



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

September 28, 2009

Ed Virden
Assistant Area Manager
Bureau of Reclamation
Yuma Area Office
7301 Calle Agua Salada
Yuma, AZ 85364

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run

Dear Mr. Virden:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP) as designed at a sufficient flow and appropriate duration to gather benchmark performance and cost data which can only be obtained through actual plant operations; determine whether any additional corrective actions to plant design or equipment would be necessary for long-term operation of the plant; and test changes and corrections (such as the fully-automated distributed control system) which have already been implemented at the YDP as part of maintaining its ready reserve status. The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is charged through various treaties and international agreements with evaluating the relationship of projects to international obligations of the United States. Please coordinate with the USIBWC during the planning stages for proposed work being conducted in Mexico. This includes, but is not limited to, sampling, surveys, collecting or obtaining natural resource materials.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed plan for the YSP Pilot Run. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call me at (915) 832-4740.

Sincerely,

Carlos Peña, Jr., P.E.
Division Engineer
Environmental Management Division