

5-Mile Zone Protective and
Regulatory Pumping Unit RMP/EA

Yuma Natural Resource Conservation District

2197 S. 4th Avenue, Suite 104 - Yuma, AZ 85364-6433 - (928) 782-0860, Ext. 115

October 8, 2003

Attn: D 8580/S.Black
Bureau of Reclamation
PO Box 25007
Denver CO 80225-9907

To Whom It May Concern:

A copy of our letter and comments sent in June 2002 regarding Alternatives (presented by USBR) for the 5/Mile Zone RMP/EA is enclosed.

These comments are in respect to the "5-Mile Zone Study Area Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment" dated August 2003. Our comments pertain primarily to the information presented in 'Attachment G', "Summary of Elements in Proposed RMP".

Comment 1: Under "LAND USE", Comprehensive land use strategy is stated: "... to provide for limited recreation, community, and commercial development and natural resource conservation and protection."

Subsequently, under "Land use authorizations (licenses, leases, permits)", it states, "Issue land use authorizations in the Yuma Desert Management Area only for public health, safety, and security purposes." We believe this is inconsistent with the afore stated Strategy. Further, under "authorizations, etc., it states: "Adhere to the mitigation requirements of the 1997 Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy." We believe this should be expanded to allow flexibility by adding, substantially: "only if applicable on site specific needs at the time." Status of the listing on the FTHL is in limbo. Should this NOT be listed, this restriction/regulation would be moot.

Comment 2: Under "PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES", after "Other" it states: "Agree to define the roles and responsibilities of entities that will construct, operate and maintain water stations for illegal immigrants and others." We submit that "illegal" would negate the

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concept. We further question what "others" would be using/needng these stations.

Comment 3: Under D"NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT", extreme emphasis is placed on welfare of the flat-tailed horned lizard and its habitat. As shown before, this questioned listing makes the issue moot. Additionally, uncontrollable predation by coyotes and raptors has virtually eliminated the lizards.

Comment 4: Under "RECREATION MANAGEMENT", OHV use and plan projects denial of any recreational pursuits to all but existing roads. This is gross overkill.

Comment 5: Under "HEALTH AND SAFETY," "Water stations for illegal immigrants and others" was addressed in Comment 2 above and is re-emphasized emphatically. Delete all reference to this issue in the RMP.

We feel there is too much public land in Yuma County and too much restriction on too much public land. Maximum use of the area should be allowed according to treatment needs for sustainable enhancement and conservation of the resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Yours Truly,

Mark Kuechel
Chairman,
Yuma Natural Resource
Conservation District

CC Sen. John Mc. Cain, Sen. Jon Kyle, Rep Raul Grijalva



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