



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
302 East 1860 South
Provo, Utah 84606-7317

IN REPLY REFER TO:

PRO-770
ENV-6.00

To: Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, Proposed Colorado River Salinity Control Program Tropic Ditch Replacement Project

The Tropic and East Fork Irrigation Company plans to undertake construction activities on the Tropic Ditch in Garfield County, Utah. The Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office (Reclamation), has proposed funding the project under the Colorado River Salinity Control Program (CRSCP). The proposed project entails replacing approximately 5.5 miles of the existing open ditch with approximately 4 miles of pipe. The purpose of the project is to reduce seepage which in turn causes high amounts of salt to enter the Paria River and ultimately the Colorado River.

Reclamation previously prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the replacement of the Tropic Ditch as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior regulations implementing NEPA. The National Park Service, Bryce Canyon National Park is a cooperating agency on this EA. The EA analyzes the potential impacts of the proposed action to pipe the Tropic Ditch. Comments received on the draft EA were fully and carefully considered in preparing the final EA.

This letter is to inform you of the completion of the final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In addition, the National Park Service, Bryce Canyon National Park, has issued a separate FONSI based on Reclamation's EA. These documents are being made available to all persons, organizations and agencies which might have interest in the proposed action. The final EA and FONSI may be accessed in the following ways:

- An electronic copy can be found on the Reclamation website at <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/index.html>.
- A copy of the EA and FONSI is available for review at the Town of Tropic Offices, 40 North 300 West, Tropic, UT 84776, and at the Panguitch Public Library, 25 South 200 East, Panguitch, UT 84759.
- A hard copy of the EA and FONSI may be requested from Reclamation by contacting Mr. Rafael Lopez, PRO-776, Bureau of Reclamation, Provo Area Office, 302 East 1860 South, Provo, Utah 84606-7317, telephone 801-379-1185, email rlopez@uc.usbr.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rafael Lopez using the information provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce C. Barrett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" being the most prominent.

Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager