



GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY

Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project

Administration • Design • Construction • Engineering

The Gila River Indian Community's Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-Funded Canal 10 Groundbreaking Scheduled for July 18 at 9:00AM

At 9:00 AM on Monday, July 18, 2022, the Gila River Indian Community's Pima-Maricopa Irrigation Project (P-MIP) will break ground on the fourth of five Bilateral Infrastructure Law-funded construction projects. The Canal 10 project will replace nearly twelve miles of canal with an enlarged concrete-lined canal that will serve tribal growers north of the Gila River in the Santan area.

The lining of canals with concrete enables the Community to conserve important water resources at a time of severe, long-term drought and climate change while at the same time allowing tribal growers to receive irrigation water for their crops in a more efficient manner. The BIL enabled the Community to accelerate construction on Canal 10, which went to bid on January 4.

After an eleven week solicitation period, P-MIP selected Hunter Contracting Company of Gilbert, Arizona, to construct the \$46,971,811.63 project. The 11-mile long Canal 10 will complete the concrete-lining and modernization of this canal that was originally constructed in 1877. Canal 10 serves the heart of the Santan area farming operations. Overall water losses on Canal 10 range between 25.92% and 42.71%, and with completion of the construction work the BIL-funded project is expected to boast water supplies by over 33% annually.

Canal improvements funded by the BIL are not only enabling the Community to conserve water by delivering it in a concrete-lined canal but they are also benefitting tribal growers by ensuring water is efficiently and timely delivered to their fields and optimizes their farming

operations. Canal 10 is expected to employ nearly 60 skilled and semiskilled workers with construction being completed in early 2024.

Governor Stephen R. Lewis noted that “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is producing an immediate and positive impact in the Gila River Indian Community as the Community seeks to restore its agricultural heritage and economy.” Moreover, Governor Lewis added that “These improvements to Canal 10 are creating jobs and expanding capacity while also conserving water resources by modernizing a 145 year-old irrigation system and transforming it into a modern state-of-the-art system. I want to thank our congressional delegation, especially Senators Kelly and Sinema, and Representatives O’Halloran, Gallego and Stanton for their hard work in passing the BIL and then in ensuring that these funds were made available in Arizona quickly to help us continue this vital work.”