

**Attachment H**

**Correspondence with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Field Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



Ref: FP/BOR-019

SEP 19 2000

### Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Yuma Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Yuma, Arizona

From: Deputy Field Supervisor *Andrew R. Green*

Subject: Request for a Supplemental/Revised Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the 1993 Coachella Canal Lining Project

This responds to your September 1, 2000, memorandum regarding subject. We understand that the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) is reinitiating an effort to complete the necessary environmental compliance for lining the remaining portions of the Coachella Canal.

In your memorandum, we were requested to 1) review the proposed Coachella Canal Lining Project description along with the proposed alternatives, 2) review the 1993 Coachella Canal Lining Project Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report, and 3) if required, supplement or revise the 1993 Coachella Canal Lining Project Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. We have reviewed the project description and the 1993 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.

Based on the information provided, the project description appears to be the same as the one that we based the 1993 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report upon. We feel that the 1993 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is adequate to meet the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Therefore, we do not see the need to supplement nor revise the 1993 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. However, if the proposed project changes significantly, a supplemental or revised Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report may be required. Please keep us informed of any project changes as this project moves forward through the planning process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Hanlon, Chief, Branch of Federal Projects, at (760) 431-9440 or [john\\_hanlon@fws.gov](mailto:john_hanlon@fws.gov).



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Yuma Area Office  
P.O. Box D  
Yuma, Arizona 85366

IN REPLY REFER TO:

YAO-2200  
ENV-7.00

JUL 10 2000

### MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Ken Berg, Field Supervisor, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad CA 92008

From: Michael E. Vandavelde  
Chief, Technical Services Division

Subject: Species List to Update and Revise the 1993 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and to Prepare the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Lining of the Coachella Canal, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California

Per 50 CFR Section 402.12(c), this is a request for a list of any listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the action area. Based on our previous discussions and pending a determination of effects, if any, the action area for the proposed canal lining project encompass 33.4 miles of unlined canal (between siphons 7 and 14 and siphons 15 and 32). Between siphons 14 and 15, the canal was lined experimentally in 1991. The length of unlined canal does not include the lengths of the pipe siphons (wash crossings and rail road crossings), which are not proposed for replacement. A location map is enclosed for your information.

On November 17, 1988, Public Law 100-675 authorized the Secretary of the Interior to line the Coachella Canal or to recover seepage from the canal using construction funds from California water agencies entitled to the use of Colorado River water. A DEIS was prepared for this project after public scoping meetings were held in 1988, 1989 and 1992 to identify issues, develop alternatives and provide information to the public on the project plan. In addition, Reclamation chaired various interagency work groups to evaluate project effects, develop alternatives and identify mitigation measures. Based upon this public/agency input, four alternatives were developed for this project which included: 1)

conventional lining; 2) underwater lining, 3) construction of a parallel canal; and 4) the no action alternative. The DEIS for the project was completed and circulated to other Government agencies, interested parties, and the public for review and comment from January 11, 1994, to March 15, 1994. However, following the public involvement process, the DEIS was not updated to produce a final environmental impact statement because funding was not available for the project at that time.

Based upon our previous consultation (1988 through 1994) for this project and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination Act report for the DEIS, the effects of the proposed actions on the following species and critical habitat will be updated and revised, if necessary:

- Federally listed endangered Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostrus yumanensis*) and the desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*)
- Federally listed threatened: Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)

Your concurrence or modification of this list is requested.

If you have questions regarding this request and the action elements, please contact Mr. Don Young at 520-343-8159.

**MIKE E. VANDEVELDE**

Enclosure  
Location map

cc: Mr. Mike Spear  
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