

**EXHIBIT C.**

**RECORD OF DECISION**

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ALAMO LAKE  
LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES, ARIZONA

I have reviewed the Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (FR/EIS) for Alamo Lake, Arizona, dated April 1999 addressing the need for modification of the existing Alamo Lake project, Bill Williams River, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona. Based on this review and the views of interested agencies and the concerned public, I find the modified operation plan recommended in the feasibility report to be technically sound, economically justified, in accordance with environmental statutes and in the public interest. Thus, I approve the recommended operation plan, known as the 1,125-foot plan, for implementation. The operation plan was authorized by Section 301(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The purpose of the operation plan is to provide fish and wildlife benefits both upstream and downstream of Alamo Dam. This operation plan, which is also the national economic development plan, consists of the following:

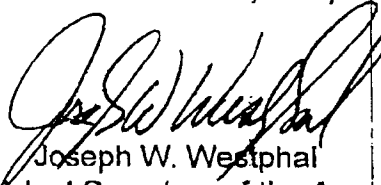
- Managing Alamo Lake for a target surface elevation of 1,125 feet.
- Providing a base flow downstream of 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) from November to January and 40 – 50 cfs the remainder of the year.
- When lake levels exceed 1,125 feet, making releases that mimic pre-dam flood events with short duration high flows followed by long recessions.
- When lake levels are below 1,125 feet, making releases adequate to satisfy downstream water rights and support riparian habitat.
- Approximately every 5 years, drawing down the pool slowly, beginning in June, to 1,100 feet for inspection and maintenance of the outlet tunnel in October/November.

In addition to the no action alternative, thirteen operational scenarios were screened down to a final array of three alternatives. The final three alternatives focused on target lake water surface elevations of 1,125 feet, 1,100 feet (the existing operation and no action plan), and 1,070 feet. Each alternative was evaluated on its impact on the authorized flood control, recreation and water conservation project purposes and on fisheries and wildlife resources. These alternatives are fully discussed in the FR/EIS. Of the alternative plans considered, the 1,125-foot plan was selected because it provides the highest level of downstream riparian habitat restoration and the highest net economic development benefit while preserving the existing flood control storage, recreation resources, and wildlife habitat upstream from the dam.

The selected plan is the environmentally preferred alternative. All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the selected plan. There will be no significant adverse effects on environmental resources resulting from implementing the modified operating plan; consequently, no environmental mitigation is required.

The recommended operation plan is in compliance with applicable environmental requirements. Recommendations made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Arizona Game and Fish Department have been incorporated into the plan. Consultation under the Endangered Species Act for the bald eagle and the southwestern willow flycatcher has been completed. The USFWS has rendered a not likely to jeopardize opinion with incidental take statements, reasonable and prudent measures, and terms and conditions for both species. Water quality impacts have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and are not adverse. The Arizona Department of Water Quality has notified the Corps of Engineers that formal certification for the project is not required. Coordination with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1977, as amended has been accomplished. Based on this coordination and a survey performed by the Corps of Engineers, it has been determined that the Alamo Lake project will not have an effect on any properties that are eligible for, or are included in the National Register of Historic Places. The recommended plan is in compliance with the Clean Air Act because emissions of criteria pollutants attributable to the plan are anticipated to be minimal. Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice, has been complied with since no minority or low-income communities are adversely affected by the recommended operation plan.

Technical and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's Principles and Guidelines. All applicable laws, regulations, Executive Orders, guidelines and local governmental plans were considered in evaluating the alternatives. Based on review of these evaluations, I find that the ecosystem restoration benefits gained by modifying the operation of Alamo Dam far outweigh any adverse effect. This Record of Decision completes the National Environmental Policy Act process.

  
Joseph W. Westphal  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)

12 MAY 2000

Date