



**DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL**

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**Via email only**

20 February 2026

Ms. Colleen Dingman  
Bureau of Land Management, Tucson Field Office  
3201 East Universal Way  
Tucson, AZ 85756  
[blm\\_az\\_tfoweb@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_tfoweb@blm.gov); [cdingman@blm.gov](mailto:cdingman@blm.gov)

RE: Notice of Proposed Decision, Indian Camp Water (DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2026-0004-CE)

Dear Field Manager Dingman,

Thank you for informing the Desert Tortoise Council (Council) of your decision regarding this project. As a new field manager to the Tucson Field Office, you may be unaware of requests from the Council to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that we be identified as an Affected Interest for proposed actions that may affect desert tortoises. For the area managed by the Tucson Field Office, the desert tortoise species is the Sonoran desert tortoise, *Gopherus morafkai*. Attached is a copy of a certified letter sent to the Tucson District Manager, dated November 12, 2019.

In the BLM National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, BLM states, "A primary goal of public involvement is to ensure that all interested and affected parties are aware of your proposed action. Knowing your community well is the first step in determining the interested and affected parties and tribes. You may already have a core list of those interested in and potentially affected by the BLM's proposed actions; this may provide a good starting point" (Section 6.9.1). For proposed projects the Council again requests that it be notified at the beginning of the environmental review process in addition to BLM's final decision. Ironically, we were contacted with the Final Decision but we were not contacted with the proposed categorical exclusion.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please respond in an email that you have received this comment letter so we can be sure our concerns have been registered with the appropriate personnel and office for this project.

Respectfully,

Edward L. LaRue, Jr., M.S.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee, Chairperson