DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

APR 20 1983

April 19, 1983

Lt. Colonel Julian E. Pylant
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army
P. O. Box 1580
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Colonel Pylant:

By Public Notice dated February 18, 1983, you informed this office of an application under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344) for Department of the Army Permit No. NM-OYT-0330. The applicant, Bureau of Reclamation, is requesting a permit to perform operations and maintenance of the Rio Grande Channel for approximately 300 miles from Velarde, Rio Arriba County, through the counties of Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Valencia, Bernalillo, and Socorro, to Caballo Dam, Sierra County, New Mexico.

The revised Department of Interior Manual Instructions (503 DM 1), dated August 3, 1973, assigns responsibility for the Department of Interior's coordination and review of Department of Army permit applications to the U.S. Fish and Wildlie Service. In accordance with these instructions, we submit the following Departmental comments on Permit No. NM-OYT-0330.

This report was prepared under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). This report has been coordinated with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and represents a joint position on this application.

The proposed work includes placement of dredged and fill materials below the ordinary high water mark during pilot channeling, sandbar and island removal, bank stabilization activities, and the removal of snags and debris from the river and vegetation from within the established floodway. The proposed work is designed to meet the Bureau of Reclamation's responsibilities under Public Laws 80-858 and 81-516 which charge the Bureau to operate and maintain the Middle Rio Grande Project.

CE
L7421 TX