



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Lower Colorado Regional Office

P.O. Box 61470

Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-2012

ENV-7.00

**JAN 13 2006**

### MEMORANDUM

To: Robert W. Johnson  
Regional Director

From: William J. Liebhauser, Acting Director  
Resources Management Office

Subject: Reevaluation of the 1994 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/EIR) and the 1999 Reexamination and Reanalysis Document (RRD) for the All-American Canal Lining Project (Project)

The Resources Management Office of the Lower Colorado Regional Office has prepared the attached Supplemental Information Report (SIR) for the FEIS/EIR and RRD identified above. A SIR is an administrative review document that Federal agencies use to assess whether the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation remains adequate for the particular proposed action in question. Federal courts have approved agency use of a SIR to determine whether an agency's NEPA documentation requires supplementation in situations similar to those presented by the subject Project.

This SIR will be utilized in support of the review of various Project plans, agreements, environmental commitments and the 1994 Record of Decision (ROD). The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations as set forth in "The 40 Most Asked Questions" concerning NEPA requires a careful reexamination and analysis of any Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is more than 5 years old (Question 32) to determine if the criteria at 40 CFR § 1502.9(c) compel preparation of an EIS supplement. The regulations state:

*Agencies shall prepare supplements to either draft or final EIS's if:*

- 1 The agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or*
- 2 There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.*

The description of the alternatives in the FEIS/EIR was at a level of detail appropriate for analysis of the environmental impacts. There are no changes in the range of alternatives that have relevance to environmental concerns, nor are any substantial changes in the range of alternatives expected to occur prior to the completion of the Project. As the final designs were

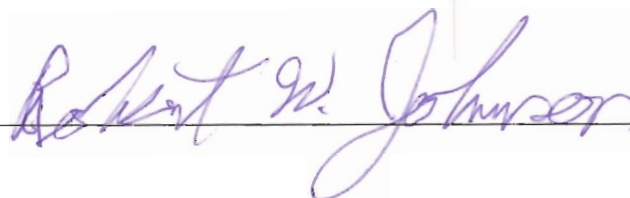
developed for the preferred alternative, the parallel lined canal, additional engineering detail was developed to accommodate local conditions and this information has been submitted to Reclamation by the Imperial Irrigation District (see proof set of drawings and specifications). The design changes have reduced disturbance to habitat and related plant and animal species while also reducing excavation costs. No new or significantly different environmental impacts will result from the design refinements. Therefore, such refinements do not constitute substantial changes in the Project that are relevant to environmental concerns.

The SIR has reviewed all issue areas in the FEIS/EIR and RRD for new information and its potential to disclose significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns or impacts of the proposed action. Overall, Reclamation has concluded that while new information is available for the issue areas, there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Project or its impacts since completion of the FEIS/EIR and RRD.

Reclamation has taken a hard look at the proposed action, the issue areas and the respective environmental effects of the Project in the SIR and has determined that while there may be new information for the Project, this new information does not disclose significant new impacts or a seriously different picture of the likely environmental consequences of the Project that were not already considered in the FEIS/EIR and RRD. Based upon our review and analysis of this information it is our conclusion an EIS supplement is not required for the All-American Canal Lining Project. This finding does not alter the decision in the ROD to implement the construction of the Parallel Canal Alternative, with all associated mitigation measures.

For additional information, please contact Mr. James Green, Reclamation's Regional Environmental Officer at 702-293-8519.

I concur with the above finding \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert W. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Attachment