



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS TEXAS 75202-2733

March 18, 1998

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

This Statement of Findings (SOF) finalizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) environmental assessment (EA) process conducted in accordance with the procedures at 40 CFR Part 6, for the proposed awarding of Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant funds to the city of El Paso, Texas. The grant is needed to off-set some of the costs to area residents from the proposed expansion of the Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plant (Rogers Plant). The 20 million gallons per day (MGD) expansion is needed to meet the projected water supply needs for the El Paso County area and to reduce the use of the dwindling ground water resources of the area. A major portion of the expanded capacity will be used to serve the "colonia" residents in the county. The expansion will be constructed within the water resources complex that includes the 40-MGD Rogers Plant, lagoons, raw water basins, and the 40-MGD R.R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposal includes approximately six miles of large diameter water transmission line for delivery of water from the expanded plant to the reservoir that serves the distribution system.

On the basis of the EA, EPA made a preliminary finding that approval of the grant funds would not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not warranted. The preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was issued for public notice on January 17, 1998, and the 30-day comment period expired on February 17, 1998.

No comments were received to alter the finding, although the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) noted that the large diameter transmission line connecting the 48-inch transmission line on Americas Avenue with the cross-town feeder line to the northwest would not be in position to serve the numerous colonias located southeast of the Americas Avenue. However, the proposed system includes the necessary distribution infrastructure to deliver water to residents in that area. The purpose of the transmission line is to transport water from the Rogers plant to the reservoir.

The IBWC also commented that the discussion of Stream Segments 2307 and 2308 was confusing. The EPA notes that the description of Stream Segment 2307 actually corresponds to Stream Segment 2308.

Responsible Official,

Jerry Clifford  
Acting Regional Administrator