



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

February 18, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Albuquerque District
Ms. Julie Alcon
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3435

Ms. Alcon,

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the combined Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) and General Reevaluation Report for the Rio Grande Floodway prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The project proposes to provide higher levels of flood risk management to floodplain communities along the Rio Grande from the San Acacia Diversion Dam downstream to Elephant Butte Lake, New Mexico.

EPA provided comments for the Draft EIS in a letter dated August 5, 2013. EPA rated the DEIS as "EC-2" i.e., EPA has "Environmental Concerns and Requests Additional Information. In regards to the FSEIS, we offer the following comments about the levee setback at river mile 108. The USACE response to EPA comments stated that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determined this alternative as inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the recreation area according to the Socorro Resource Management Plan. The USACE response indicated consultation documents between USACE and BLM should be in Appendix G of the FEIS. This correspondence is missing from the Appendix. Provide the USACE correspondence with BLM in the Record of Decision (ROD).

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the Final EIS. Please send a copy of the ROD to my attention. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at 214-665-8006, or Keith Hayden of my staff at hayden.keith@epa.gov or 214-665-2133 for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Rhonda".

A handwritten signature in red ink that appears to be "Keith Hayden".

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination