Attachment 14A

Explanatory Note for Department of State Report
May 3, 2010

The Department of State American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 1609 NEPA Report for the period through March 31, 2010 is attached. The report reflects the following accomplishments since our previous submittal:

- The Categorical Exclusion for the Data Center that will be located within the General Services Administration's Denver Federal Center was completed in February 2010. (Row #4 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

- The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hard Skills Training Center remains in a pending status (Row #2 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet). This action has been pending for more than one report. Development of the EA began in November 2009 after the preferred site was identified to allow for a meaningful environmental review. Development of the environmental assessment and associated analysis is underway. Adverse weather conditions, along with the significant number of comments from the public and government entities are among the many factors that have impacted the release date of the draft EA. We are compiling the results from numerous studies, addressing the significant number of comments, and finalizing the analyses. We anticipate the draft EA will be available for public release later this Spring.

- IBWC added a new ARRA project that is a segment of the Rio Grande Flood Control Rectification project (Paisano to International Dam). The IBWC was able to fund this additional project out of already allocated ARRA funds because bids for other projects came in under government estimate. IBWC is therefore able to rehabilitate more miles of levee. (Row #18 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

Following is an example of benefits gained as a result of the NEPA process:

Improvements to the Arroyo Colorado Floodway in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties EA (Spreadsheet Page 2, Row 17)

The project includes the improvements to the existing flood control levee system in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The U.S. Section intends to raise the levees to allow for adequate protection of a 100 year flood event. The NEPA process allowed the US Section to involve the surrounding community and stakeholders in an evaluation to address potential impacts that may occur to cultural resources in the project area.

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