

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

November 27, 2017

To: All Natural Resources Committee Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Brandon Miller
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Mark-Up: **H.R. 2630 (Rep. Paul Gosar)**, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.
November 29 & 30, 2017; 1324 Longworth House Office Building

H.R. 2630 (Rep. Paul Gosar), “*La Paz County Land Conveyance Act*”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 2630, introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-04) directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 8,000 acres of Federal Land to La Paz County, Arizona for the construction of a solar field.

Cosponsors

Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ-05), Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ-08), Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-09)

Background

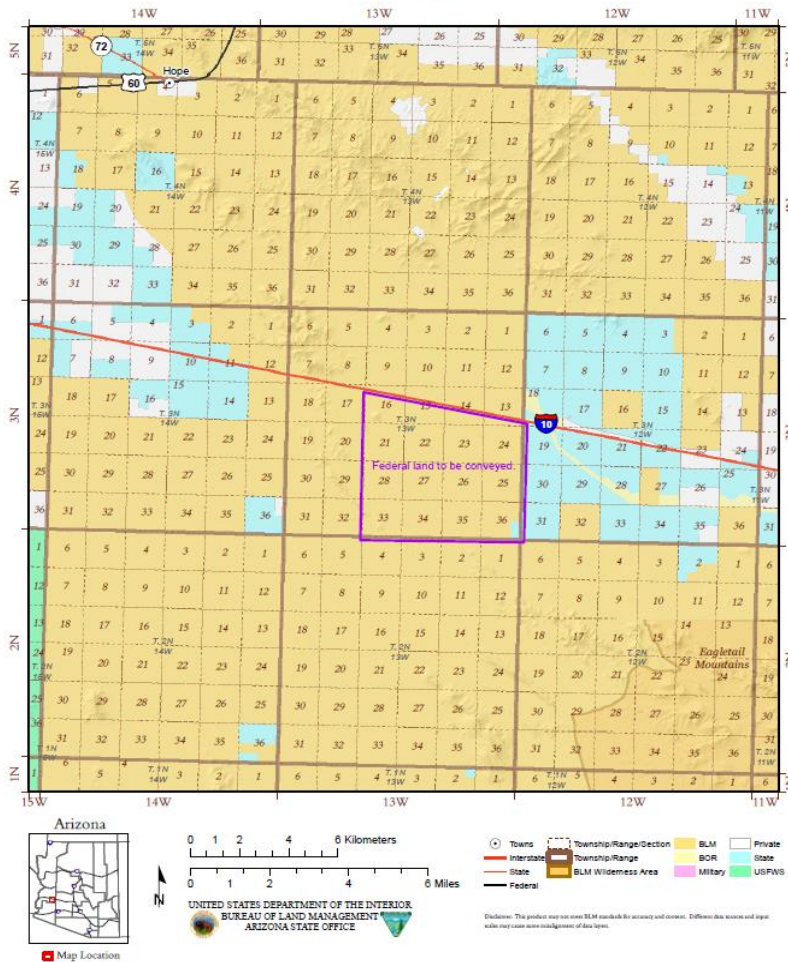
Nearly 95% of La Paz County, Arizona, is owned by Federal, State, or Tribal governments, with 61% of the Federal ownership controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.¹ Uniquely positioned between the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Southern California, the county seeks a land conveyance from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide ground for the construction of a solar field.

The county has already worked with the BLM to identify a site adjacent to preexisting and proposed electric, fiber optic, and natural gas transmission lines. Review of the proposed site by the BLM has not revealed any endangered species or historic resources in the area, and much of the proposed site already has a significant amount of surface disturbance.²

¹ Arizona Department of Transportation, “La Paz Transportation Planning Study Final Report,” Page 25, June 2010, https://apps.azdot.gov/ADOTLibrary/Multimodal_Planning_Division/Planning_Assistance_for_Rural_Areas_Studies/PARA-La_Paz_Transportation_Planning_Study-FR-1006.pdf

² Information provided to the Committee by Rep. Gosar’s office (AZ-04)

La Paz County Redraft of H.R. 6491-114th
 Map prepared at the request of Sen. Flake (R-AZ)
 May 17, 2017



Source: Bureau of Land Management; provided by Rep. Gosar's office (AZ-04)

La Paz County is 27% Latino, 18% Native American, and currently has an unemployment rate nearly 2% higher than the national average.³ Not only would this land conveyance help provide renewable energy to both the Southern California and Phoenix markets, but it would help bring a new, family-wage jobs to the county.

Cost

A CBO cost analysis has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

None.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, "La Paz County Statistics," U.S. Census Quickfacts, July 1, 2016, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/lapazcountyarizona/PST045216>