



September 25, 2009

Mr. Sean Torpey  
Yuma Area Office  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
7301 Calle Agua Salada  
Yuma, AZ 85364

*via email: storpey@usbr.gov*

Dear Mr. Torpey:

We write in response to Reclamation's publication of a draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment for the Pilot Operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant. We are pleased to see the commitment of the new administration to protecting the environment in the Colorado River Delta as evidenced by the binational agreement to replace water flowing to the Cienega de Santa Clara that will be lost due to the pilot operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant. We are hopeful this represents the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the United States and Mexico that results in additional habitat restoration in the Colorado River Delta.

Our concerns about the Environmental Assessment, as expressed in our comments on the Draft EA, remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pitt  
Senior Resource Analyst  
Environmental Defense Fund

Osvel Hinojosa  
Director of Wetlands Conservation  
ProNatura Noroeste