INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
MEXICAN SECTION

(Seal
Secretariat of
Foreign Relations)

TRANSLATION
No.: CEU 01538/11
File: CEU/214

DISCREET

Ciudad Juarez, Chih., December 13, 2011

JOHN MERINO
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER
UNITED STATES SECTION
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
THE COMMONS BUILDING C-100
4171 NORTH MESA
EL PASO, TEXAS 79902-1422

I refer to your courteous letters Nos. US 152/11, US 183/11 and US 200/11, dated September 16, November 14 and December 7, 2011 respectively, regarding the project to construct three segments of metal border fence in the vicinity of the Rio Grande in the areas of Roma, TX, Rio Grande City, TX, and Los Ebanos, TX, submitted to the U.S. Section by the *US Department of Homeland Security* (DHS).

In this regard, based on the review of the information attached to your aforementioned letters performed by the technical personnel from this Mexican Section, I observe the following:

- The fence proposed for the Roma, TX area is approximately 5,826 m in length, of which a section with an approximate length of 2,904 m is located inside the Rio Grande floodplain.
- The fence in the Rio Grande City, TX area is approximately 11,587 m in length, of which a section with an approximate length of 5,439 m is located inside the Rio Grande floodplain.
- The fence in the Los Ebanos, TX area is approximately 2,720 m in length, of which the entire length is located inside the Rio Grande floodplain.

In this regard, given that the FLO-2D model used to perform the hydraulic analysis of the project has not been agreed to by the Commission, the Mexican Section had to acquire it in order to review the information provided and evaluate the appropriateness of using it in the future. As was commented at the technical meetings on this matter, the last of which was held this past December 7, the information provided with your aforementioned letters does not allow for model runs, so the U.S. Section staff offered to provide us the final data that was used, which is still pending delivery as of today.

Notwithstanding the above, the location, alignment and design of the proposed fence represent a clear obstruction of the Rio Grande hydraulic area, since in the towns of Rio Grande City and Roma, TX, the fence would occupy nearly all of the hydraulic area on the U.S. side, causing the deflection of flows towards the Mexican side. If you consider that, given the design characteristics, the fence obstructs 60-70% of the hydraulic area in a direction perpendicular to the flow, and if you add to that the effect of the current retaining trash and debris, the significant length that is located in the floodplain, and the position of the fence relative to the direction of flow, the fence constitutes a serious obstruction and deflection of the Rio Grande flows towards Mexico.

Dist.: Orig. Copy - C&R; Control Copy - FAO; [ccmail: ENG PE Merino; OD PE Peña & Franklin; ESD Nuñez & Dr. Unni; EMD Anaya; Realty C. Boisselier; Planning Bolanos; Mercedes FO Montero; FAO SEC Mata & Goodstein; WHA/MEX Frisbie & Poynter; DMS]
Translated: HG:am:rp **December 14, 2011**
I:\Letters\Fromex\Fromex11\Mx19811.doc **No.: Mx 198** **File: BBF 4 Port of Entry**

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
MEXICAN SECTION

TRANSLATION
(Secretariat of Foreign Relations)

No.: CEU 01538/11
File: CEU/214

DISCREET

JOHN MERINO,..... December 13, 2011

In light of the foregoing, I express to you the following:

- We reiterate our opposition to the construction of the proposed fence in the Rio Grande floodplain given the impacts stated above.

- The decision to use the FLO-2D model when submitting projects located in the floodplain must first be agreed upon through the Commission. In that sense, we need to discuss the appropriateness of using it in the future for evaluating and submitting the projects in the Rio Grande floodplain, and how it would be implemented in that case.

- There is an urgent need for the Commission to define the way to address the strong pressure that is being applied in both countries to occupy the Rio Grande floodplain, and the impact that this has on the conveyance capacity, obstruction and deflection of flows in the Rio Grande, as well as the potential for a disaster to occur in the event of a flood as a result of occupying the floodplain, which would be the responsibility of the Commission.

In this context, I propose that we meet in the second half of January 2012 to discuss both the appropriateness of using the FLO-2D model for submitting projects to the Commission, as well as the measures or action plan to address the pressure to occupy the Rio Grande floodplain in both countries.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my attentive consideration.

SINCERELY,
(signed)
LUIS ANTONIO RASCON MENDOZA
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

Dist.: Orig. Copy - C&R; Control Copy - FAO; [ccmail: ENG PE Merino; OD PE Peña & Franklin; ESD Nuñez & Dr. Unni; EMD Anaya; Realty C. Boisselier; Planning Bolanos; Mercedes FO Montero; FAO SEC Mata & Goodstein; WHA/MEX Frisbie & Poynter; DMS]
Translated: HG:am:rp **December 14, 2011**
I:\Letters\Fromex\Fromex11\Mx19811.doc **No.: Mx 198** **File: BBF 4 Port of Entry**