

GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY UTILITY AUTHORITY (GRICUA)



Tribal Renewable Energy
Business Development
& Financing Workshop

Tribal Utilities: A Path To
Energy Self Sufficiency

August 24, 2011

Topics

- ▶ Why Was GRICUA Formed?
- ▶ History
- ▶ GRICUA Plan of Operation
- ▶ Mission
- ▶ Reservation Electric Service Providers
- ▶ Reservation Electric Service Territories
- ▶ GRICUA Service Territory Growth
- ▶ SCIP – GRICUA 2006 Wheeling Agreement
- ▶ GRICUA Statistics – Then And Now
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Why Was GRICUA Formed?

- ▶ Gila River Indian Community (Community or GRIC) wanted to retain ownership of new infrastructure being installed in the Wild Horse Pass (WHP) area
- ▶ Community concerned about service reliability in the WHP area
- ▶ Self governance

History

- ▶ Late 1980's – early 1990's - unsuccessful attempt to establish GRICUA.
- ▶ 1998 Gila River Indian Community (Community or GRIC) Council Re-established GRICUA.
- ▶ 1999 GRIC Council Approved GRICUA Plan Of Operation.
- ▶ 1999 GRIC Council Appoints Initial GRICUA Board
- ▶ 1999 GRICUA Begins Providing Service To Customers In The Wild Horse Pass Area Of The GRIC Reservation
- ▶ 2006 GRICUA Council approved Wheeling Agreement With the San Carlos Irrigation Project (SCIP)
- ▶ 2008 GRIC Council approved a 638 contract for GRICUA to assume responsibility for maintaining & operating the SCIP electric system on the Gila River Indian Community Reservation (Reservation)

GRICUA Plan Of Operation

- ▶ Established GRICUA as a “...subordinate economic organization for public service purposes..”.
- ▶ GRICUA to “...promote the general welfare and economic development of the Community..”.
- ▶ GRICUA, “... is hereby authorized to waive....., any defense of sovereign immunity
- ▶ GRICUA, in time, “...shall provide utility services to all Community governmental offices, programs and enterprises and all other residential and commercial users on the Reservation.”
- ▶ 7 Member Board of Directors of which 4 must be Community Members
- ▶ Charged with managing, staffing, promoting, and providing electrical services.

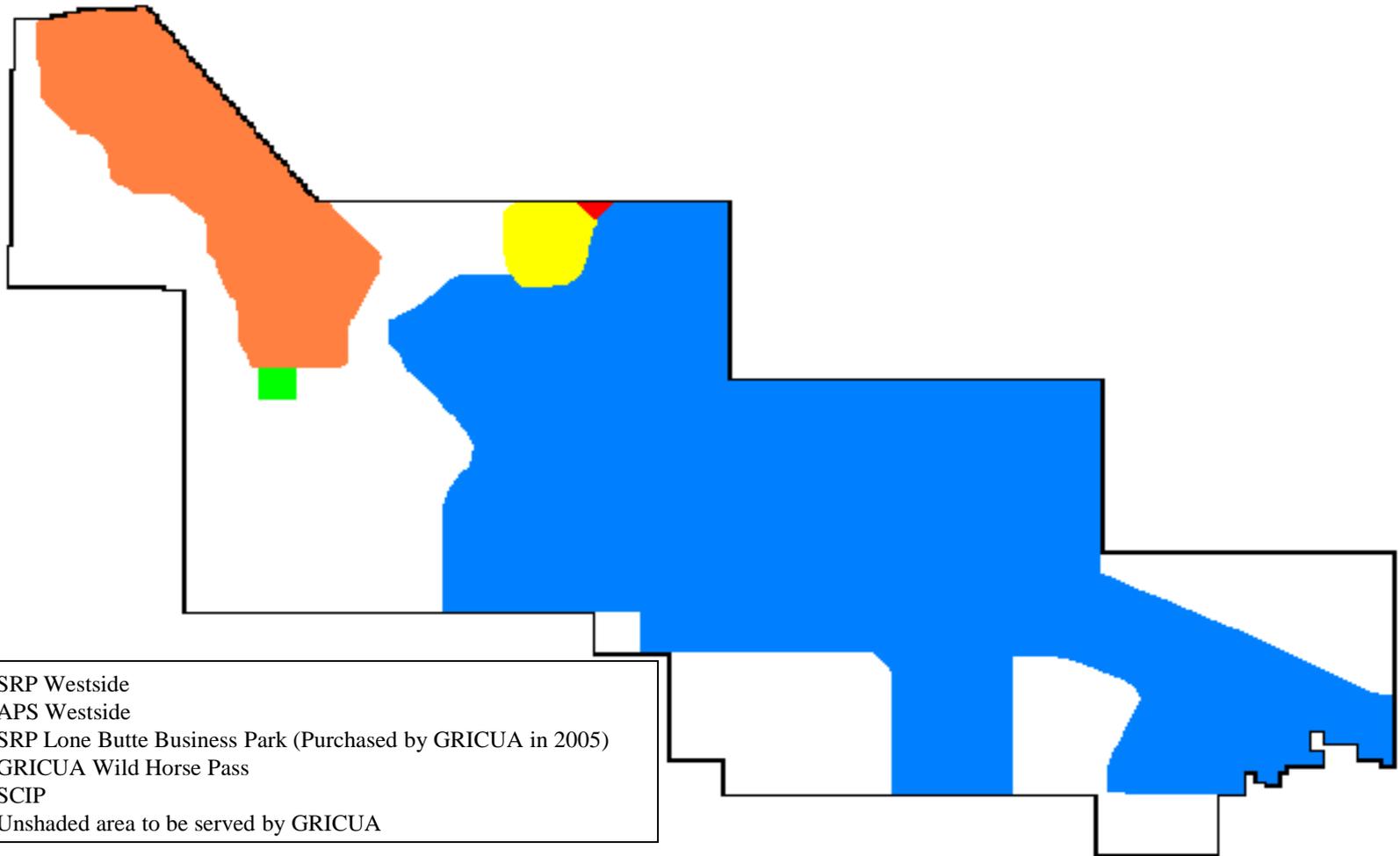
Mission

- ▶ GRICUA instructed to manage the electrical and energy needs of the Community.
- ▶ Provide reliable, competitively priced electrical service to all areas of, and contiguous to, the Gila River Indian Reservation.

Reservation Electric Service Providers

- ▶ GRIC has 4 electric service providers
 - SRP
 - SCIP
 - APS
 - GRICUA
- ▶ GRICUA and SCIP service areas currently overlap

Reservation Electric Service Territories In 2000



GRICUA Service Territory Growth

- ▶ Original service was the Wild Horse Pass area
- ▶ 2005 purchased the electric facilities servicing the Lone Butte Business Park from SRP
- ▶ 2006 entered into the SCIP Wheeling Agreement allowing GRICUA to serve customers within SCIP's service area

SCIP – GRICUA 2006 Wheeling Agreement

- ▶ GRICUA allowed to wheel over SCIP on-Reservation electric system to serve GRICUA customers
- ▶ All new customers in SCIP on-Reservation territory will be GRICUA customers
- ▶ All GRIC loads will be switched to GRICUA
- ▶ Any existing SCIP customer can request to transfer to GRICUA and must obtain approval from SCIP
- ▶ GRICUA required to provide hourly data for each customer served off of SCIP's on Reservation electric system

GRICUA Statistics Then And Now

Description	2000	2005	2011
Total Number of Employees	2	4	18
Number of Customers	12	20	1,700
Billing Done By	GRICUA Staff	Consultant	GRICUA Staff
Substations	0	1	1
Number of GRICUA Lineman	0	0	7
Peak Load	4 MW	6 MW	29 MW
GRICUA Owned Facilities O&M	SRP Contract	3 rd Party Contract	GRICUA Staff
SCIP Facilities O&M – 638 Contract			GRICUA Staff
Respond To Outages	SRP Contract	3 rd Party Contract	GRICUA Staff
GRICUA Provide Retail Service In SCIP Area	No	No	Yes
Purchase Power Contracts	1	2	3

GRICUA – SCIP 638 Agreement

- ▶ GRICUA performs O&M of SCIP on-Reservation electric system
- ▶ SCIP reimburses GRICUA
- ▶ GRICUA staff respond to all customer outages in SCIP area on-Reservation
- ▶ GRICUA can perform additional on-Reservation system improvements if approved by SCIP

What Would You Tell Other Tribes Looking To Form A Tribal Utility Authority

- ▶ Obtain long term commitment of tribal leaders
- ▶ Requires capital investment
- ▶ Local presence improves reliability and outage restoration
- ▶ Retain services of qualified individuals
- ▶ Operate as a business without political interference
- ▶ Create employment opportunities

Current Board

- ▶ John Lewis, Chairman
- ▶ Nada Celaya, Vice-Chairman
- ▶ Neil Banketewa – Treasurer
- ▶ Drake Lewis – Secretary
- ▶ Unfilled positions

Questions?



Contact Information

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