



# United States Department of the Interior

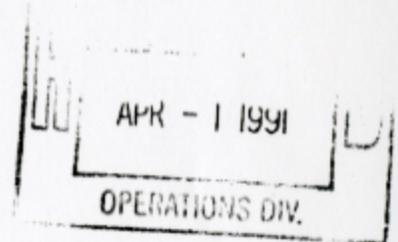
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE  
3707 N. 7TH STREET  
P.O. BOX 16563  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85011



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
7250 (932)

March 29, 1991

Mr. Joe B. Stuart  
Manager, Surface Water Rights Division  
Arizona Department of Water Resources  
15 South 15th Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007



Dear Mr. Stuart:

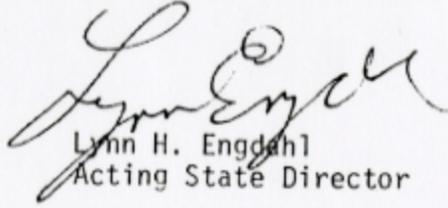
Enclosed is the Bureau of Land Management's instream flow application for periodic flood flows on the San Pedro River. This portion of the instream flow was separated from our amendment to application 33-90103 submitted to your office on December 4, 1990. Following our meeting with Herb Dishlip in October, our staff has considered several methods of quantifying and administering the flood flow component of instream flow. We believe the enclosed application is justifiable and "administrable."

Mr. Dishlip raised the question of how a hypothetical impoundment would be managed to allow a permitted flood flow. We agreed that the specific peak flow in cubic feet per second would be the most realistic approach, and that is the basis of our application; the amount that appears necessary to inundate the floodplain adjacent to the channel. Our data indicates that the necessary amount is provided by the ten-year flood, or about 18,200 cubic feet per second. We are applying for a 24-hour flow that would include that peak and would total 11,300 acre-feet. If an impoundment or diversion was ever placed in a position on the watershed that could obstruct the permitted flood flow, impoundment of runoff would be allowed only after the 18,200 cubic feet per second peak and the 11,300 acre-foot volume had been recorded at the Charleston gaging station. Impoundment during a given event could also occur as soon as gages indicated that peak flow was not going to exceed 18,200 cubic feet per second (i.e. impoundment could begin on the falling limb of a hydrograph with a peak less than 18,200 cubic feet per second).

Flood control and water storage could still occur within this regime, but regular peak flows up to and including the 10-year return period would also be preserved in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this application. Since it varies from previous instream flow applications, you, Tom Perry or others in the Water Management Office may have some questions and recommendations. If so, please contact Jim Renthal at (602) 640-5512, who will work with you to advance this application to permit.

Sincerely,



Lynn H. Engdahl  
Acting State Director

Enclosures