EXHIBIT C

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CARBON CANYON DAM WATER CONTROL MANUAL

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Carbon Canyon Dam Water Control Manual Project, Orange County, California. The current Water Control Manual (WCM) was revised in 1989 to allow for increasing flood elevation levels within the basin due to urbanization. The gate operation will still allow for 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) to pass through the outlet works based on an authorized release schedule, while not exceeding the capacity of the downstream channel.

No major physical or regulation constraints exist at the project. Notable changes, however, have taken place or been made in the past, mainly regarding sedimentation and clogging of gates from debris. Revisions to the reservoir regulation schedule have been made to alleviate sedimentation problems in the vicinity of the gates and trash rack. Originally both gates remained closed during normal standby operations. This prevented the occurrence of small stagnant pools at the outlets, as well as reducing sediment build up and gate corrosion, and provided for an easier silt cleaning operation at the intake channel. Gate openings were alternated.

During falling stages, the original schedule called for a progressive gate closing from elevation 425 feet to the gate sill elevation of 403 feet. The schedule was revised to keep both gates set at 0.9 feet during falling stages below elevation 425 feet so that the reservoir could be drained more rapidly.

I have considered possible impacts of implementation of the revised WCM on the environment, including those, associated with significant resources as discussed in the Environmental Assessment. No significant adverse impact to vegetation or wildlife at Carbon Canyon Dam will occur. Riparian and other habitats have been subjected to inundation under the previous operations schedule. These habitats will be susceptible to inundation of slightly greater depth and duration under the revised WCM. Under the proposed revisions, water surface elevation levels for a short period of time will generally be 0.4 to 3.9 feet greater than under existing conditions. For any

given flood event this increased inundation will affect less than two additional acres of habitat in the basin; therefore, no significant adverse impacts will be associated with the revised schedule.

Implementation of the revised WCM will not affect the continued existence of any endangered or threatened wildlife or plant species.

The historic trash dump located within the debris pool has been previously subjected to temporary inundation and has not been affected. This situation only occurs in periods of extreme flooding conditions. Impacts to the trash dump are not expected to occur.

I have considered the available information contained in the EA, and it is my determination that the proposed project will not result in a significant effect on the existing environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

3 Dec 90
DATE

CHARLES S . THOMAS
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer