel only; (c) dam, detention basin, dikes, and spillway at a downstream site; (d) nonstructural or flood plain regulations; and (e) no action.

5. Comments received:

Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI
Bureau of Land Management, USDI
Bureau of Mines, USDI
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, USDI
Bureau of Reclamation, USDI
Fish and Wildlife Service,
Bureau of Sport Fisheries
and Wildlife, USDI
National Park Service, USDI
Water Quality Office, USEPA
Arizona Game & Fish Department
Arizona Highway Department

Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County
Flood Control District, Maricopa County
Arizona Water Commission
City of Phoenix, Arizona
Advisory Commission on Arizona Environment
Flood Control District, Maricopa County
for the Citizens Advisory Board
of the Flood Control District
Hohokam Resource Conservation
and Development Project
Arizona Conservation Council
ABI Corporation
Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

6. Draft statement to CEQ 15 MAR 1972
Final statement to CEQ 19 MAY 1972

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DREAMY DRAW DAM
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZ.

1: Introduction. This evaluation of the environmental impact of the proposed Dreamy Draw Dam, Maricopa County, Ariz., is submitted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law-91-190). The statement was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, Los Angeles. Technical information and environmental evaluations contained in the report were supplied by the Office of Arid Lands Studies, School of Earth Sciences, University of Arizona. The New River and Phoenix City Streams, Arizona, flood control project (Phoenix, Arizona and vicinity, including New River), of which the Dreamy Draw Dam would be a part, was authorized by the 1965 Flood Control Act (Public Law 89-298).

2. After preliminary consideration of the environmental impact of the overall Phoenix project, it appears that the impact of the proposed Dreamy Draw Dam can be evaluated independently of the overall system without conflict. Although this environmental report on Dreamy Draw Dam is an independent study, it will be incorporated into the overall environmental statement for the proposed flood control project for New River and Phoenix City Streams, Arizona. Data for the overall environmental statement for New River and Phoenix City Streams, which is Phase B of the comprehensive five-phase flood control plan for Phoenix and vicinity is now being prepared by the Office of Arid Lands Studies, University of Arizona. The Phase B project includes (1) the Cave Buttes, Adobe, New River, and Dreamy Draw Dams with basins having a combined capacity of 88,150 acre-feet, (2) the Union Hills and Arizona Canal diversion channels with a combined length of 22.75 miles, and (3) the Cave Creek, Skunk Creek, Dreamy Draw, New River, and Agua Fria River channel improvements with a combined length of 29.1 miles (Plate 1). In addition, the impoundment of water to provide for recreational activities is under consideration.

3. The environmental impact of the associated Dreamy Draw channel improvements downstream from the dam will be fully evaluated in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project, but will not be discussed in this environmental statement other than in general terms. At the time of final preparation of this environmental statement, the specific recreational plans of local agencies had not been determined. Therefore, recreational alternatives at Dreamy Draw Dam will not be considered at this time, but will be deferred for later consideration and evaluation in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project.

4. Project description. The proposed project is discussed in the following subparagraphs:

a. Location. The proposed improvements would be constructed in Dreamy Draw, which originates in the Phoenix Mountains and flows in a well-defined channel southwest through essentially uninhabited desert landscape in the area of the proposed dam and then onto an alluvial plain downstream almost to 16th Street. It then passes through a densely populated urban area and eventually flows into the Arizona Canal on the north side of Phoenix, Maricopa County, Ariz. (See Plate 1 and pictures 1, 2, and 3)

b. Project-document plan. The proposed Dreamy Draw Dam is a part of the plan of improvement for flood control recommended in House Document No. 216, 89th Congress, 1st session. The project-document plan provides for construction of a compacted-earthfill dam in Dreamy Draw just south of Northern Avenue (formerly known as Shea Boulevard), about 1 mile east of 16th Street. The plan also provides for construction of a main embankment, a detached unlined spillway, an outlet conduit, and two earthfill dikes, which would be along the south side of existing Northern Avenue.

c. Recommended plan of improvement. The plan recommended in Design Memorandum No. 1 consists of a dam to be constructed in Dreamy Draw, about 1 mile east of 16th Street just southeast of Northern Avenue. The basin would have a capacity of 317 acre-feet at the spillway crest (fig. 1). The dam embankment of compacted earthfill would be 450 feet long with a maximum height of 50 feet above the streambed. An earthfill dike about 680 feet long would be constructed just upstream from the dam between the stream bed and Northern Avenue. A spillway would be about 400 feet east of the dam. A recommendation is made in Design Memorandum No. 1 that part of the channel between the dam and 16th Street remain unimproved and that improvement of the channel downstream from 16th Street to the Arizona Canal be deferred until a later date. The recommended plan departs from the project-document plan to the extent that it provides for (1) realigning the south dike and eliminating the north dike; (2) reducing the flood control capacity of the reservoir; (3) revising the design of the embankment section; and (4) reducing the allocation for sediment storage.

d. Purpose of the project. The purpose of the project recommended in Design Memorandum No. 1 would be to provide protection for the northeastern part of the City of Phoenix, Ariz., from floods originating on the 1.3-square-mile drainage area upstream from the proposed Dreamy Draw Dam. Benefits from redevelopment of presently undeveloped Indian lands near the project area would also accrue from construction of the recommended improvements. The proposed improvements would reduce the standard project flood peak inflow of 3,600 cubic feet per second to an outflow of 196 cubic feet per second.

e. Beautification features. Beautification features are included in the proposed project and comprise natural rock facing on the upstream sides of the dam and dike as well as removal of solid waste deposits in the project area. Landscaping plans include the use of native trees and shrubs already present in the project area and proposed indigenous plantings in appropriate locations. (See plates 2 and 3.)

f. Present status. The project is in the advanced engineering and design stage. The benefit-cost ratio for the recommended plan of improvement is 4.4 to 1.

5. Environmental setting without the project. The environmental setting without the project is discussed in the following subparagraphs.

a. Past changes and causes. The Phoenix area is partly encompassed by mountains and consists of several major drainage patterns. Historically, development in the area has taken place in one large flood plain with little or no regard to these drainage patterns. Drainage flows have been diverted into certain patterns to accommodate man's progress in this area. Economic development during the early history of the Phoenix area was based on the assumption that usable open land would continue to exist in superabundance. However, as is now evident, urbanization of the flood plain has been so extensive and has encroached upon the narrow drainage bands to such an extent that additional confinement of flood flows is required.

b. In the past, land-use management practices have not considered the consequences of mass development in areas where the nature of the terrain has not encouraged man's use. Unless these consequences are recognized, and proper land use management implemented, the cycle of unwise development followed by a need for flood protection works will continue.

c. Climate. Precipitation occurs biseasonally with short-duration, high-intensity thunderstorms characteristic in summer, particularly during the period from July through September, and long-duration, low-intensity precipitation in winter. The mean annual precipitation is about 8 inches with slightly less than 50 percent of that amount occurring in the period from May to October. Summer maximum temperatures are commonly above 100 degrees F.; the winter minimum temperatures rarely fall below 32 degrees F.

d. Topography. Elevations in the Dreamy Draw drainage basin range from 1,365 feet to 2,608 feet above mean sea level. The terrain is rugged with steep gradients.

e. Geology and soils. The drainage basin upstream from the recommended dam is underlain chiefly by metamorphic rocks. Schist is the predominant rock type, but quartzite, marble, and slate are present locally. Two prominent joint sets in the reservoir area give a blocky structure to the rocks and partly determine the weathering products and the particle size of the sediments produced in the basin. Much of the basin is comprised of bare rock, but some of the gently sloping areas are covered by colluvium. The alluvium along the main stream channel has been mined for its sand and gravel. The rocks weather mainly to gravel- and sand-size material. Silt and clay are present where soil profile development has occurred. Maximum silt and clay contents in soil horizons less than 1 foot thick are estimated to be as much as 20 percent.

f. Stream characteristics. The drainage density of the area is low, and the drainage net consists of ephemeral stream channels with a high width-depth ratio. The combination of the high rainfall intensities, moderately low infiltration rates, steep slopes, and low vegetative densities results in large flows of short duration for this and similar drainage basins.

g. Vegetation. The vegetation in the project area is generally sparse, although relatively high densities of desert riparian trees and shrubs occur within and along parts of Dreamy Draw. Two plant communities in the area can be recognized based on physiography and preponderant vegetation: (1) Desert washes - ironwood and blue palo verde, (2) Desert hills and outwash slopes - creosote bush. (See figs. 3 and 4.) Transition areas of varying size may occur where the two communities interdigitate, with species from both represented.

h. Less common desert-wash species include desert thorn, mesquite, burro brush, and desert broom. Desert hills and outwash slopes are also frequently represented by triangle bur-sage, brittle-bush, and little-leaf palo verde and occasionally by globe mallow, spurge, and ocotillo and various cacti such as hedgehog, barrel, cholla, and saguaro.

i. The past destruction of native plants and topographic disturbance because of mining operations have apparently contributed to a somewhat unnatural assemblage of nonvegetated areas and weedy plants in parts of the proposed detention basin area. The plants include five-stamen saltcedar, Jerusalem-thorn, bermuda grass, horse purslane, pig weed, skeleton weed, and other annuals. The presence of several of these species indicates a local shallow depth to available water.

j. Wildlife. Animal life in the project area is also sparse because of the lack of water, limited vegetation cover, disturbance by man, and poor soil conditions for burrowing animals. Representative mammals in the regional area include the black-tailed jack rabbit, desert cottontail rabbit, rock squirrel, and Harris' antelope ground squirrel; several mice such as the southern grasshopper, western harvest, cactus, deer, rock pocket, and Arizona pocket mouse; Merriam's kangaroo rat, white-throated wood rat, valley pocket gopher, and occasional carnivores such as the coyote, badger, gray fox, bobcat, striped skunk and spotted skunk.

k. Amphibians and reptiles include the spadefoot toad, Great Plains toad, red-spotted toad, desert tortoise, leopard lizard, tree lizard, collared lizard, side-blotched lizard, banded gecko, chuckwalla, and western whiptail and several snakes including the coachwhip, bullsnake, night snake, and western diamond-back rattlesnake.

l. Birds include the white-winged dove, mourning dove, Gambel's quail, roadrunner, poor-will, gilded flicker, verdin, cactus wren, brown towhee, black-throated sparrow, house finch, logger head shrike, cardinal, Lucy's warbler, curve-billed thrasher, black-tailed gnatcatcher, Wied's crested flycatcher, ash-throated flycatcher, Gila woodpecker, ladder-backed woodpecker, common screech owl, elf owl, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, and sparrow hawk.

m. The sparse animal populations in the project area are highly mobile and most species may occur in both desert wash and desert hills and outwash slope communities. Some species such as the rock pocket mouse, collared lizard, and chuckwalla are generally more commonly found in rocky areas. Bird nesting is usually more dense in the trees associated with the desert washes. Although many species may occur in the regional area, the animal populations in the project area are small at any one time and would require a concentrated trapping and observation program for specific identification.

n. Economic development and land use. The total overflow area attributable to Dreamy Draw is 1,750 acres - 160 acres above the Arizona Canal and 1,590 acres below the canal - all of which overflow area is below the site of the recommended dam. This area is extensively developed for residential and commercial uses with smaller areas developed for public and agricultural uses. Use of the land for commercial and multiple-residence purposes is increasing in importance because the rapid and far-ranging development of the outer fringes of the City of Phoenix has placed a premium on land close to the center of the city. Because of the increased importance of manufacturing and industrial operations in the Phoenix area, indications are that vacant land and other relatively underutilized areas close to the center of the city will develop quickly in the near future. The Dreamy Draw overflow area is projected to reach its ultimate saturation of 98 percent of developed acreage utilized by 1985. Population projections for the overflow area of Dreamy Draw Wash indicate that the population will almost double by the year 2021.

o. Although the recommended detention basin site is in an uninhabited desert landscape, the area has been subjected to considerable environmental disturbance in the past. Roads and mine workings honeycomb the area. Considerable evidence of solid waste disposal exists, particularly at the forward end of the site of the proposed spillway south of the dam embankment and within Dreamy Draw itself. Some mercury mineralization, primarily as cinnabar, occurs adjacent to faults in schist. Development has occurred in the past through underground shafts and tunnels in the area. The largest abandoned mercury prospects occur downstream from the damsite, but mercury minerals have been found in many places in the Phoenix Mountains. No apparent mining has occurred since 1947, and the potential for substantial mercury deposits in the construction area is low. Although sand and gravel deposits occur in the area, similar deposits are found in many locations in the Phoenix area.

p. The present use of the detention basin area appears to be limited primarily to occasional horseback riding and hiking. Recently posted signs specifically prohibit the use of motor vehicles and littering in the area. A utility line passes along the southeast bank of Dreamy Draw through the recommended detention basin site. Squaw Peak Park, administered by the City of Phoenix, is about 1 mile southeast of the recommended detention basin site (fig. 2).

q. Archeological and historical features and points of interest. An archeological survey of the detention basin and spillway area conducted by the University of Arizona on 17 November 1970 uncovered no evidence of prehistoric occupation or use.

r. Future environmental impact. No significant environmental changes would occur from natural causes in the near future if the project is not undertaken. However, the impact of man could be substantial. A proposed adjacent freeway is in the planning stage, and the City of Phoenix is considering plans for development of a park in the area. Unless anti-littering and motor vehicle laws are enforced, solid waste disposal, destruction by vehicles, and other disturbances will further alter esthetics and biological communities in the area. Higher flood peaks and increased sediment yield would result if parts of the drainage area are urbanized.

s. Detrimental effects of no action include the insecurity of downstream interests because of flood hazard and the physical damage possible if a major uncontrolled flow should occur.

6. The environmental impact of the proposed project. The change in appearance that would result from construction of the recommended improvements would have a short-term impact on the attractiveness of the surrounding environment. Native vegetation and associated animal habitat would be destroyed; a utility line would be moved, and the topography of the project area, in the area immediately adjacent to the recommended structures, and in the borrow area would be altered. The detention basin would become an area of sediment accumulation instead of sediment production.

7. The compacted earthfill structures and excavated spillway would provide soil conditions conducive for proliferation of weedy annual plants if sufficient moisture were available. Such soil moisture conditions would probably occur infrequently on earthfill structures, only as a result of a rainy season with significantly higher than average precipitation. The sediment and moisture that would collect behind the dam embankment as a result of flows would include a small proportion of silt and clay derived from the drainage area. This fine grained material would tend to collect on the surface because it is the last to settle out of entrapped floodwaters. The accumulation of silt and clay with a high water retaining capacity might eventually provide suitable habitat for undesirable annual weeds such as pigweed and Russian thistle. Mature pigweed and other species produce pollen that is bothersome to hayfever sufferers. Dry sediments may be a small, local source of dust, which condition would not be present unless the proposed project is constructed. The proliferation of annual weeds and sources of dust behind the dam embankment could be reduced by removing sediment if significant accumulation occurred or by planting and maintaining more desirable vegetation. These functions are discussed in the recommended plan and would be included in the operation and maintenance procedures.

8. The detrimental impact on the appearance of the project area would be considerably reduced, however, because mining, road construction, and solid waste disposal have already altered a considerable part of the upland and riparian desert landscape. Further, the detrimental loss to natural biological communities does not appear to be significant because the communities are not unique, plant and animal populations are sparse, the habitat has already been considerably disturbed, and the area involved is relatively small.

9. Proposed landscaping and the removal of solid waste that might cause some water pollution would partly alleviate the effects on the appearance of the project area.
10. The recommended improvements would reduce a standard project flood with a peak inflow of 3,600 cubic feet per second to an outflow of 196 cubic feet per second at the dam embankment. Thus, the proposed action would improve the well-being of property owners downstream by providing protection from floodflows which arise in upper Dreamy Draw. Presently undeveloped areas downstream from the recommended dam could be developed with a considerably reduced flood potential, although approximately 85 percent of the overflow area is already developed.
11. A survey of the project area indicated no evidence of loss to archeological sites from the proposed action.
12. Adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented. Even though much of the project area has already been highly disturbed, construction of the recommended dam, dike, and spillway, and the creation of a borrow area could have an additional adverse effect on esthetics unless the improvements are carefully planned and designed to relate to the surrounding environment. Proposed beautification features, including natural rock facing, landscaping, and removal of solid waste, would have a net beneficial impact on the appearance of the project area.
13. Alternatives to the proposed project. Five alternatives to the proposed project were given detailed consideration. These alternatives are discussed in the following subparagraphs.
- a. Alternative A. Alternative A would provide for construction of a debris basin with a concrete spillway, which would be constructed over the dam embankment and would extend about 200 feet downstream, and an associated standard-project-flood concrete channel beginning at 16th Street. The excavated debris basin would be about 15 feet lower than the detention basin proposed in the recommended plan (fig. 2). Because the dam and debris basin would be constructed in essentially the same location as the dam and detention basin proposed in the recommended plan, the environmental impact would be similar, although the 15-foot depth of the excavated debris basin would have a somewhat greater adverse impact on appearance. The spillway downstream from the dam would be esthetically unappealing, but a similar adverse impact resulting from the construction of the dike included in the recommended plan would be avoided.
- b. Alternative A was eliminated from further consideration because of the low debris potential in the Dreamy Draw drainage area and the need for a larger downstream channel.
- c. Alternative B. Alternative B would provide for the construction of a channel only, with an inlet structure at 16th Street. This plan would have no direct environmental impact on the Dreamy Draw detention basin area because it would not involve construction of a dam, dike, spillway, or detention basin. Adverse impacts on landscape esthetics or biological communities in the area that would result from the construction of the dam, dike, spillway,

and borrow area would be avoided. This alternative would require a channel width greater than that required for other alternatives. Adoption of this alternative would result in the need to relocate some residences and other structures as well as in the loss of some riparian vegetation. The lesser width of associated channels under other plans would have a correlatively lesser impact. A full evaluation of the impact of the associated channel improvements downstream from Dreamy Draw Dam will be included in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project.

d. Alternative B was not selected because it had the highest Federal and local costs of any of the structural alternatives.

e. Alternative C. Alternative C would provide for the construction of a dam, detention basin, dikes, and spillway about 1,000 feet downstream from the site of the recommended improvements with an associated concrete channel beginning at 16th Street and extending to the Arizona Canal. The environmental impact of this alternative would be similar to that resulting from the recommended plan. However, the flood control structures for this alternative would be located generally in areas that had been less disturbed by mining, construction roads, and solid waste disposal. The spillway constructed under this alternative would be crossed by northbound lanes of the proposed Squaw Peak Freeway. The difference in impact, which would be largely a matter of degree, does not appear to be significant. However, the effect of this alternative would be somewhat more detrimental to what remains of the natural riparian and upland desert landscape.

f. Alternative C, which would provide for a dam, detention basin and two dikes at a downstream site, was not selected because the benefit-cost ratio would be less than that of the recommended plan.

g. Alternative D. Alternative D, which would provide for nonstructural measures consisting of the implementation of flood plain regulations, would avoid the adverse impacts on landscape esthetics or biological communities that would result from the construction of flood control structures. Because almost 85 percent of the flood overflow area is presently developed, this alternative would appear to have limited application. However, the area just downstream from the recommended dam site, almost to 16th Street, is essentially undeveloped and would benefit from flood plain regulation practices.

h. Alternative E. Alternative E is the no-action alternative. This alternative was not selected because even though adverse impacts on landscape esthetics and biological communities would be avoided, foregoing construction of any flood control structures would result in continued future flood damage to, or destruction of, highly developed residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

14. The relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity. The short- and long-term beneficial impacts of flood control do not appear to significantly narrow the range of other beneficial uses of the environment in the project area. Damage to the biosphere from the proposed action appears to be minimal. Long-term downstream flood protection would offset the temporary adverse impacts on appearance resulting from flood control structures. Future development without adequate flood protection would increase the hazard to life and to the health, welfare, and property of the people in the area.

15. Irreversible and ir retrievable commitment of resources. No significant irreversible or ir retrievable commitment of resources would be involved in the proposed action except for the commitment of land areas for the construction of the recommended improvements. A small amount of already disturbed riparian and upland desert landscape would be permanently altered.

16. Coordination with others.

a. Public participation. No public meetings were held involving the environmental aspects of the proposed project. However, a public meeting is scheduled to be held prior to initiation of construction.

b. Government agencies. The draft environmental statement was sent to the following governmental agencies requesting their views and comments. The comments received are set forth in the following subparagraphs with response and copies of the letters are included at the end of the environmental statement.

(1) Soil Conservation Service, USDA

Comment:

We have reviewed the Environmental Statement DREAMY DRAW DETENTION BASIN, ARIZONA, with your letter of January 5, 1971 and concur in general with the statement.

Our only comment would be to the effect that the statement overemphasizes the possible objectionable features and underestimates the beneficial features.

Considering the rate of release of water and the relatively small capacity of the Detention Basin, the time of retention will be short. This will encourage growth of desirable permanent type vegetation that can be expected to adequately mask the small amount of retained sediments and the creation of barren and unsightly sediment deposits is unlikely.

Such vegetative growth will materially enhance the food and habitat for wildlife and add beauty and interest for humans.

Response: The beautification program for the recommended plan would develop and extend the natural esthetic characteristics of the desert landscape. This program will be an integral part of the future recreation program and of the "North Mountain Open Space" plan for the City of Phoenix. The beautification features will include the use of native rock facing on the upstream sides of the dam and dike, the removal of solid waste deposits in the project area, and groups of plants for screening purposes along Northern Avenue.

(2) Bureau of Indian Affairs, USDI

Comment: We have reviewed the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona, and have no comments to offer at this time.

(3) Bureau of Land Management, USDI

Comment: The impact identified with the Dreamy Draw project appears to be sufficient. The impact of this one project will be minor. The impact associated with all of the Phoenix area and vicinity flood control projects may well be significant.

* * * * *

It is suggested that an overall comprehensive environmental statement for flood control projects throughout the Phoenix area would have more meaning. Each of the various projects would be related and alternatives and environmental impacts could be more readily viewed.

Response: An environmental statement will be submitted for the proposed flood control program involved in the New River and Phoenix City Streams, Arizona project, which is an integral part (Phase B) of the comprehensive five-phase flood control plan for Phoenix and vicinity.

(4) Bureau of Mines, USDI

Comment: The draft appears to be adequate with respect to mineral resources and industry. Maricopa County leads the State in sand and gravel production, and the environmental draft indicates the widespread occurrence of such deposits in the Phoenix area without pinpointing them in the project zone. The question of mercury mineralization and its potentially dangerous spread as a pollutant into the local biosphere is covered very thoroughly in the statement.

Response: Because at this time impoundment of water for recreational purposes is not being considered for the proposed project, all references to mineral resources and recreation have been deleted from the environmental statement. The City of Phoenix (recreation sponsor) is considering at this time the feasibility of water-oriented recreation. A thorough examination of the area has not revealed any evidence of either mercury mineralization or abandoned mine workings. Therefore, possibility of mercury contamination appears to be extremely remote.

(5) Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, USDI

Comment: Although the statement provides adequate treatment of the project's impact on the immediate construction area, including the detention basin, dam and levee sites, there is no mention of the project's impact on lands immediately downstream of the detention basin. For example, will the project result in urban development on open desert lands now subject to periodic inundation? If so, this change in land use would constitute a significant project impact and should be noted.

Response: Under present land-use management practices, urbanization of the downstream flood plain with or without the dam appears inevitable. The project's impact on lands immediately downstream will be evaluated in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project.

Comment: We are also concerned that the environmental impact evaluation of the Phoenix and Vicinity Flood Control Project, as several parts rather than as a whole, may tend to obscure the cumulative impact of the separate units of the project, particularly as it relates to the flow regimen of the Gila River below Phoenix. The concentrated and accelerated runoff of flood flows from a large portion of Phoenix made possible by this total project could conceivably have substantial impact on recreational and wildlife values of the Gila River below Phoenix. We, therefore, recommend that the Corps develop procedures for the environmental impact evaluation of staged projects such as this which guarantee that the "forest" will not be obscured by the "trees".

Response: See response under Bureau of Land Management.

(6) Bureau of Reclamation, USDI

Comment: Page 1, 3rd paragraph, line 4: Change "east" to "north".

Response: The change has been made.

Comment: Page 2, last paragraph, last 2 lines: The mention of "...species indicate a relatively shallow depth to ground water where they occur" may be true due to the rock nature of the basin. It is not indicative of the regional ground-water situation; however, it is recommended that local be substituted for relatively.

Response: The change has been made.

(7) Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, USDI

Comment: Page 1, paragraph 3

Dreamy Draw, which originates in the Phoenix Mountains, passes southwest rather than southeast as given.

Response: The change has been made.

Comment: Page 3, paragraph 1

Instead of "stripped (sic) or spotted skunks", it would be correct to say "stripped skunks and spotted skunks". Also, in the listing of bird species, it would be better to say "white-winged doves and mourning doves", "Gila woodpeckers and ladder-backed woodpeckers", and "red-tailed hawks and sparrow hawks".

Response: The changes have been made.

Comment: Page 4, first complete sentence

Although the biological community existing on the project area is not unique in its composition, such a setting could be maintained and improved to provide the local populace, particularly the young, the old, and others incapable of traveling longer distances, with an opportunity to observe nature not otherwise available within an expanding urban community.

Response: We agree.

Comment: Page 4, second complete paragraph

Seeding and planting of selected wildlife food and cover plants behind the dam and embankment would aid in controlling annual weeds and blowing dust and provide additional habitat for many species of wildlife, particularly small birds and mammals.

Response: The statement has been modified to reflect the comment.

Comment: Pages 4 and 5 (Alternative 2)

The merits of this alternative appear feasible. It is expected that the cost of a gated flood-control structure could be offset by the numbers of recreational users accommodated by a 10-acre pool, provided the pool and its environs were incorporated into a managed park with landscaping. Zoning and boating restrictions would assure both fishing and pleasure boating, provided the boats were of the nonmotor variety, such as canoes and rowboats. A significant amount of warmwater fishing could be provided by a permanent pool. Other park users could be accommodated on the landscaped environs of the pool.

If the proposed Squaw Peak Freeway is constructed as envisioned, with the northbound and southbound lanes completely encircling the basin, users of the park and pool could be provided with foot traffic access via underpasses from parking areas outside the freeway-enclosed park.

The view of the freeway and traffic noises could be filtered partially from park users by strategically-placed trees and shrubs. This vegetation would attract and provide habitat for many species of small birds in addition to providing shade for the park visitors. The park grounds could be planted to permanent grass, aiding in the control of noxious annual weeds such as pigweed.

Response: Recreational aspects of the recommended plan will be discussed and evaluated in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project, which is an integral part of the comprehensive five-phase flood control plan for Phoenix and vicinity. Initially, consideration was given to a 5-to-10-surface-acre recreation pool behind the detention basin as well as to dry-land recreation. However, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of finalizing plans for the mountain parks system and is unable, at this time, to make any definite commitments. The beautification program for the recommended project will include planting to screen and to enhance the area.

Comment: Page 5, second paragraph

As suggested, environmental monitoring for mercuric concentration in the fish should be undertaken. If the levels become too high, a catch-and-release type of fishery could be initiated, or the fish could be eradicated and replaced.

Response: The provision of facilities for recreational fishing and their environmental impact will be considered in the environmental statement for the entire Phase B project. Recreational plans will be coordinated with the City of Phoenix and the County of Maricopa.

(8) National Park Service, USDI

Comment: We have reviewed your environmental statement of the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona and Vicinity Flood Control Project and have no comments to make.

(9) Water Quality Office, USEPA

Comment: We find the draft environmental statement contains an adequate discussion of the project's effects upon water quality. The statement could be enhanced by inclusion of relevant drawings of the alternate plans considered.

Response: Figures have been added to the statement to show the location of the detention basin and debris basin alternative plans.

(10) Arizona Game & Fish Department

Letter dated January 28, 1971:

Comment: Alternative No. (1): This plan would provide for maximum flood protection, but would not provide for protection of existing environmental features of the area. Project development and future freeway construction precludes this. Further, it would provide little if any incentive for use by the public except for what is already prevalent--trail bikes and a "garbage dump".

Response: We agree in part. However, the proposed landscaping and solid waste removal would partly alleviate the impact of the proposed project on the environment and, in fact, would improve the appearance of some local areas.

Comment: Alternative No. (2): This plan contains all the features necessary to attain the maximum benefits from the project. However, the environmental statement discussion of this plan questioned the merits of providing for a ten acre pool and other recreation facilities based on excessive cost, low use, possible mercury contamination and the proposed Squaw Peak Freeway.

We cannot agree with the criticism of this alternative. First of all, development of a ten acre permanent pool in a densely populated area would attract considerably more use than would otherwise be possible in a more remote location. Fishing would provide a relatively small amount of the overall use of the facility, but it would amount to at least 10,000 man-days annually and perhaps as much as 30,000 man-days. Still, it would not be recognized as a quality fishing lake and presumably most of the fishing use would be by children. Nonetheless, use of the facility would be extensive and, therefore, a justifiable feature of the project.

Regulated pleasure boating would further enhance the use of the project provided management of the facilities were assumed by some agency such as the City of Phoenix. Boating could be limited to canoes and rowboats and controlled through a concessionaire, thus limiting the number of boats and alleviating most competition between boaters and other users.

It is true that the detention basin has only limited potential for recreation development. However, the basin could be limited to use for water oriented recreation except hiking, nature trails and limited landscaping. Most development for general facilities could then be installed below the detention structure where there is more land for this purpose.

The possible construction of the Squaw Peak Freeway could be used to the advantage of recreation development within the project area. Should it be necessary for the freeway to encircle the area as planned, access could be provided over or under the freeway and limited to foot traffic only. Vehicular parking facilities would be provided outside the project area. Access to the detention facilities would be a necessity for maintenance purposes, and could be used for public access if proven compatible with management objectives at very little additional expense. Anticipated highway noise could be limited in the developed area below the detention dam to some degree through landscaping.

Should mercury contamination become a problem, the use of the lake for fishing purposes could be restricted or completely closed if necessary. Mercury is widely distributed under natural conditions and, therefore, should not be considered a deterrent to recreation development.

Further, the inclusion of a ten acre permanent pool will necessarily require a water subsidy. This being the case, mercury contamination will be further reduced because this additional water would come from an outside source and, therefore, would not be subject to the same degree of contamination as water of local origin.

Response: Initially, consideration was given to a 5-to-10-acre surface-area recreation pool behind the detention basin as well as to dry-land recreation. However, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is unable at this time to make any definite commitments regarding its mountain parks system. Therefore, consideration of the alternative recreation and fish and wildlife potentials at the recommended project site has been deferred. These potentials will be evaluated in the Design Memorandum for the Phase B project.

Comment: Alternative No. (3): This plan could be practical but not necessarily the most desirable. It could be impractical to manage the area as an extension of Squaw Peak Park if it becomes isolated by construction of a freeway.

Response: The City of Phoenix is not in a position at this time to commit itself to any specific recreational activity in the basin area. Therefore, the recreational potential will be considered in the Design Memorandum for the Phase B project.

Comment: Alternative No. (4): With or without the project, the natural features of the area will continue to decline. These values will eventually be lost even under dry land park protection. Construction of the project and the subsequent development of city park-like recreation facilities, including landscaping, in the major use area below the detention basin, should be given every consideration.

Response: We agree.

Comment: Construction of a gated flood detention structure with provisions for a permanent ten acre pool and green park development would provide the most benefits to the area. Development of the area by an agency such as the City of Phoenix Parks Department would be most desirable. Preservation of the natural environment within the confines of the project area would not be a feasible feature and should not be considered in the overall development plan.

Response: See response under Alternative No. (3) comment. A master plan for the Phase B project is under study to incorporate recreation at the Corps project with the recreation master plans of the City of Phoenix and the County of Maricopa.

Letter dated January 20, 1972:

Comment: We do feel information should be provided to identify the effect of this project on the need for proposed channelization downstream.

Response: The construction of Dreamy Draw Dam would not affect the need for channelization of the Gila River or tributaries. However, the reduction of inflow of 3,600 c.f.s. of a standard project flood upstream from the dam to a peak outflow of less than 200 c.f.s. at the dam would affect the design of proposed channelization downstream. Channels of lesser cross section would be required with the dam than would be required without the dam. The complete analysis of of this effect is currently being studied.

Comment: The plans for improvement of the urban environment in the Dreamy Draw area are commendable and will probably contribute a fishery resource where none exists.

Response: At the present time our plans for impoundment of water for recreational purposes are being considered by the City of Phoenix (recreation sponsor). The plans have not been approved or disapproved as of this date, and it is not certain Dreamy Draw Dam will impound water for recreational purposes.

(11) Arizona Highway Department

Comment: We are concerned primarily with the aesthetics of the project as viewed from our freeway systems. We believe that construction of the dam embankment and other diversion dikes should have a minimum slope of 1V on 3H so that natural vegetation will have a chance to establish.

Response: Natural vegetation observed in the project area is established on slopes which are considerably greater than 1V on 3H. Therefore, we do not believe that the additional expense of flattening the dam and dike slopes is warranted. Also, we are placing indigenous slope protection material (rocks) on the downstream side of the dam and planting a scattering of native shrubs on the embankments for esthetic purposes.

Comment: Close coordination of this work with the Arizona Highway Department should be done to assure that structures related to highway drainage will be correctly placed and adequate as dictated by this project and public requirements.

Response: The project planning and construction will be coordinated with the Arizona Highway Department.

Comment: As a suggestion, it might be well to consider the impact study on this area as prepared by the Arizona Highway Department and your report of the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin as a joint report for public release.

Response: The environmental statement for the overall project will be coordinated with the freeway construction plans of the Arizona Highway Department.

(12) Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

Comment: All departments have reported their concurrence in the statement, except it has been suggested that more emphasis should be placed on beautification and recreational provisions for hiking and riding.

Response: See response under Arizona Fish and Game Department comment on Alternative No. (3).

(13) Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Comment: This report has been examined by this office and this office has no comment to make other than concurrence with the report.

(14) Arizona Water Commission

Comment: We do feel, however, that your report might be improved somewhat if it were revised to clarify the status of the recreational alternatives of the site.

Response: Recreational plans for Dreamy Draw Dam have been drawn up in preliminary form and include several alternatives, including B:C ratios. At the present time, we hesitate to discuss any recreational plans that have not been thoroughly coordinated and approved by the City of Phoenix (recreation sponsor). The City of Phoenix is currently considering these alternatives.

(15) City of Phoenix, Arizona

Comment: It is noted that your beautification plan dated February 1971, provides for a substantial amount of landscaping work. As previously indicated to Colonel Lowry of the Flood Control District and Major Chapman of the Corps of Engineers, we recommend that the beautification plan be improved to include planting on the embankments.

Response: The beautification plan has been revised to include planting on the embankments.

Comment: We also would recommend that the borrow area be kept as low as possible and that after borrow has been extracted, the banks be sloped and planted with suitable desert growth in keeping with the general beautification plan.

Response: The borrow area will be excavated uniformly to form a sloping plane at a depth of approximately 6 feet below the existing ground surface. The possibilities of amelioration are limited mainly because of soil and environmental conditions. Keeping these limitations in mind, the only feasible solution is to enhance the area by hauling in fill material and planting with indigenous plants. This soil in a few years should be able to sustain new vegetative life and the borrow area should once again blend in with the surrounding landscape.

c. The draft environmental statement was also sent to the following Governmental agencies requesting their views and comments, and no replies were received:

Arizona State Parks Board
Governor's Representative for Coordinating
with Corps of Engineers
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
U.S. Forest Service
Chairman of City Council, City of Phoenix
Mayor of Paradise Valley
Arizona Department of Economic
Planning and Development
Sp. Rep. for Environmental Affairs, Salt River Project

d. Citizens groups and other interested groups. On 12 December 1971 the environmental statement was sent to the following groups requesting their views and comments. The comments received are set forth in the following subparagraphs with responses. Copies of the letters are included at the end of the comment and response section.

(1) Advisory Commission on Arizona Environment.

Comment: The statement itself seems very well composed, and I would have little comment on its structure and content.

I would like to agree to a great extent with the comments of the Arizona Game and Fish Department on their evaluation of Alternative No. 2. It does seem that this would be of more value to the Phoenix area if it could be maintained as a recreation site. Its adjacency to Squaw Peak Park would tie it very nicely to that complex, whereas, a flood control project in itself... dry all year...is not particularly attractive nor particularly usable for recreation.

Response: See response under Arizona Game and Fish Department comment on Alternative No. (2).

Comment: I would also like to concur with the statement of Mr. William N. Price, State Highway Engineer, in his suggestion that any embankments and diversion dikes be maintained at a slope so that natural vegetation can be established thereon.

Response: See response under Arizona Highway Department comment on minimum slopes of embankments and dikes.

(2) Citizens Advisory Board of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Comment: Note: The Flood Control District of Maricopa County was instructed to advise the Corps of the Board's concurrence in the comments of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

(3) Hohokam Resource Conservation and Development Project

Comment: We have reviewed the statement in some detail and, in general, concur with it. However, we do have the following suggestions.

We feel that a discharge flow of approximately 100 CFS would be more satisfactory than the planned 196 CFS. The 100 CFS could be handled a little better by the irrigation system below the dam. If the alternate channel is constructed along the canal going to Skunk Creek, then the 196 CFS would be satisfactory.

Response: Mr. Reid W. Teeple, Chief Engineer-Water of the Salt River Project, in a letter dated 17 November 1971 stated that "the Salt River Valley Water Users Association is aware of the design criteria for Dreamy Draw Detention Basin and will accept the discharge from the dam for an interim period into the Arizona Canal." The recommended plan of improvement includes the Arizona Canal diversion channel, which would extend from Central Avenue to Skunk Creek. Construction is planned sometime after construction of Dreamy Draw Dam.

(4) Arizona Conservation Council

Comment: Please accept this brief note of appreciation for the consideration shown by sending us a copy of this paper. Also, we acknowledge our very favorable impression of the apparent comprehensive, detailed, and accurate nature of the statement.

(5) ABI Corporation

Comment: I have reviewed the environmental statement on the Dreamy Draw detention basin, and feel the study is well presented.

My only comment is to keep the area in the natural state, so as to avoid the artificial look in landscape revegetation.

Response: Because both habitat and biological communities have been considerably disturbed and altered by mining, road construction, and solid waste disposal, preservation of the natural state does not appear to be desirable or feasible. The Arizona Game and Fish Department also considers preservation of the natural environment in the project area to be not feasible. Furthermore, the plan for landscaping the proposed project includes the use of native trees and shrubs already present in the project area as well as the provision of additional plantings in appropriate locations.

(6) The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation

Comment: In reply to your letter requesting review of the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw detention basin near Phoenix, Arizona, it must be said that only with reluctance can concurrence be made with the basic premises of the report.

It is a major deficiency that the actual reasons why the project has become necessary are not revealed. And it is false to believe that it can be "...evaluated independently of the overall system without conflict." As it is altogether the result of an overall lack of planning, it must be judged on that basis. Responsibility for these omissions lies with the Army Engineers and with the University of Arizona, who should clearly understand and report these relationships as part of their public duty.

Of course, the obvious solution would have been never to have allowed interruption of the drainage pattern of Dreamy Draw and of other major drainage systems throughout the valley. Thus, natural flood control, as well as welcome relief from the deadly monotony of the gridiron city plan would have been provided, while helping to decentralize what has become a congested and polluted central city core. The result would have been to immediately engender a more organic relationship to the desert site under more humane living conditions, and all at far less cost and with far less damage to the environment.

It is a pity that our mountain slopes and canyons should be violated in order to protect past mistakes. Illustrating the lack of planning and of vision, this also forces people to pay twice for land: once in an unnaturally inflated purchase price by way of an artificial centralization, and, again, for resulting protection facilities such as the proposed project. No amount of beautification projects, recreational plans, or protection facilities can alleviate the deficiencies of such piecemeal planning. Recognition must be made that speculation in land encouraged by outmoded land tenure laws have made this flood control project appear necessary. A more natural solution would be to clear the flood plain of all construction to permit the unhindered flow of floodwaters.

The one true and lasting benefit of this report should be the promotion of a higher understanding of man's relationship to his environment in order that these mistakes are not repeated. That would be true progress.

Response: It is reassuring to know people still recognize the basic past mistakes made in land-use planning. The cause and effect of such mistakes are beautifully presented in the comment. The report has been revised to reflect the reasons why the project has become necessary. In our view Dreamy Draw Dam is justified as an incremental unit of the overall project for the Phoenix area and can be evaluated on its own merits. The environmental impact resulting from the construction of Dreamy Draw Dam would be confined almost entirely to the project area. Secondary impact on other areas would be minimal.

e. The draft environmental statement was also sent to the following citizens groups and other interested groups, requesting their views and comments, and no replies were received:

Hiking & Riding Trails Committee,
Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Dept.
Arizona Wildlife Federation
National Council of State Garden Clubs
Arizona Director,
National Water Resources Assoc.
National Wildlife Federation, Region 10
Valley Forward Association
Palo Verde Group, Sierra Club of Ariz.
Transamerica Development Company
Western States Landscape Associates
Desert Southwest Chapter,
American Institute of Planners
Arizona State University, College of Architecture
Roadside Development Chairman
Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs
Conservation Department Chairman,
Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs
Arizona Archeological Center,
University of Arizona
Arizona Historical Foundation,
Arizona State University
Arizona Roadside Council
Arizona Society of Professional Geologists
Arizona State Reclamation Assoc.
National Camper & Hikers Association
Western Saddle Club
Arizona State Horsemen's Association
Mrs. Samuel Hosmer
Scottsdale, Ariz.
Saguaro High School
Conservation and Ecology Club
Environmental Teach-in Committee, Arizona State University
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Arizona State University Group
Sportsman Against Vandalism Everywhere (SAVE)
State Environmental Chairman,
Scottsdale Jaycee's
Conservation Director - Sierra Club
Rocky Mountain Center for Environment
National Audubon Society, Maricopa Chapter
Phoenix Press Club
Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club
Southwest Representative, Sierra Club



PHOTO 1. Dreamy Draw - view of right abutment of embankment - looking downstream toward Phoenix.



PHOTO 2. Dreamy Draw - view of basin area - looking east from the area west of Northern Avenue.

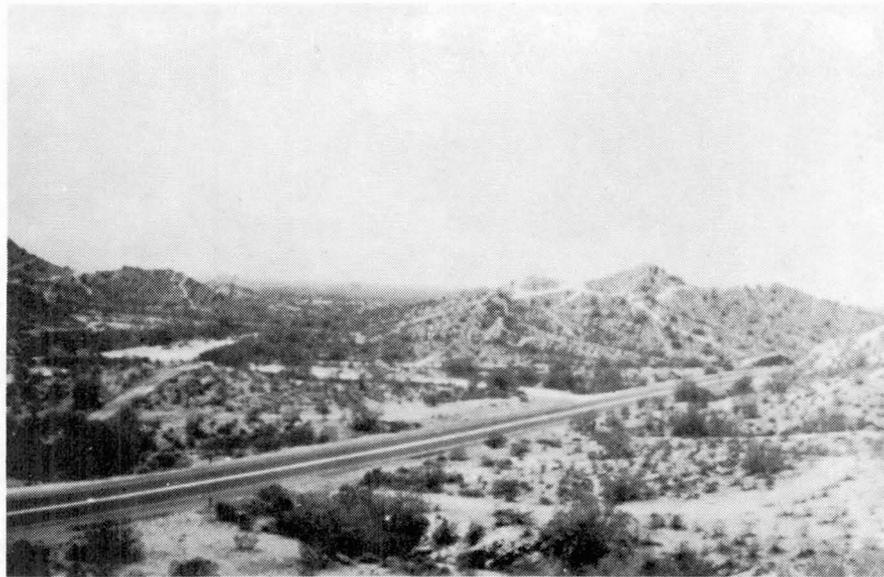
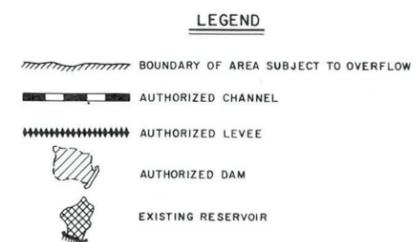
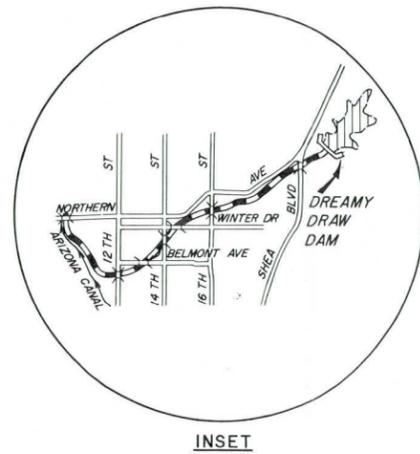
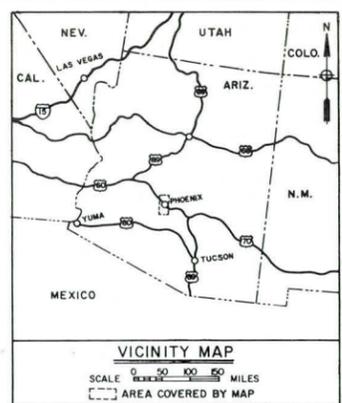
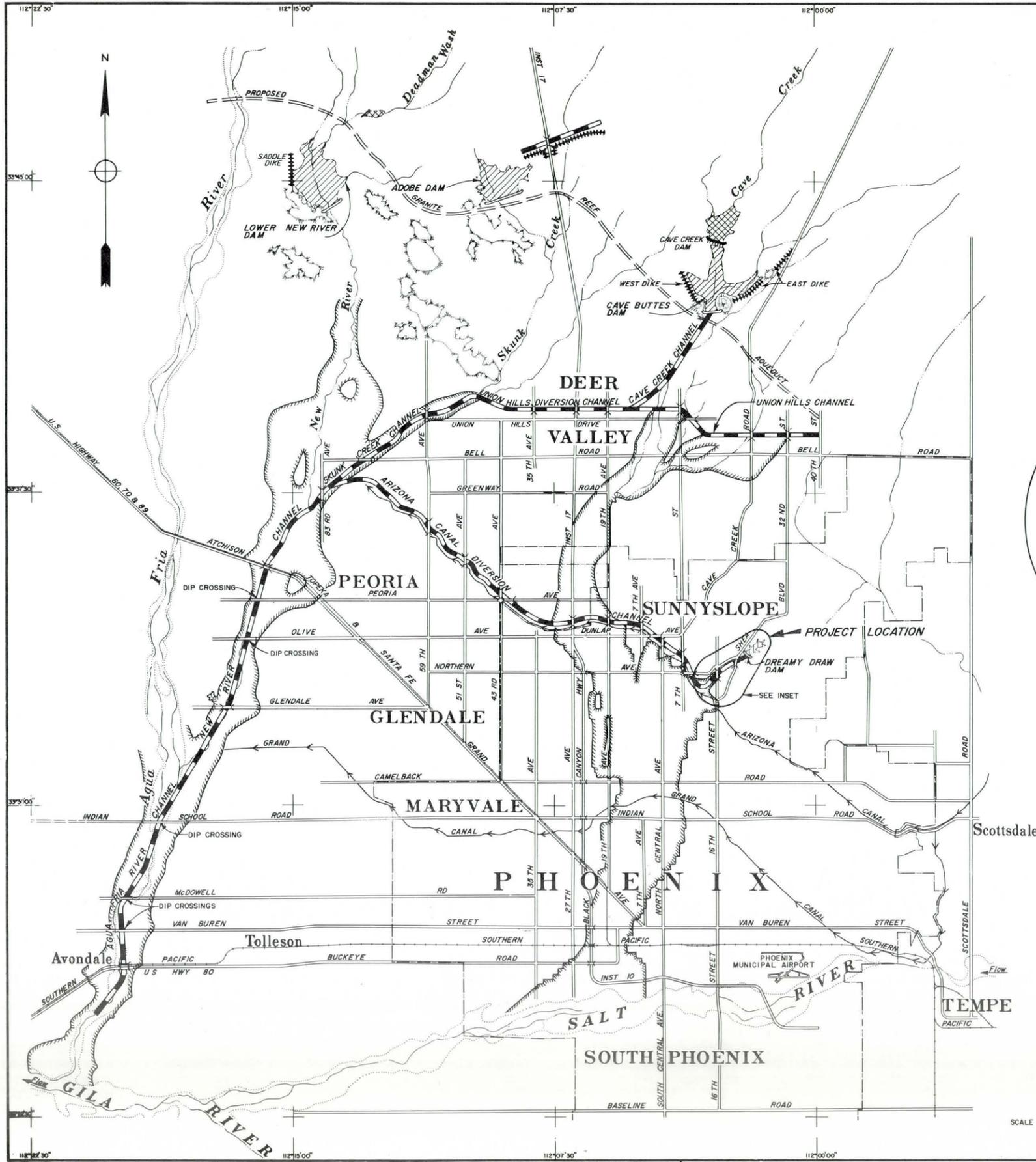
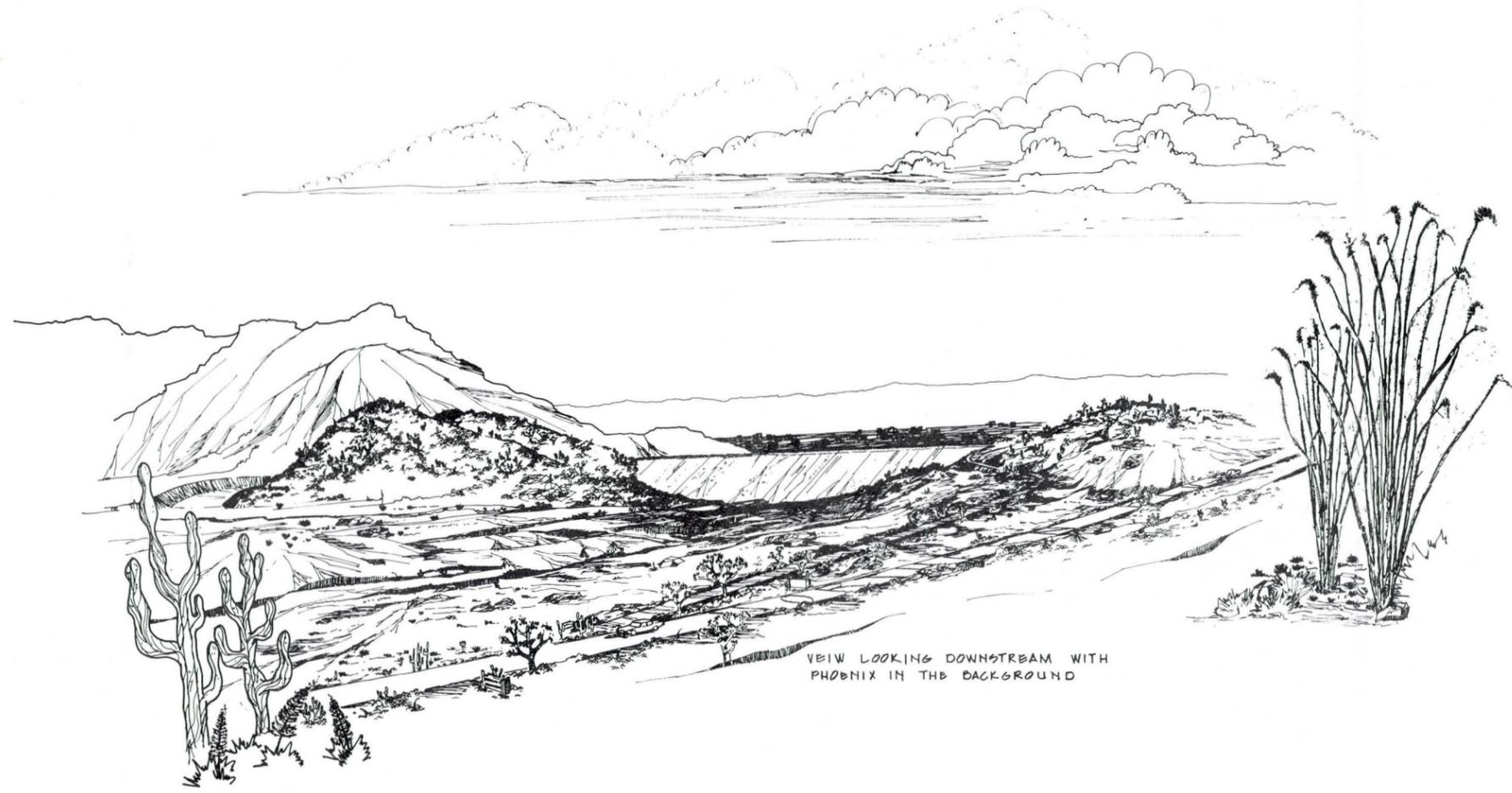


PHOTO 3. Dreamy Draw - view of basin area - looking downstream toward Phoenix.

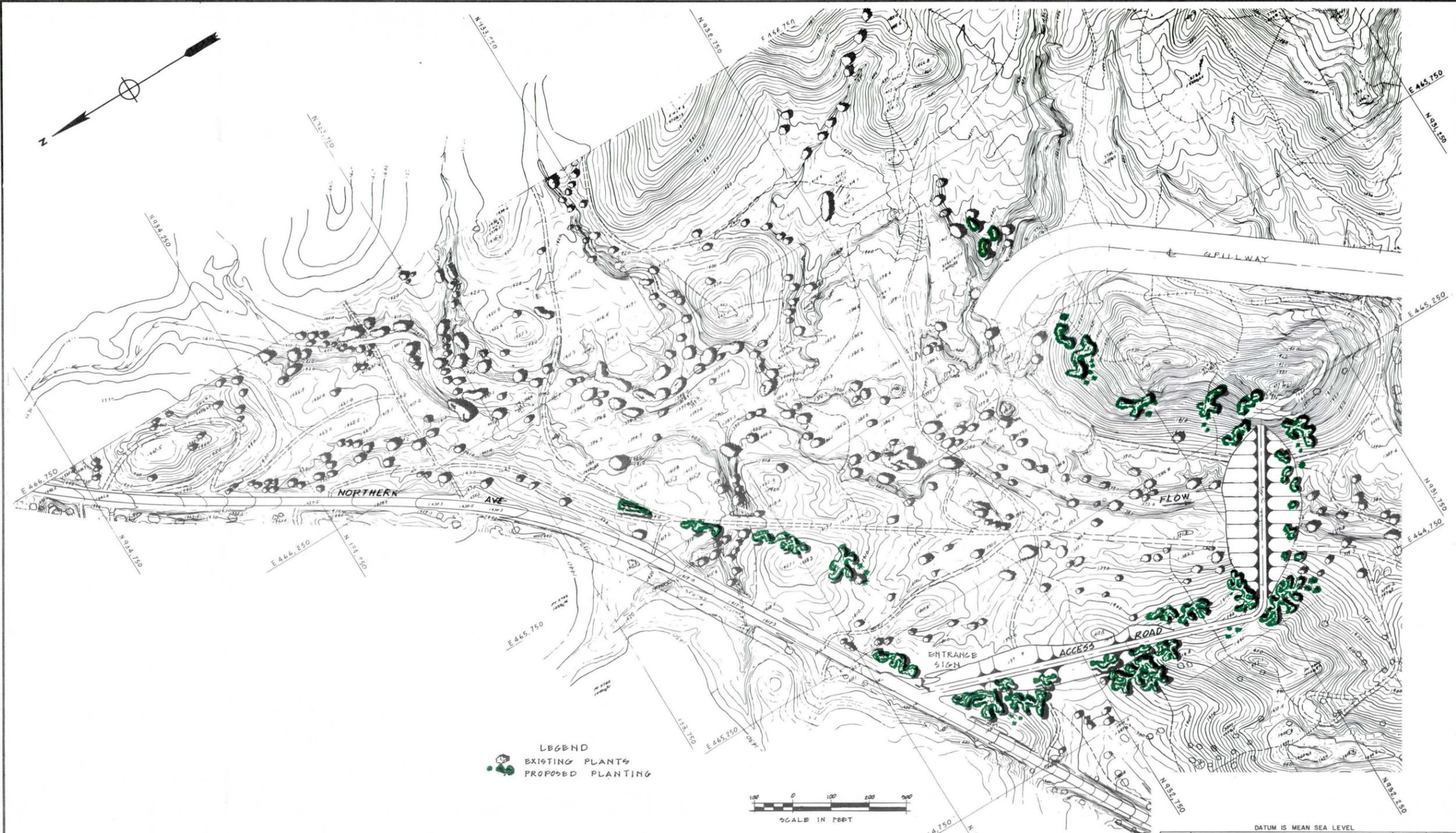


SYMBOL	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVAL
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U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS			
DESIGNED BY:	GILA RIVER BASIN NEW RIVER AND PHOENIX CITY STREAMS, ARIZONA		
DRAWN BY:	DREAMY DRAW DAM		
CHECKED BY:	PROJECT LOCATION		
SUBMITTED BY:	SPEC. NO.	SHEET	
	DRAWING NUMBER	1 OF 3	
DATE:	DISTRICT FILE NO. 223/115		



VIEW LOOKING DOWNSTREAM WITH PHOENIX IN THE BACKGROUND

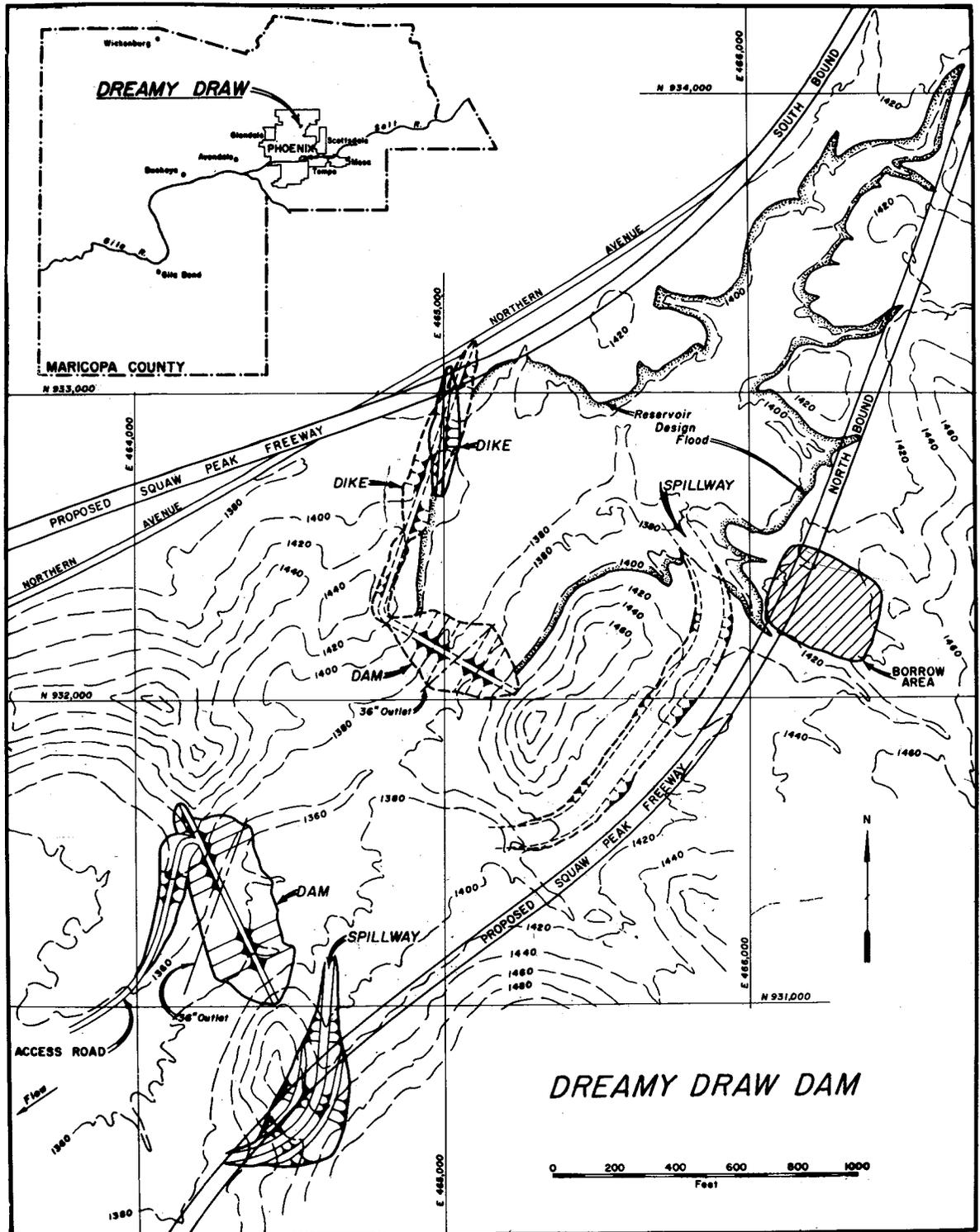
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REVISIONS			
U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT LOS ANGELES CORPS OF ENGINEERS			
DESIGNED BY: J. Y. U.	GILA RIVER BASIN NEW RIVER AND PHOENIX CITY STREAMS, ARIZONA		
DRAWN BY: C. M.	DREAMY DRAW DAM		
CHECKED BY: J. Y. U.	CONCEPTUAL SKETCH OF BEAUTIFICATION		
SUBMITTED BY:	SPEC. NO.	SHEET	
	DRAWING NUMBER	2	
DATE: FEBRUARY 1972	DISTRICT FILE NO. 223/116	OF	
		3	



LEGEND
 [Symbol] EXISTING PLANTS
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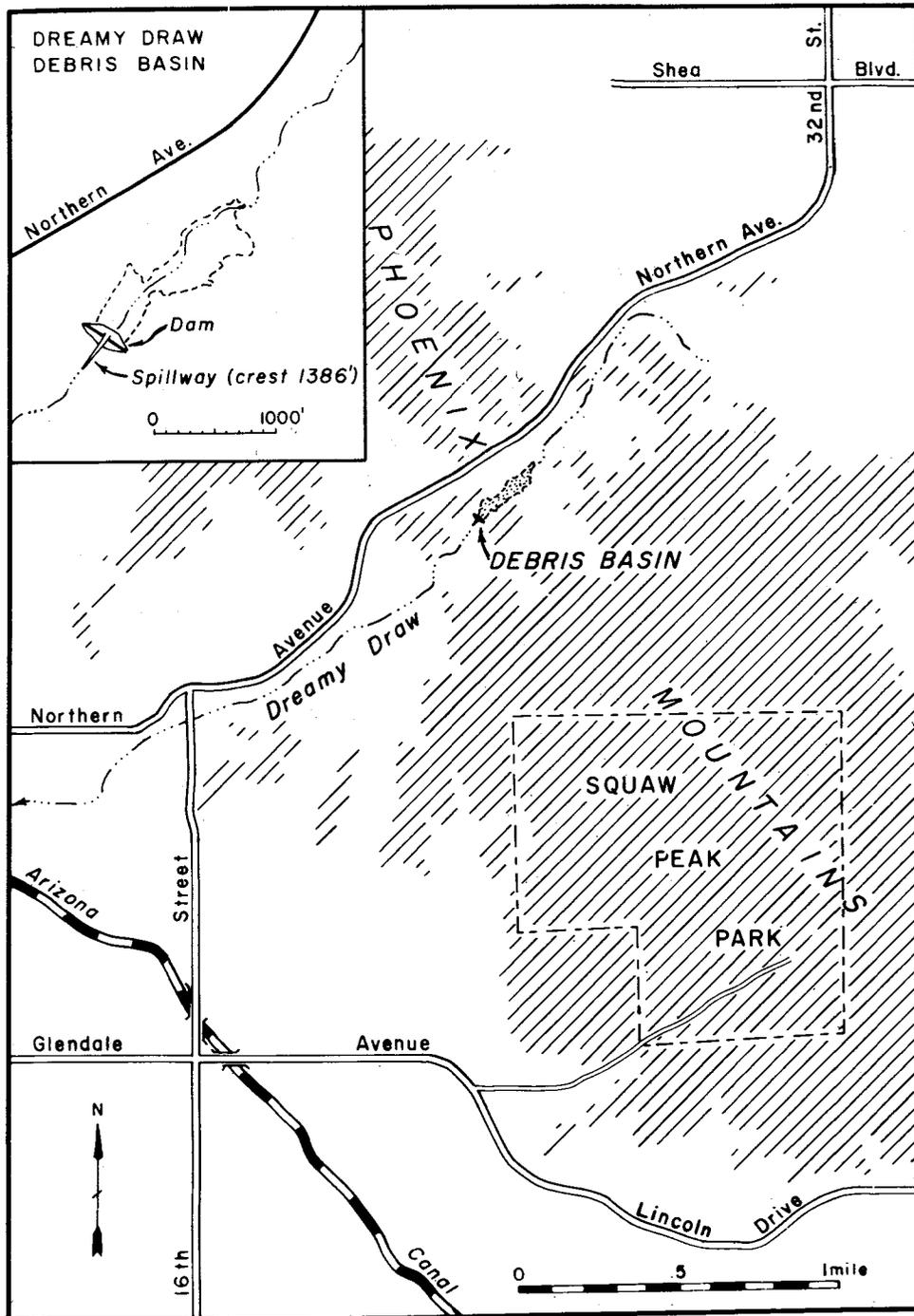
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DRAWN BY:	DREAMY DRAW DAM BEAUTIFICATION PLAN						
CHECKED BY:							
SUBMITTED BY:	SPEC. NO.		DRAWING NUMBER		DISTRICT FILE NO.		SHEET
DATE: FEBRUARY 1972					223/117		3 OF 3



Dreamy Draw Dam. Recommended plan (structures outlined with dashed lines, center) and alternative C (structures outlined with solid lines, lower left).

FIGURE I



Debris basin (alternative A) and the relation of Squaw Peak Park to the project area.

FIGURE 2

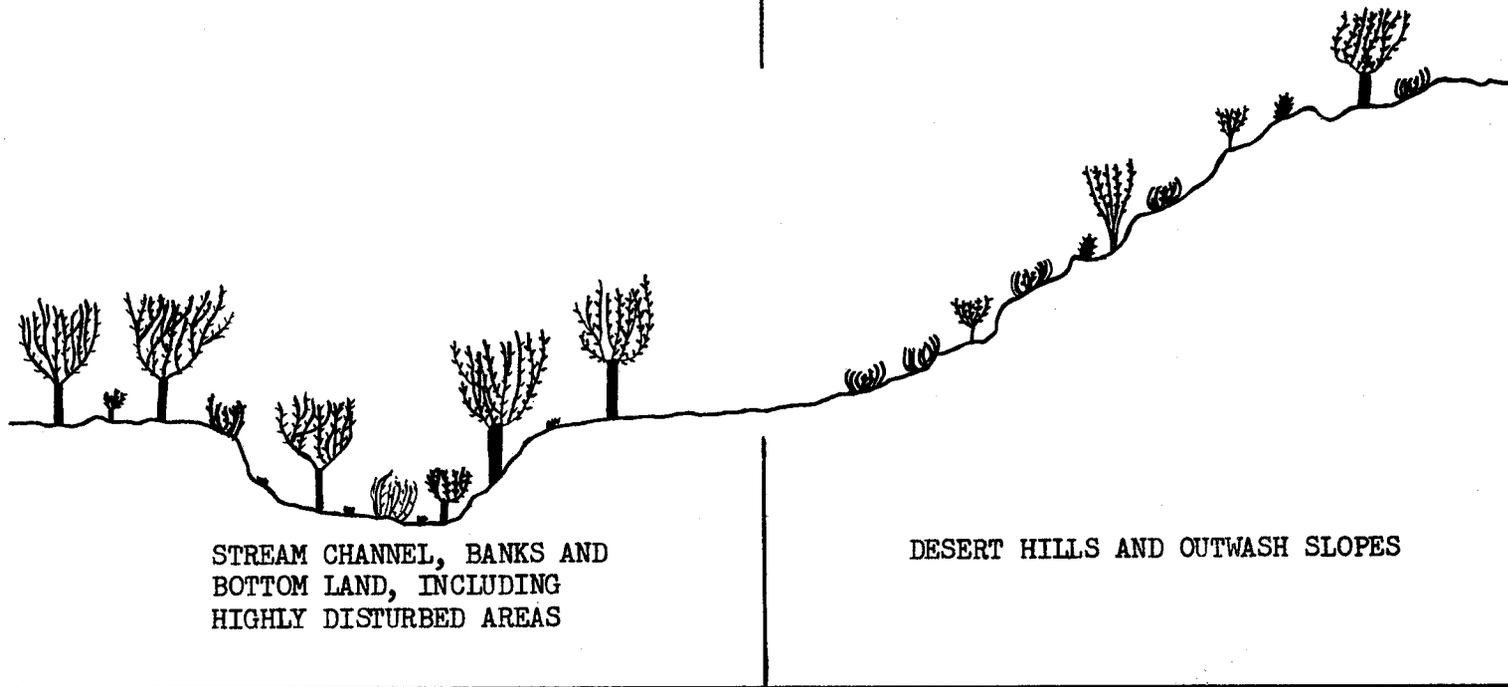
REPRESENTATIVE PLANTS

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MESQUITE
DESERT BROOM
SALT CEDAR
PIGWEEED
HORSE PURSLANE

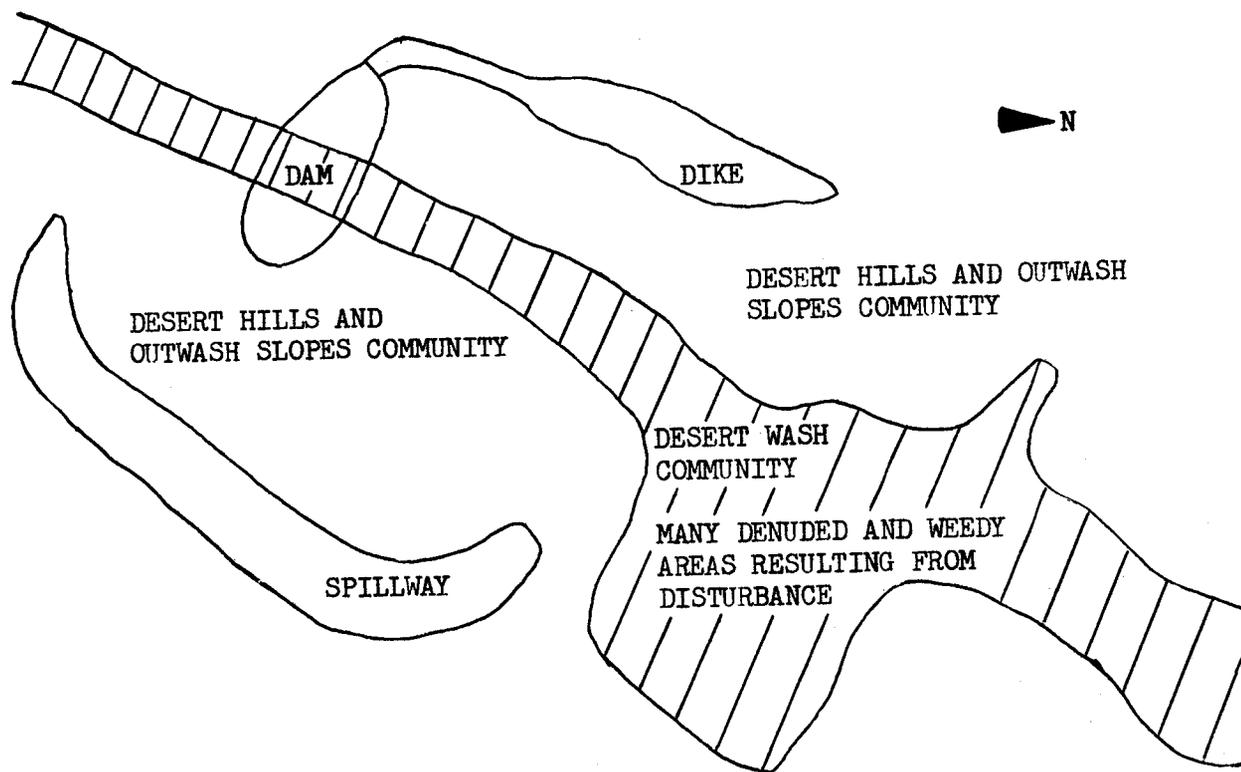
JERUSALEM THORN
BLUE PALO VERDE
DESERT THORN
BURRO BRUSH
BERMUDA GRASS
SKELETON WEED

CREOSOTE BUSH
BRITTLE BUSH
GLOBE MALLOW
OCOTILLO
CHOLLA
SAGUARO

TRIANGLE BURSAGE
LITTLE LEAF PALO VERDE
HEDGEHOG CACTUS
BARREL CACTUS
SPURGE



Diagrammatic profile showing physiography and vegetation in the Dreamy Draw Dam area.



Diagrammatic plan view of plant community types in Dreamy Draw Dam area.,
 Desert hill and outwash slope vegetation is generally found where desert wash
 and weed vegetation is absent.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Arizona State Office, 6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025

SPLED-RE

January 29, 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We have reviewed the Environmental Statement DREAMY DRAW DETENTION BASIN, ARIZONA, with your letter of January 5, 1971 and concur in general with the statement.

Our only comment would be to the effect that the statement over-emphasizes the possible objectionable features and underestimates the beneficial features.

Considering the rate of release of water and the relatively small capacity of the Detention Basin, the time of retention will be short. This will encourage growth of desirable permanent type vegetation that can be expected to adequately mask the small amount of retained sediments and the creation of barren and unsightly sediment deposits is unlikely.

Such vegetative growth will materially enhance the food and habitat for wildlife and add beauty and interest for humans.

Sincerely,


M. E. Strong
State Conservationist





United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
PHOENIX AREA OFFICE
P.O. Box 7007
Phoenix, Arizona 85011

IN RE: REFER TO:
Land Operations
Irrigation

JAN 19 1971

Your Reference:
SPLED-RE

Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed the environmental statement for the
Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona, and have
no comments to offer at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Ass't Area Director



United States Department of the Interior

1736 (RPM)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

State Office
3022 Federal Building
Phoenix, Arizona 85025

February 10, 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

The environmental statement on Dreamy Draw Detention Basin has been reviewed.

The impact identified with the Dreamy Draw project appears to be sufficient. The impact of this one project will be minor. The impact associated with all of the Phoenix area and vicinity flood control projects may well be significant.

It is difficult at best to judge the environmental impact of this one project. It would be more realistic if the overall program of flood control for the Phoenix area could be viewed and alternatives analyzed. It is possible that the environmental commitment imposed by Dreamy Draw is in itself most insignificant but when considered as a part of all flood control projects in the Phoenix area may have substantial environmental impact.

Many of the plans associated with flood control in the Phoenix area have been under study for many years. The environmental aspects of flood control projects have only received somewhat intense review in recent years. It is suggested that an overall comprehensive environmental statement for flood control projects throughout the Phoenix area would have more meaning. Each of the various projects would be related and alternatives and environmental impacts could be more readily viewed.

We appreciate the opportunity of having reviewed this project.

Sincerely,

Glendon F. Collins
Acting State Director



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES

Intermountain Field Operation Center

BUILDING 20
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225
January 13, 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

This is in reply to your letter of January 5 in which you asked for review comments on an environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona.

The draft appears to be adequate with respect to mineral resources and industry. Maricopa County leads the State in sand and gravel production, and the environmental draft indicates the widespread occurrence of such deposits in the Phoenix area without pinpointing them in the project zone. The question of mercury mineralization and its potentially dangerous spread as a pollutant into the local biosphere is covered very thoroughly in the statement.

Sincerely,

O. M. Bishop, Chief,
Intermountain Field Operation Center



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D6427 CE-ES

BOX 3602

430 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

February 11, 1971

District Engineer
U. S. Army Engineer District,
Los Angeles
300 North Los Angeles Street
Post Office Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 5, 1971, requested our comments regarding the draft environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona and Vicinity Flood Control Project. We offer the following for your consideration.

Although the statement provides adequate treatment of the project's impact on the immediate construction area, including the detention basin, dam and levee sites, there is no mention of the project's impact on lands immediately downstream of the detention basin. For example, will the project result in urban development on open desert lands now subject to periodic inundation? If so, this change in land use would constitute a significant project impact and should be noted.

We are also concerned that the environmental impact evaluation of the Phoenix and Vicinity Flood Control Project, as several parts rather than as a whole, may tend to obscure the cumulative impact of the separate units of the project, particularly as it relates to the flow regimen of the Gila River below Phoenix. The concentrated and accelerated runoff of flood flows from a large portion of Phoenix made possible by this total project could conceivably have substantial impact on recreational and wildlife values of the Gila River below Phoenix. We, therefore, recommend that the Corps develop procedures for the environmental impact evaluation of staged projects such as this which guarantee that the "forest" will not be obscured by the "trees".

With the exception of the omissions noted above, the statement appears complete and adequate in all respects. Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely yours,


Frank E. Sylvester
Regional Director



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

REGION 3
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA 89005

IN REPLY
REFER TO: 3-150/120.01

FEB 4 1971

District Engineer
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Sir:

We have reviewed the draft environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona, transmitted by your office letter of January 5, 1971.

The draft statement is written in an objective manner and appears to be comprehensive and accurate. Our comments are as follows:

Page 1, 3rd paragraph, line 4: Change "east" to "north."

Page 2, last paragraph, last 2 lines: The mention of "...species indicate a relatively shallow depth to ground water where they occur" may be true due to the rock nature of the basin. It is not indicative of the regional ground-water situation; however, it is recommended that local be substituted for relatively.

Sincerely yours,

E. A. Lundberg
Regional Director

In duplicate



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
POST OFFICE BOX 1306
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

January 22, 1971

In reply refer to: RB

District Engineer
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
Post Office Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 95053

Dear Sir:

Mr. Edward Koehm's letter dated January 5, 1971, referenced SPLED-RE, requested our comments on the draft of your environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona, and Vicinity Flood-Control Project in accordance with Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Our comments are as follows:

Page 1, paragraph 3

Dreamy Draw, which originates in the Phoenix Mountains, passes south-west rather than southeast as given.

Page 3, paragraph 1

Instead of "stripped (sic) or spotted skunks", it would be correct to say "striped skunks and spotted skunks". Also, in the listing of bird species, it would be better to say "white-winged doves and mourning doves", "Gila woodpeckers and ladder-backed woodpeckers", and "red-tailed hawks and sparrow hawks".

Page 4, first complete sentence

Although the biological community existing on the project area is not unique in its composition, such a setting could be maintained and improved to provide the local populace, particularly the young, the old, and others incapable of traveling longer distances, with an opportunity to observe nature not otherwise available within an expanding urban community.

Page 4, second complete paragraph

Seeding and planting of selected wildlife food and cover plants behind the dam and embankment would aid in controlling annual weeds and blowing dust and provide additional habitat for many species of wildlife, particularly small birds and mammals.

Pages 4 and 5 (Alternative 2)

The merits of this alternative appear feasible. It is expected that the cost of a gated flood-control structure could be offset by the numbers of recreational users accommodated by a 10-acre pool, provided the pool and its environs were incorporated into a managed park with landscaping. Zoning and boating restrictions would assure both fishing and pleasure boating, provided the boats were of the nonmotor variety, such as canoes and rowboats. A significant amount of warmwater fishing could be provided by a permanent pool. Other park users could be accommodated on the landscaped environs of the pool.

If the proposed Squaw Peak Freeway is constructed as envisioned, with the northbound and southbound lanes completely encircling the basin, users of the park and pool could be provided with foot traffic access via underpasses from parking areas outside the freeway-enclosed park.

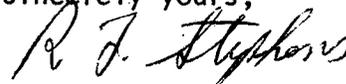
The view of the freeway and traffic noises could be filtered partially from park users by strategically-placed trees and shrubs. This vegetation would attract and provide habitat for many species of small birds in addition to providing shade for the park visitors. The park grounds could be planted to permanent grass, aiding in the control of noxious annual weeds such as pigweed.

Page 5, second paragraph

As suggested, environmental monitoring for mercuric concentration in the fish should be undertaken. If the levels become too high, a catch-and-release type of fishery could be initiated, or the fish could be eradicated and replaced.

The opportunity to review the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin Project is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



Robert F. Stephens
Acting Regional Director

cc:

Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona
Field Representative, USDI, Pacific SW Region, San Francisco, California
Field Supervisor, BSW, Div. of River Basin Studies, Phoenix, Arizona



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Southwest Region

P. O. Box 728

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7423

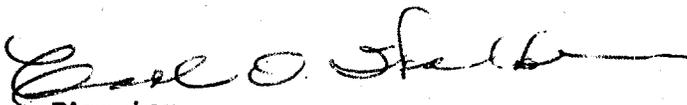
JAN 27 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We have reviewed your environmental statement of the Dreamy Draw
Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona and Vicinity Flood Control
Project and have no comments to make. We appreciate this oppor-
tunity to express our views.

Sincerely yours,


Acting Director

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**REGION IX
760 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

FEB 5 1971

Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

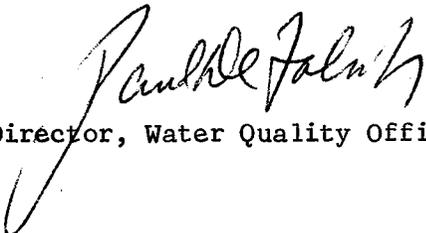
Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your letter of January 5, 1971 requesting review and comments on the draft environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona and vicinity, Flood Control Project.

We find the draft environmental statement contains an adequate discussion of the project's effects upon water quality. The statement could be enhanced by inclusion of relevant drawings of the alternate plans considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this draft.

Sincerely,


Director, Water Quality Office

Governor
JACK WILLIAMS

Commissioners

GLEN D. DALY, CHAIRMAN, WINSLOW
JACK MANTLE, TUCSON
HOMER L. G. KRYGER, YUMA
MILTON G. EVANS, FLAGSTAFF
ROBERT J. SPILLMAN, PHOENIX

Director
ROBERT A. JANTZEN

Asst. Director, Operations
PHIL M. COSPER

Asst. Director, Services
ROGER J. GRUENEWALD



ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

2222 West Greenway Road Phoenix, Arizona 85023 942-3000

January 28, 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We have reviewed the draft of the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Phoenix, Arizona and Vicinity Flood Control Project as provided for in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190.

We agree with the discussion describing the area, its present condition and the evaluation of the impact the proposed project (Alternative No. 1) will have on existing environmental features. The project area has, in the past, been seriously abused and thus reflects only a minor resemblance to the once natural desert environment. As expressed in your report, the use of off-road vehicles, hiking, mining activities and excessive littering have been the major uses of the project area. You could also say these uses have been the major abuses.

At this point, and in view of the several aspects of proposed development (flood detention and the Squaw Peak Freeway), we question the value of maintaining the project area in a natural state. It would seem appropriate to develop the project area into a combination flood detention and recreation area and striving for maintenance of natural resource features outside the area. The project alternatives have the necessary features to enhance esthetic values and provide a base for a much needed recreation resource for north Phoenix. The degree of enhancement will depend on selection of the most desirable alternative plan of development.

Following is a discussion of the "Alternatives to the Proposed Action" and our recommendations concerning the selection of the most desirable alternative:

Alternative No. (1): This plan would provide for maximum flood protection, but would not provide for protection of existing environmental features of the area. Project development and future freeway construction precludes this. Further, it would provide little if any incentive for use by the public except for what is already prevalent--trail bikes and a "garbage dump".

Alternative No. (2): This plan contains all the features necessary to attain the maximum benefits from the project. However, the environmental statement discussion of this plan questioned the merits of providing for a ten acre pool and other recreation facilities based on excessive cost, low use, possible mercury contamination and the proposed Squaw Peak Freeway.

We cannot agree with the criticism of this alternative. First of all, development of a ten acre permanent pool in a densely populated area would attract considerably more use than would otherwise be possible in a more remote location. Fishing would provide a relatively small amount of the overall use of the facility, but it would amount to at least 10,000 man-days annually and perhaps as much as 30,000 man-days. Still, it would not be recognized as a quality fishing lake and presumably most of the fishing use would be by children. Nonetheless, use of the facility would be extensive and, therefore, a justifiable feature of the project.

Regulated pleasure boating would further enhance the use of the project provided management of the facilities were assumed by some agency such as the City of Phoenix. Boating could be limited to canoes and rowboats and controlled through a concessionaire, thus limiting the number of boats and alleviating most competition between boaters and other users.

It is true that the detention basin has only limited potential for recreation development. However, the basin could be limited to use for water oriented recreation except hiking, nature trails and limited landscaping. Most development for general facilities could then be installed below the detention structure where there is more land for this purpose.

The possible construction of the Squaw Peak Freeway could be

used to the advantage of recreation development within the project area. Should it be necessary for the freeway to encircle the area as planned, access could be provided over or under the freeway and limited to foot traffic only. Vehicular parking facilities would be provided outside the project area. Access to the detention facilities would be a necessity for maintenance purposes, and could be used for public access if proven compatible with management objectives at very little additional expense. Anticipated highway noise could be limited in the developed area below the detention dam to some degree through landscaping.

Should mercury contamination become a problem, the use of the lake for fishing purposes could be restricted or completely closed if necessary. Mercury is widely distributed under natural conditions and, therefore, should not be considered a deterrent to recreation development.

Further, the inclusion of a ten acre permanent pool will necessarily require a water subsidy. This being the case, mercury contamination will be further reduced because this additional water would come from an outside source and, therefore, would not be subject to the same degree of contamination as water of local origin.

Alternative No. (3): This plan could be practical but not necessarily the most desirable. It could be impractical to manage the area as an extension of Squaw Peak Park if it becomes isolated by construction of a freeway.

Alternative No. (4): With or without the project, the natural features of the area will continue to decline. These values will eventually be lost even under dry land park protection. Construction of the project and the subsequent development of city park-like recreation facilities, including landscaping, in the major use area below the detention basin, should be given every consideration.

Construction of a gated flood detention structure with provisions for a permanent ten acre pool and green park development would provide the most benefits to the area. Development of the area by an agency such as the City of Phoenix Parks Department would be most desirable. Preservation of the natural environment within the confines of the project

January 28, 1971

area would not be a feasible feature and should not be considered in the overall development plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this draft report.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Jantzen, Director

RAJ:nrh

cc: W. O. Nelson, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Albuquerque
R. J. Fisher, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Phoenix
Col. John Lowry, Maricopa County Flood Control District, Phoenix

Governor
JACK WILLIAMS

Commissioners
JACK MANTLE, CHAIRMAN, TUCSON
HOMER L. G. KRYGER, YUMA
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ROBERT J. SPILLMAN, PHOENIX
GLEN D. DALY, WINSLOW

Director
ROBERT A. JANTZEN

Asst. Director, Operations
PHIL M. COSPER

Asst. Director, Services
ROGER J. GRUENEWALD



ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

2222 West Greenway Road Phoenix, Arizona 85023 942-3000

January 20, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We have reviewed the final environmental statement for Dreamy Draw detention basin, Maricopa County, Arizona and are in general agreement with the findings contained therein.

We do feel information should be provided to identify the effect of this project on the need for proposed channelization downstream. We understand the downstream channelization is to be studied under phase b and c of the Comprehensive Maricopa County Flood Control Project. If this part of the plan substantially affects the need for channelization of the Gila River or tributaries, it should be documented in this report.

The plans for improvement of the urban environment in the Dreamy Draw area are commendable and will probably contribute a fishery resource where none exists.

If the ten acre permanent pool discussed in this project is subsequently approved and maintained through a water subsidy, it would be possible to manage a somewhat limited fishery in the pool. Species such as bluegill sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish and possibly a minnow species (fathead minnow or plains-red shiner) could be expected to furnish fair to possibly good fishing at times, provided that the average depth of the pool was such to offset the high solar heating effect which would occur in the summer months. It is very probable that surface water temperatures in the mid to

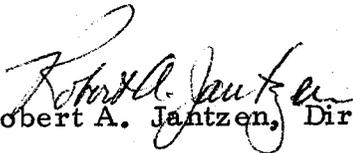
January 20, 1972

high eighties (degrees Fahrenheit) or higher will occur in this area. Sustained temperatures of this magnitude for a short period could prove fatal to the species listed above. It is not inconceivable that such temperatures would occur even at a depth of ten feet or more during the summer, particularly in this pool where there will be little or no water changeover for relatively long periods. Potential problems such as this could be improved by the creation of several deeper "hole" areas in the bottom of the pool during construction and/or the installation of aeration devices in conjunction with water additions prior to and during the high water temperature and fish stress periods.

Aquatic vegetation may be expected to develop into a problem in time, but this can probably be effectively controlled in a pool of this size.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on these projects. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Jantzen, Director

RAJ:nm

JACK WILLIAMS
GOVERNOR

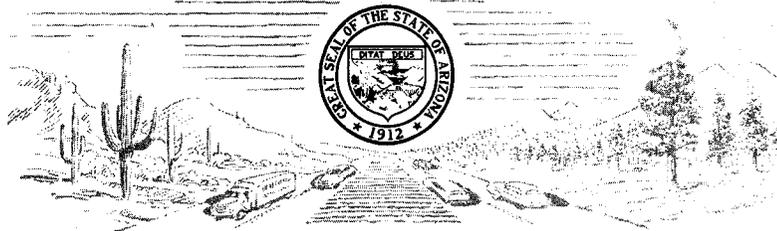
BUS MEAD
CHAIRMAN

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DAN C. MCKINNEY
MEMBER

RUDY E. CAMPBELL
MEMBER



JUSTIN HERMAN
STATE HIGHWAY DIRECTOR

WM. N. PRICE
STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

ARIZONA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Phoenix, Arizona

February 2, 1971

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

The Arizona Highway Department has reviewed the draft of the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin and offer the following comments for your consideration:

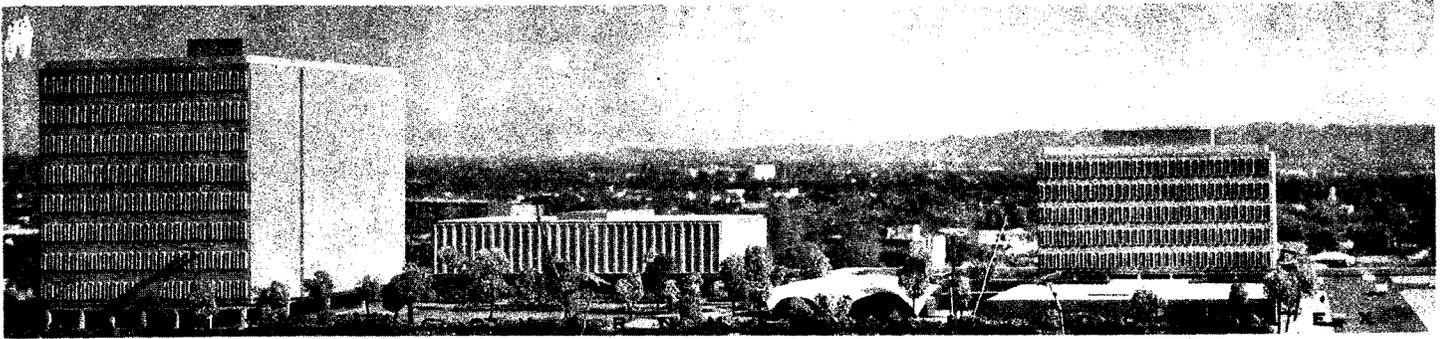
1. We are concerned primarily with the aesthetics of the project as viewed from our freeway systems. We believe that construction of the dam embankment and other diversion dikes should have a minimum slope of 3:1 so that natural vegetation will have a chance to establish.
2. Close coordination of this work with the Arizona Highway Department should be done to assure that structures related to highway drainage will be correctly placed and adequate as dictated by this project and public requirements.
3. As a suggestion, it might be well to consider the impact study on this area as prepared by the Arizona Highway Department and your report of the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin as a joint report for public release.

We would be pleased to work with you in this matter if you believe it advisable.

Yours very truly,

WM. N. PRICE
State Highway Engineer

WNP/HGL/jg



OFFICE OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 20, 1972

Department of The Army
Los Angeles District
Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Attention Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division

Re: Dreamy Draw Detention Basin
Environmental Report

Gentlemen:

Maricopa County Flood Control District, Parks Department and Highway Department have reviewed the Environmental Statement for Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Maricopa County, Arizona.

All departments have reported their concurrence in the statement, except it has been suggested that more emphasis should be placed on beautification and recreational provisions for hiking and riding.

Very truly yours,

Robert Stark
Chairman

FL:mr

HENRY H. HAWS
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 1

B. W. "BARNEY" BURNS
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2

BOB STARK
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 3
CHAIRMAN

603 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING • 111 SOUTH THIRD AVENUE • PHOENIX, ARIZONA



**Flood Control District
of
Maricopa County**

**3325 WEST DURANGO STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85009**

January 13, 1972

File: SPLED-RE

District Engineer's Office
U. S. Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

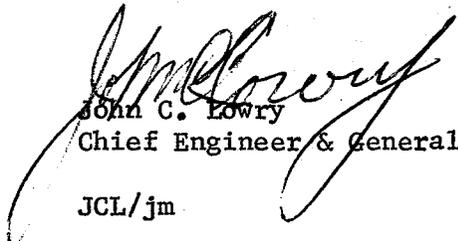
Attn: Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division

Dear Sir:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of December 29, 1971 to which was attached your Final Environmental Statement on the Dreamy Draw Detention Basin (Working Paper, Subject to Revision) for such comments as this office may desire to make.

This report has been examined by this office and this office has no comment to make other than concurrence with the report.

Sincerely,


John C. Lowry
Chief Engineer & General Manager

JCL/jm

GEORGE E. LEONARD
CHAIRMAN

JOHN S. HOOPES
VICE-CHAIRMAN

WESLEY E. STEINER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND
STATE WATER ENGINEER



Arizona Water Commission

34 WEST MONROE STREET - 7TH FLOOR

Phoenix, Arizona 85003

TELEPHONE (602) 258-7561

MEMBERS

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LINTON CLARIDGE
DAVID R. GIPE
DOUGLAS J. WALL
WILLIAM H. WHEELER

EXOFFICIO MEMBERS

ANDREW L. BETTWEY
MARSHALL HUMPHREY

February 9, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear ^{Ed} Sir:

This is in reference to the 'working paper' for the "Final Environmental Impact Statement, Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Maricopa County, Arizona." Subsequent to the briefing on February 4th by representatives of your agency and receipt of the Design Memorandum No. 1 relative to this matter, we re-examined the subject paper and have no environmental objections to the project. We do feel, however, that your report might be improved somewhat if it were revised to clarify the status of the recreational alternatives of the site.

I would also like to thank you for arranging the briefing wherein my staff became more familiar with your comprehensive flood control planning activities in the Phoenix area.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Wesley E. Steiner.
Wesley E. Steiner
Executive Director

WES:TCce



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

251 WEST WASHINGTON

PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85003

(602) 262-6941

February 16, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm, Chief
Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Subject: Dreamy Draw Dam Detention Basin
Environmental Statement

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity to review and comment on the working paper of the "Final Environmental Statement" for the proposed Dreamy Draw Detention Basin in Phoenix, Arizona.

Inasmuch as this detention basin is closely related to the Phoenix Mountains Preserve, our Parks system, and our proposed new Northeast Service Center, we are anxious that it be constructed with the most favorable effect on the environment with the least possible number of adverse features.

To illustrate the City's intention to develop this area in a manner designed to preserve this magnificent open space heritage, I am forwarding, herewith, a copy of the "Summary Edition" of "An Open Space Plan for the Phoenix Mountains," a "Master Plan for the Phoenix Mountains Preserve" and a "General Development Plan Dreamy Draw Service Center" and I am happy to be able to tell you that the City has already started to acquire some of the land required for the Preserve.

It is noted that your beautification plan dated February, 1971, provides for a substantial amount of landscaping work. As previously indicated to Colonel Lowry of the Flood Control District and Major Chapman of the Corps of Engineers, we recommend that the beautification plan be improved to include plantings on the embankments.

We also would recommend that the borrow area be kept as low as possible and that after borrow has been extracted, the banks be sloped and planted with suitable desert growth in keeping with the general beautification plan.

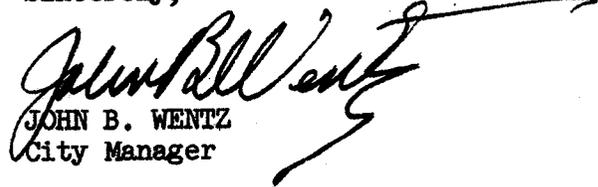
Mr. Edward Koehm

Page Two

February 16, 1972

Inasmuch as this detention basin is urgently needed to improve the health, safety, and welfare of persons living downstream of the detention basin, we urge that construction be undertaken and completed at the earliest practicable date.

Sincerely,



JOHN B. WENTZ
City Manager

JBW:pvk

Attachments

January 14, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
U. S. Department of the Army
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

206 S. 17 Ave. Phoenix Arizona 85007 261-7322

Thank you for sending a copy of the final environmental statement (working paper) for the Dreamy Draw detention basin.

The statement itself seems to be very well composed, and I would have little comment on its structure and content.

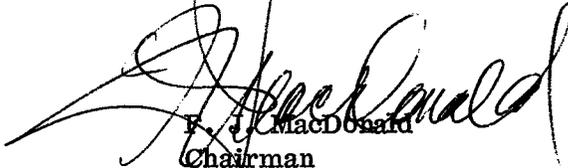
I would like to agree to a great extent with the comments of the Arizona Game and Fish Department on their evaluation of Alternative #2. It does seem that this would be of more value to the Phoenix area if it could be maintained as a recreation site. Its adjacency to Squaw Peak Park would tie it very nicely to that complex, whereas, a flood control project in itself...dry all year...is not particularly attractive nor particularly usable for recreation.

I would also like to concur with the statement of Mr. William N. Price, State Highway Engineer, in his suggestion that any embankments and diversion dikes be maintained at a slope so that natural vegetation can be established thereon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this statement.

Yours sincerely,

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ARIZONA ENVIRONMENT


F. J. MacDonald
Chairman

FJM:jfj



**Flood Control District
of
Maricopa County**
3325 WEST DURANGO STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85009

January 21, 1972

District Engineers Office
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Attn: Mr. Ed Koehm, Chief Engineering Div.

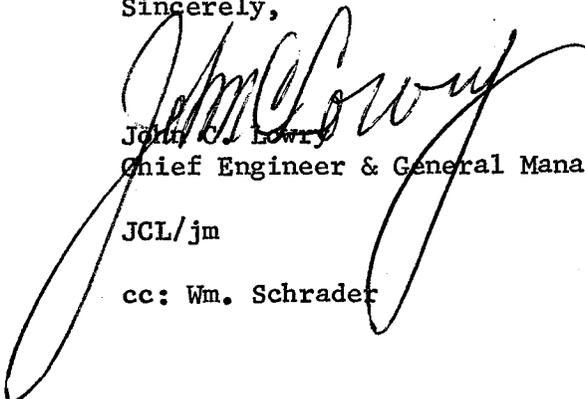
Dear Mr. Koehm:

Re: Dreamy Draw Detention Basin - Environmental Statement

I have been instructed by Mr. William Schrader, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Board of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County, to acknowledge his receipt of your letter of 29 December 1971 in connection with the Environmental Statement for Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Maricopa County, Arizona.

He has instructed me to advise you that he concurs in the comments of my letter to your office dated January 13, 1972 which was to the effect that this office is in concurrence with the report as prepared.

Sincerely,


John C. Lowry
Chief Engineer & General Manager

JCL/jm

cc: Wm. Schrader

HOHOKAM RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Suite 326 • Arizona Title Building • 111 W. Monroe Street, • Phoenix, Arizona • 85003

January 17, 1972

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City of Chandler
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Conservation District
Salt River Valley
Water Users' Ass'n
San Lucy Tribal Council
Tonto SCD
Town of Buckeye
Town of Gila Bend
Town of Wickenburg
Wickenburg SCD

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
USDA, Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
PO Box 2711
Los Angeles, Calif. 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

Thank you for sending the Hohokam Resource Conservation and Development Project a copy of the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw detention basin, Maricopa County, Arizona.

We have reviewed the statement in some detail and, in general, concur with it. However, we do have the following suggestions:

We feel that a discharge flow of approximately 100 CFS would be more satisfactory than the planned 196 CFS. The 100 CFS could be handled a little better by the irrigation system below the dam. If the alternate channel is constructed along the canal going to Skunk Creek, then the 196 CFS would be satisfactory.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Tyson, Jr.
Chairman



ARIZONA CONSERVATION COUNCIL

January 11, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Los Angeles District
U. S. Corp of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles
California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

We are in receipt of a copy of the Final Environmental Statement, Dreamy Draw Detention Basin, Maricopa County, Arizona, from your office.

Please accept this brief note of appreciation for the consideration shown by sending us a copy of this paper. Also, we acknowledge our very favorable impression of the apparent comprehensive, detailed, and accurate nature of the statement.

Appreciatively,

Olan A. Lunt
Chairman

OAL:h



ABI CORPORATION | 6923 EAST INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD | SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85251 | TELEPHONE 945-4558

January 5, 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

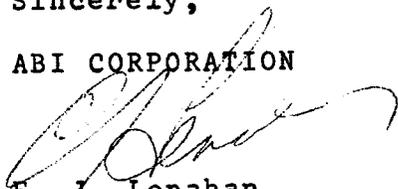
I have reviewed the environmental statement on the Dreamy Draw detention basin, and feel the study is well presented.

My only comment is to keep the area in the natural state, so as to avoid the artificial look in landscape revegetation.

Thank you for extending me the privilege of reviewing your statement.

Sincerely,

ABI CORPORATION


E. J. Lenahan
General Manager

EJL/gw

24 January 1972

Mr. Edward Koehm
Chief, Engineering Division
Department of the Army
Los Angeles District
Corps of Engineers
POBox 2711
Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Mr. Koehm:

In reply to your letter requesting review of the environmental statement for the Dreamy Draw detention basin near Phoenix, Arizona, it must be said that only with reluctance can concurrence be made with the basic premises of the report.

It is a major deficiency that the actual reasons why the project has become necessary are not revealed. And it is false to believe that it can be ". . . evaluated independently of the overall system without conflict." As it is altogether the result of an overall lack of planning, it must be judged on that basis. Responsibility for these omissions lies with the Army Engineers and with the University of Arizona, who should clearly understand and report these relationships as part of their public duty.

Of course, the obvious solution would have been never to have allowed interruption of the drainage pattern of Dreamy Draw and of other major drainage systems through the valley. Thus, natural flood control, as well as welcome relief from the deadly monotony of the gridiron city plan would have been provided, while helping to decentralize what has become a congested and polluted central city core. The result would have been to immediately engender a more organic relationship to the desert site under more humane living conditions, and all at far less cost and with far less damage to the environment.

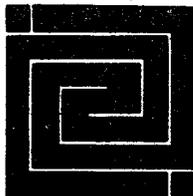
THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

OPERATING DIVISIONS

TALIESIN ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TALIESIN WEST • SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85252
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Page 2 of 2
Mr. Edward Koehm
24 January 1972

It is a pity that our mountain slopes and canyons should be violated in order to protect past mistakes. Illustrating the lack of planning and of vision, this also forces people to pay twice for land: once in an unnaturally inflated purchase price by way of an artificial centralization, and, again, for resulting protection facilities such as the proposed project. No amount of beautification projects, recreational plans, or protection facilities can alleviate the deficiencies of such piecemeal planning. Recognition must be made that speculation in land encouraged by outmoded land tenure laws have made this flood control project appear necessary. A more natural solution would be to clear the flood plain of all construction to permit the unhindered flow of floodwaters.

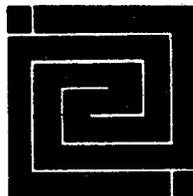
THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FOUNDATION

OPERATING DIVISIONS

TALIESIN ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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The one true and lasting benefit of this report should be the promotion of a higher understanding of man's relationship to his environment in order that these mistakes are not repeated. That would be true progress.

Sincerely,


Rod Anderson