RECORD OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

A. **Proposed Action:** Western proposes to work with Salt River Project on an upgrade to a double circuit on its Casa Grande-Empire 115-kV transmission line. This project involves the removal of the existing H-frame wooden structures and the installation of new steel monopole structures. This will require auger trucks, bulldozers, bucket trucks and cranes. Existing access roads and the existing right-of-way will be used for vehicles such as pickup trucks, crew trucks, backhoes and bucket trucks to bring personnel and equipment to the work areas.

The attached map shows the project area situated within Sections 19, 30 & 31 of Township 6 South, Range 6 East & Sections 6 & 7 of Township 7 South, Range 6 East on the Gila & Salt River Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona. The corresponding U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic maps are Chuichu, Arizona. This work is planned to begin in October 2013.

B. **Categorical Exclusion Applied:** 10 CFR, Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B,B4.13: "Reconstruction (upgrading or rebuilding) and/or minor relocation of existing electric powerlines approximately 20 miles in length or less to enhance environmental and land use values. Such actions include relocations to avoid right of ways encroachments, resolve conflict with property development, accommodate road/highway construction, allow for construction of facilities such as canals and pipelines, or reduce existing impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. "

C. **Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410 (b):**

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.

   a. The proposed action was reviewed for the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Historic Preservation Act, and all applicable Department of Energy Orders. This action falls under the Programmatic Agreement for routine maintenance activities, type II activities.

   b. The proposed action does not require the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities.

   c. The proposed action does not disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminates, or CERLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled and unpermitted releases.

d. The proposed action was reviewed and surveyed for impacts to cultural and sensitive biological resources. Cultural and sensitive biological resources have been determined to not be affected. Western consulted with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and received concurrence on June 7, 2010.

2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and

3. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

D. Determination: Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession (or attached) concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class of actions, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

E. Special Conditions: NONE

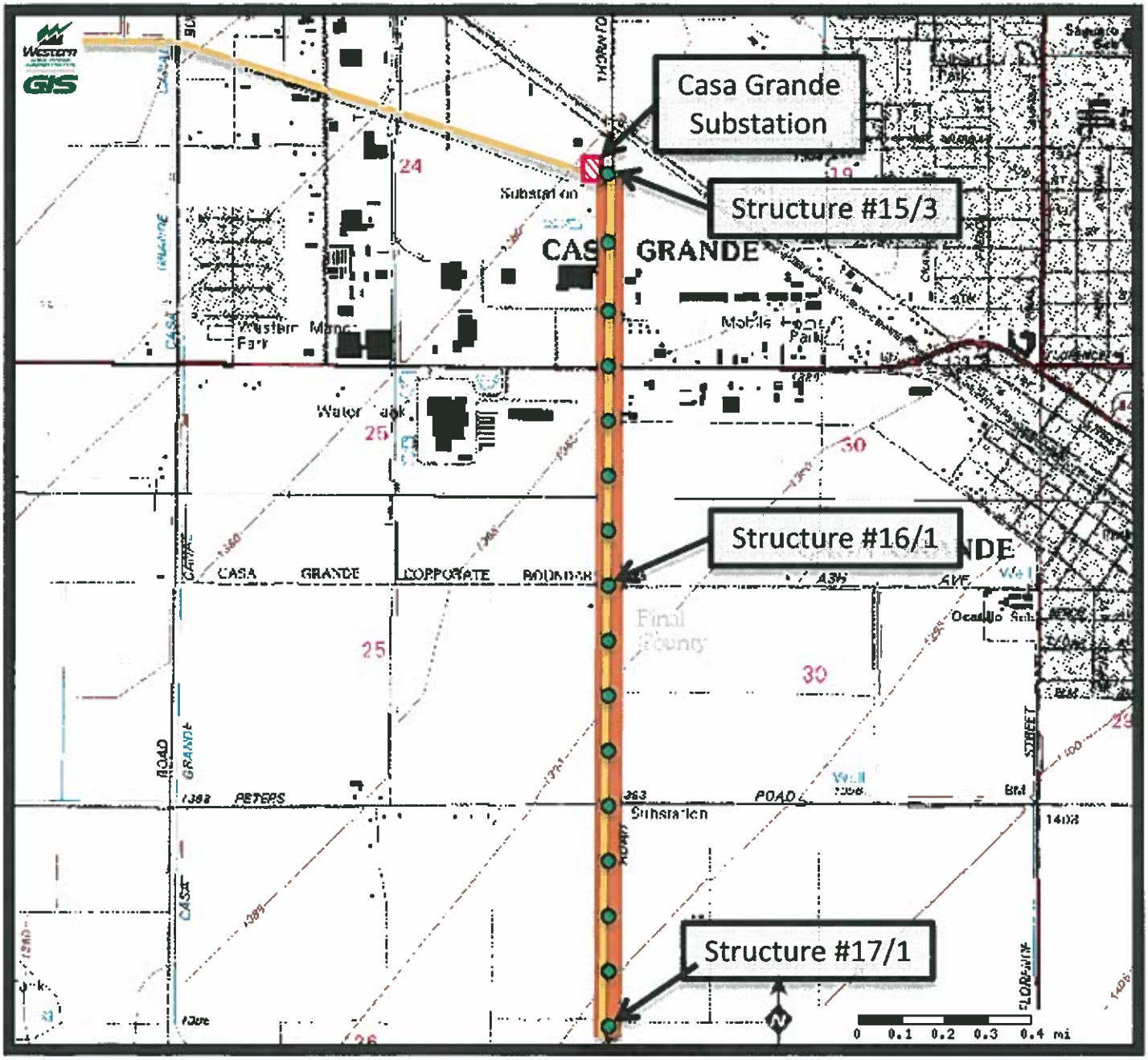
John R. Holt
NEPA Compliance Officer

9/15/10
Date

Casa Grande-Empire 115-kV Transmission Line

SRP Co-Op Double Circuit Upgrade

Scale 1:24000



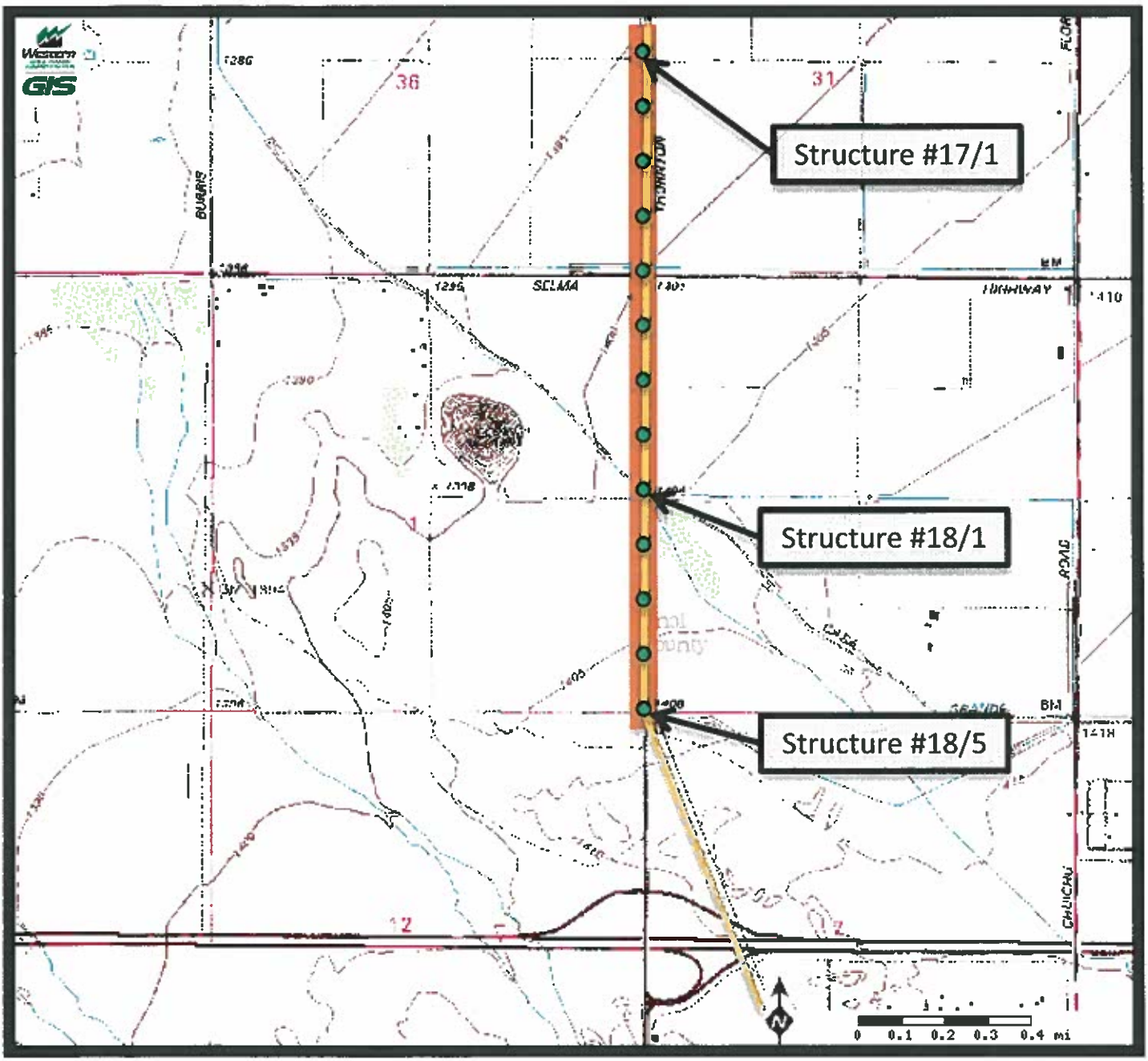
Structure
Transmission Line
Project Area

Western Area Power Administration
An agency of the U.S. Department of Energy

Casa Grande-Empire 115-kV Transmission Line

SRP Co-Op Double Circuit Upgrade

Scale 1:24000



Structure
Transmission Line
Project Area

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