Peer Review Plan

Date: 2/19/2020

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Arizona Water Science Center
520 North Park Avenue, Suite 221
Tucson, AZ 85719

Title: Geophysical surveys, hydrogeologic characterization, and groundwater flow model for the Truxton Basin and Hualapai Plateau, northwestern Arizona.

Subject and Purpose: This five-chapter report (Chapters A-E) describes the collection and interpretation of hydrogeologic and geophysical data and presents a groundwater model describing the groundwater resources under and proximal to the Hualapai Indian Reservation of northwestern Arizona. The Department of the Interior (DOI), Hualapai Tribe, and State of Arizona are currently negotiating a settlement of Federal Indian Water Rights to the Hualapai Tribe. The Hualapai Tribe needs a long-term, reliable water source for municipal, commercial, and industrial use, including water for the Grand Canyon West tourist attraction. The DOI is seeking a water-resources solution that balances available funding and water rights within the Colorado River basin. The introductory and geology chapters of the report describe the hydrogeologic setting of the study area. The groundwater-model chapter of the report details how scenarios of possible pumping might affect the groundwater levels of the Truxton aquifer 120 years into the future. The report also documents the release of highly detailed airborne geophysical and ground-based microgravity surveys to describe the geologic structure of the western half of the Hualapai Indian Reservation, including the Truxton aquifer. The report will serve as the seminal USGS publication for consideration in future Hualapai Tribal water-resources decisions. This product will be released as a USGS Scientific Investigations Report.

Impact of Dissemination: This information product is considered by the USGS to be Influential Scientific Information.

Timing of Review (Including Deferrals): November 2019–February 2020. Deferrals are not anticipated at this time.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will be by individual letters/memoranda/documents. USGS will select peer reviewers pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review.

Expected Number of Reviewers: Anticipate a total of eight peer reviewers for the report (two reviewers for Chapters A and B; 2 separate reviewers, each, for Chapters C, D, and E).

Requisite Expertise: Hydrology, groundwater hydrology, hydrogeology, geology of the Grand Canyon region, groundwater modeling, ground-based and airborne geophysics.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated for this product.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.