UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

May 1, 2008

David Daniels
Bureau of Land Management/Yuma Field Office
2555 East Gila Ridge Road
Yuma, AZ 85365

Subject: Yuma Field Office (YFO) Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), California and Arizona [CEQ #20080102]

Dear Mr. Daniels:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above referenced document. Our review and comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

EPA reviewed the Draft RMP/EIS and provided comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on March 15, 2007. We rated the Draft RMP/EIS as Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2) due to concerns regarding off-highway vehicles (OHV) and the Travel Management Network.

We are pleased that the BLM has incorporated our recommendations. The PRMP/FEIS has been updated to include much useful information regarding OHV Management Areas and the YFO Travel Management Network. In conjunction with our recommendations, BLM decided not to designate any new Open OHV Management Areas and will also close an additional 4,000 acres to OHV usage. We would encourage the BLM to implement general mitigation measures to reduce OHV impacts. We commend the BLM for their work on this project and their efforts to protect valuable resources in the fragile desert ecosystem.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this PRMP/FEIS and request a copy of the Record of Decision when it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 972-3846, or have your staff contact Ann McPherson at (415) 972-3545 or mcpherson.ann@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office