



**SIERRITA GAS PIPELINE, LLC AND ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE
NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT TO ADD LOCAL CONSERVATION BENEFITS TO
SIERRITA PIPELINE PROJECT**

TUCSON, June 2, 2014 – The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (Alliance) and Sierrita Gas Pipeline, LLC (Sierrita) have signed an agreement regarding the Sierrita Lateral Pipeline Project (Project) in the Altar Valley. The Alliance has agreed to withdraw opposition to the Project, and Sierrita has agreed to provide the Alliance with significant financial resources to aid in valley-wide projects, including direct support of watershed-wide restoration of the Altar Wash floodplain and its tributary systems.

Throughout the process associated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on March 28, 2014, the Alliance has expressed opposition to the Project, citing concerns about border security and the health of the unfragmented Altar Valley grasslands. The Alliance believes the FEIS does not sufficiently recognize the Project's adverse environmental impacts, does not fully evaluate alternative routes, does not prescribe sufficient construction, operation and ongoing maintenance and restoration conditions and requirements to prevent or adequately mitigate the Project's impacts, and fails to recognize the significance of the expected impacts. However, the Alliance feels that its resources are better spent pursuing positive conservation projects for the good of the Altar Valley watershed rather than protracted legal battles.

Further, this settlement agreement does not waive any of the Alliance's rights to subsequently publically challenge Sierrita with respect to any failure by Sierrita to abide by any of the applicable conditions and requirements set forth in permits and approvals for the Project; and the Alliance has executed the settlement agreement with the express understanding that its continued participation in discussions with permitting entities and other interested persons regarding measures to mitigate the impact of the Project will not be deemed to be a violation of the settlement agreement.

It is the sincere hope of the Alliance that this agreement contributes to setting a positive tone for monitoring the pipeline and mitigating impacts during and following construction.

The Alliance, founded in 1995, is a collaborative conservation organization of ranchers and other agriculturalists living and working in the Altar Valley. It strives to conserve healthy and productive working landscapes, to promote a thriving agricultural economy, and to sustain a resilient rural community enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley.

- Altar Valley Conservation Alliance: www.altarvalleyconservation.org
- Stakeholders in the Sierrita Lateral Project: www.altarvalleyaction.com/stakeholders

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