



YUMA COUNTY WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION

MAILING ADDRESS:	SHIPPING ADDRESS:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 5775	3800 WEST COUNTY 15TH STREET	OFFICE@YCWUA.ORG
YUMA, ARIZONA 85366-6775	SOMERTON, ARIZONA 85350	
OFFICE: (928) 627-8624	FAX: (928) 627-3085	

October 10, 2003

Mr. Jim Cherry, Area Manager
 Yuma Area Office, US Bureau of Reclamation
 7301 Calle Agua Salada
 Yuma, Arizona 85364

5- Mile Zone, D-8580
 US Bureau of Reclamation
 P. O. Box 25007
 Denver, Colorado 8025-0007

Dear Mr. Cherry and Denver Staff:

Subject: Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA) for the 5-Mile Zone Study Area (Protective and Regulatory Pumping Unit)

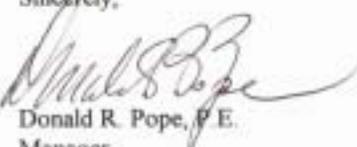
Responding to your memorandum of August 25, 2003 which forwarded the subject draft, the following comments are provided for your consideration.

The City of San Luis, Arizona is a rapidly developing community, one of the most urbanizing areas in the entire United States, certainly on a percentage basis. Such should be considered when assessing alternatives in the management plan.

When undue restrictions are placed on the City in regards to expansion and development to the east, then the only valid alternative for development is in the Yuma Valley. As you know the Yuma Colorado River Valley, with some of the best prime farm land in the country, is one of our states and nations most productive agriculture areas. Taking significant farm land out of production for houses and commercial development has an extremely harmful affect on the economic viability of the entire Yuma community. Such also has the adverse affect on the already high unemployment rate in Yuma County with the reduction in agricultural related jobs, and to the individual farm laborer who is largely minority who loses his or her job.

Accordingly, the loss of valuable prime farm land and productivity and the accompanying loss of jobs, should be given greater consideration in your analyses of alternatives. Specifically, it is recommended that your chosen alternative be revised and the map altered to indicate at least partial community development (with some amount of appropriate open space) for the western portion of the zone, preferably from the western boundary of the study area to the area indicated as Non-Reclamation Land, or easterly to Avenue F.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

 Donald R. Pope, P.E.
 Manager