

NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION

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February 6, 2004

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to address the potential environmental impacts of a proposed Federal action. The proposed Federal action is the execution of a long-term miscellaneous purposes contract with the Carlsbad Irrigation District (CID), New Mexico. The purpose of Reclamation's proposed Federal action is to allow the NMISC to use water allotted to land located in the CID owned by the NMISC or leased by the NMISC from other members of CID, or other Project water available for lease. The proposed Federal action would allow for release of water from facilities serving the Carlsbad Project for delivery to the New Mexico-Texas state line and Pecos River Compact compliance. Reclamation is the lead Federal agency and the NMISC serves as a joint lead agency for NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) compliance for the proposed action.

A meeting to obtain public input is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Best Western Stevens Inn, Room 4, 1829 S. Canal St., Carlsbad, NM. A brief presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by an informal discussion of issues and concerns. Your agency is encouraged to send written comments to:

Ms. Sara Rhoton
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-5102
fax: (505) 476-0399; e-mail: srhoton@ose.state.nm.us

The EIS will disclose the potential environmental effects of use of this water for miscellaneous purposes and identify options to mitigate for adverse impacts. During the EIS process, there will be opportunities to identify additional environmental, recreational, and social benefits that may be incorporated into the project. The Draft EIS is scheduled for release in December 2004 and a Final EIS in May 2005. Your agency will be provided an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Rhoton".

Sara L. Rhoton, P.E.

NMISC Pecos NEPA Manager

Interested Agencies:

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Mr. John Shomaker
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