



PINAL COUNTY

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REQUEST FOR USDA COLONIA DESIGNATION

RANDOLPH, AZ

Prepared By
Michael Cruz, MBA
District 3 Administrator

Pinal County
820 E. Cottonwood Ln
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

December

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Colonia Designation Request

What is a "Colonia"?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development both define colonias as rural communities within the US-Mexico border region that lack adequate water, sewer, or decent housing, or a combination of all three. This designation is provided based upon a successful submission and approval of a designation proposal to the respective governing agency by the petitioning community or a designated representative.

Colonia Requirements

- a) The community must have been in existence prior to the ACT of 1990. We satisfy that requirement (1970 Ariel Image).
- b) The Community must be within 150 miles of the US-Mexico Border. We satisfy that requirement. (130 miles).
- c) The Community must lack adequate Water, Sewage Systems, Roads, Drainage, or Housing or a combination.

Randolph's Colonia Request

Randolph, AZ is a small rural community located in an unincorporated area of Pinal County (32°55'01"N 111°30'53"W). The northern boundary of Randolph is adjacent to the City of Coolidge and southern boundary being three miles north of Eloy, AZ.

Based on the Colonia requirements set for above, we are petitioning the Pinal County Board of Supervisors to officially recognize the Randolph community as a Colonia. Given the supporting documents and history, we can confirm the community has been in existence since 1925 and is located 130 miles from the U.S. Mexico border. In addition, the declining infrastructure which includes subpar roads, inadequate housing, drainage, and failing sewer systems, this community is an optimal choice for Colonia status.

Granting the Randolph community "Colonia" status will position the community and the county to seek federal funding via HUD and USDA Rural Development grants. As a result, it will provide the community priority and exclusive access to grant funding to use towards improving housing, infrastructure, and other critical needs to revitalize the community and provide the necessary financial assistance to help the residents of Randolph, AZ.

Randolph Community History

Randolph is a historically black populated rural community in Pinal County, Arizona. It is located adjacent to the the southern end of the City of Coolidge and the southern boundary being three miles north of Eloy, AZ. (32°55'01"N 111°30'53"W).

The community was named after Epes Randolph, a vice-president and general manager of the Southern Pacific Railroad, who founded the town in the early 1920's. Randolph quickly became a prominent destination for agricultural workers throughout the late 1920's and early 1930's because of the area's strong agriculture industry. With cotton being one of the greatest producing crops in the area, it attracted many Black migrant farm workers from Oklahoma because of the lucrative opportunity Randolph presented.

Through this economic boom, a mass migration of Black farm workers settled into Randolph, AZ making it a vibrant and predominantly Black community. The community thrived early on with its own Post Office and local businesses serving the community.

With the advancements in agricultural technologies in the 1950's to increase cotton picking and processing productivity, many of the farm workers in Randolph were displaced. This change in worker requirements started the initial decline in Randolph as many residents left to seek new employment opportunities. As a result, the community saw a large decline in population leading to the closure of the Post Office in 1989.

Since then, the few remaining residents of the community today reside in the same housing of their parents and grandparents. All of which is now dated, unsafe, and experiencing failing infrastructure including inadequate sewer and draining needs.

Randolph Housing



There is an estimated population of 200 residents comprised of 30 households currently living in the Randolph community on a full time year round basis. Housing consists of a mix of single family detached and manufactured housing.



Many of the homes in the community are old, unmaintained, and pose safety risks for occupancy. Housing in the area remains limited as opportunities to grow the community are obstructed by Blight on existing surrounding parcels and county building code guidelines.



The majority of the homes within the Randolph community do not have air conditioning systems or hot water. It is estimated that only 20% of the community residents have active trash/sanitization services due to the high subscription fees.



Overall, residents are living in squalid conditions as a result of years of neglect. Some residents are working towards HOME grant programming to secure safe and improved housing. However, larger scale housing solutions are needed to fully help the Randolph community.

Randolph Sewer Infrastructure

Within the Randolph community, there is no public sewer system. Septic systems are the only means to accommodate waste water. A majority of the homes in Randolph are connected to failing septic systems with several homes still utilizing Cesspools decades old. These septic units are outdated and have not been properly maintained over the years.



Due to the distance to the nearest public sewer systems, there are no immediate plans for public wastewater connection. Securing a sewage wastewater treatment facility will be the long term goal and solution for the community. It will take Pinal County and multiple partnerships with various agencies to accomplish this.



Drinking water is currently provided by Arizona Water, a private water utility company that services the area. The clean water infrastructure within the community is dated and in need of replacement. Arizona Water is working with Pinal County to discuss measures to replace and repair infrastructure moving forward.



Randolph Roads & Drainage

The Randolph community spans just over one square mile in size and consists of both paved and un-paved roads.

Today, the paved roads account for approximately 60% of the roads in the community. The roads are in poor to fair condition. They are in need of some form of pavement preservation. The un-paved portion of the roads are in need of grading with an end goal of paving the entire community.

Currently, there are no sidewalks, fire hydrants, or gutter systems in place for full flood mitigation and optimal drainage. Projects are in motion to assist with this, however, ongoing development of transportation infrastructure is necessary to ensure good roads and drainage are prevalent now and in the future.



Conclusion



The Randolph community boasts generations of family history rich in culture, diversity, and contributions to Pinal County. Randolph is in need of significant investment in infrastructure, housing, and policy to revitalize the area.

It is the community's intent to build Randolph to its former prominent years with the goal of prior residents moving back to the community once it is physically possible with infrastructure, housing, and policy improvements in place that allow for new housing development.

Granting Colonia status is the first step in providing the community the necessary resources to position them to secure government grant funding to pay for infrastructure, housing, and improvements. This proposal has been vetted by The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) for Colonia requirements compliance and has been given their organizational approval. For this reason, we strongly recommend the approval of Colonia status for the Randolph, AZ Community.

NAME OF	COLONIA: <u>Randolph, Arizona</u>	
Requirement	Level of Need (community must score at least 2 points to qualify as a Colonia. Higher points establish priority for funding.	Documentation examples
	<i>Check the box that most clearly describes the Colonias condition.</i>	<i>Attach the best documentation available.</i>
Identifiable community with defined boundaries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> identifiable community (threshold)	Map with location and streets clear. Number of housing units: <u>30</u>
Met qualifications to be a Colonia prior to 11/28/1990	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lacked potable water, adequate sewer and/or good quality housing prior to 11/28/1990	historical: photos, Board mtg minutes, studies, See Attachments
Located within 150 miles of border	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> boundaries are defined (threshold)	130 Miles from US Mexico Border
Resolution by Elected Officials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2022 resolution redesignating Colonia	
Lack of potable water	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonia has no public water system, and no permitted private wells. (5 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Colonia is partially covered with public water system and/or permitted private wells. (3 pts) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colonia is fully served with potable water, but system is aging/inadequate. (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Colonia is adequately served with potable water. (0)	Letter from Water Utility official describing service/ map of water infrastructure/ address list of permits. County Confirmed
Lack of adequate sewage systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colonia has no public sewers or septic tanks. (5 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Colonia is partially served by public sewers/septic tanks (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> Colonia is fully served by public sewers/septic tanks, but system is aging/inadequate. (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> Colonia is adequately served with sewage systems (0 pts)	Letter from public official responsible for Sewage system/septic tank permits/other public study or analysis/photos of cesspools. County Confirmed

Lack of decent, safe, and sanitary housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> >60% of housing in colonia is in need of substantial repair or suitable for replacement. (5 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> > 30% of housing is in need of substantial repair or suitable for replacement. (3 pts) <input type="checkbox"/> >15% of housing is in need of substantial repair or suitable for replacement. (1 pt) <input type="checkbox"/> <15% of housing is in need of substantial repair or suitable for replacement. (0) pts	Housing assessment/photos/ (guide for housing assessment methodology attached) <p style="text-align: center;">Photos Included</p>
	Certifying Official: 11 Points	Date: 12/5/2022

Name of Official **Michael Cruz**
Title of Official **District 3 Administrator**

Application Attachments

Pinal County Public Works Records - Randolph, AZ Ariel View 1969 PROOF OF 1990 DATE REQUIREMENT

Public Works Aerial Cover Sheet

For PW Staff Only: To Be Scanned OnBase Accessible

Year of Aerial: 1954 1957 1958 1960 1964 1965 1969 1970 1971
 1974 1987 1994 1995 1996

A-#: _____
(In reference of aerials done in 1964 only.)

Z-#: _____
(In reference of aerials done in 1987 and 1994 thru 1996 only.)

1-#: _____
(In reference of aerials done in 1965 only.)

Section: 2, 3, 10-15, _____

Township: 6S _____

Range: 8E _____

Index: 1964 1965 1987 1994 1995 1996
(If applicable.)

DHR: -3U-247
(DHR-XX-XXX)

Submitted By: Gina Salinas Ext: 6456

Date: _____
(Submitted to DPC)

File Scanned By: [Signature]

Scanned Date: 3/12/12

This section for DPC Staff

PW Cover Sheet 6-21-11

Application Attachments

Pinal County Public Works Records - Randolph, AZ Ariel View 1969 PROOF OF 1990 DATE REQUIREMENT



