

ATTACHMENT E

Attachment E

Letters from
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regarding Special Status Species

The letter of February 25, 1991, deals primarily with the federally endangered Yuma clapper rail and wetlands habitat along the All-American Canal.

The letter of November 17, 1993, deals with special status species of reptiles, plants, and an insect, which occupy sandy desert terrain along the All-American Canal.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIELD STATION

Ventura Office
2140 Eastman Avenue, Suite 100
Ventura, California 93003

GENERAL FILE COPY
DATE FILED MAR 4 1991
February 25, 1991

Memorandum

To: Acting Regional Planning and Loan Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, Nevada

From: ^{ACTING} Office Supervisor *[Signature]*

Subject: Endangered Species Consultation, All American Canal Lining Project, Imperial County, California (LC-711, RES-3.40) (1-6-90-I-197)

This memorandum is in reference to the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) formal consultation requirements, as mandated by Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, for the All American Canal lining project. Reclamation requested consultation on the referenced project on September 12, 1989. At issue were the impacts that the lining of the All American Canal and subsequent drying of the adjacent freshwater marsh would have on the federally endangered Yuma clapper rail (Rallus longirostris yumanensis). On April 5, 1990, Reclamation's Denver Office identified a preferred alternative for this project which would avoid the adverse impact to the rails. Subsequently, on October 16, 1990, Reclamation altered the preferred alternative from in-place lining to parallel lining. Because the anticipated adverse impacts to a listed species are to be avoided by this alternative, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) believes that the completion of the formal consultation is unnecessary.

The currently proposed alternative, a parallel Canal from Pilot Knob to Drop 3, could possibly result in some lowering of the water table in the vicinity of the area inhabited by the Yuma clapper rails. Monitoring of these levels within the wetland seep, to be conducted as a part of the proposed action, is intended to detect any lowering of the water table. Should it be deemed necessary, Section 7 consultation should be initiated and the necessary remedial actions undertaken at that time.

Acting Regional Planning and Loan Officer

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Reclamation should be aware that the Service will prepare a listing proposal for the flat-tailed horned lizard (Phrynosoma mcallii) this fiscal year. If the flat-tailed horned lizard is listed prior to the completion of the project, formal consultation will be required to address potential impacts that may occur to this species.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ray Bransfield of my staff at FTS 983-6040.



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

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	Ventura, California 93003
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	November 17, 1993

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, Nevada

From: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services - Ventura Field Office, Ventura, California

Subject: Endangered Species Consultation, All-American Canal Lining Project, Imperial County, California

This memorandum is concerning the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) formal consultation requirements, as mandated by section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended (Act), for the All-American Canal Lining Project, Imperial County, California. At issue are the impacts of the preferred alternative, a lined parallel canal from Pilot Knob to Drop 3, to the flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), a Candidate 1 species, and to the Colorado Desert fringed-toed lizard (*Uma notata notata*), Andrew's scarab beetle (*Pseudocotalpa andrewsi*), silver-leaved dune sunflower (*Helianthus niveus* var. *tephrodes*), and sand food (*Pholisma sonorae*), all Candidate 2 species. All of these species may become federally listed species before completion of the project, and Peirson's milkvetch (*Astragalus magdalenae* var. *peirsonii*) is currently proposed for Federal listing as an endangered species. If any of these species becomes listed before completion of the project, formal consultation will be required.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has been actively involved in this project through a Biological Work Group and has prepared several documents analyzing the resources and the project including a recent update of the Coordination Act Report. The Service will continue to work with Reclamation to ensure that mitigation measures for these species would meet the mitigation criteria that would be required if they were listed.

If any of these species become listed before project completion, these mitigation measures would be incorporated into a biological

opinion provided by the Service to Reclamation, pursuant section 7 of the Act. However, Reclamation would be required to reopen discussion of the mitigation measures or reinitiate formal consultation if the amount or extent of anticipated incidental take is reached, if new information reveals effects of the lining that may adversely affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not already considered, if the agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to a listed species or critical habitat that was not already considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by this action. These stipulations are contained in the implementing regulations for section 7 (50 CFR 402.16) and are standard provisions in all biological opinions issued by the Service.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Cathy McCalvin of my staff at (805) 644-1766.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Craig Saunders". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.