

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LA FORTALEZA, SAN JUAN



January 4, 1978

Colonel Donald A. Wisdom
District Engineer
Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Department of the Army
PO Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32201

Dear Colonel Wisdom:

During your recent visit this past November, various Commonwealth officials had some good discussions on the Corps of Engineers program in Puerto Rico. As a result of the meeting, we have determined the need to readjust the present water resources planning study effort.

During fiscal year 1978, we would like the Corps of Engineers to complete the two on-going major regional studies: Ponce Regional Water Resources Management Study and Islandwide Water Supply Study. Our priorities for the new studies to begin in fiscal year 1978 (listed in order of preference) are the following Level C studies:

- (1) Río Puerto Nuevo Flood Control.
- (2) Initiate the Río Grande de Loíza.
- (3) A Broad Study of Water Resources Development of the El Yunque Area.
- (4) Begin the Virgin Islands Pipeline Study authorized by the May 1977 House Committee on Public Works and Transportation Resolution. As part of your preliminary work, close attention should be given to the flood control aspects of a multi-purpose reservoir on the Río Fajardo.

- (b) Examine the opportunities for multiple purpose projects leading to the development of water supply for the San Juan Metropolitan Area and Eastern Puerto Rico. As the results of the Islandwide Water Supply Study emerge, identify the projects with sufficient potential in the El Yunque area that offer the possibility of Federal funding. I would appreciate early notification of your recommendation of any possible Level C studies which you may identify.

The above study on the Río Puerto Nuevo has been selected to replace the Río La Plata Study which you had originally scheduled for the present fiscal year.

Relative to the Section 205 projects we assign the following priorities:

- (1) Move ahead on detailed Project Report for Río Coamo Flood Protection.
- (2) Río Nigua of Arroyo.
- (3) Río Guayanés of Peñuelas.
- (4) Río Guanajibo at Sabana Grande.
- (5) Río Maricao of Maricao.

We look forward to continued close discussions with you relative to the Corps of Engineers study program for the next few years. As you know, Resident Commissioner Baltasar Corrada del Río submitted a Resolution to the Congress to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on San Juan Harbor to determine advisability of modifying the existing project at the present time and to consider references concerned with urban water resources problems including transportation, associated land implications, recreation, urban flood reduction, improvement of water quality and environmental enhancement in the area of San Juan extending from San Juan Bay to Piñones Lagoon along the Martín Peña Canal.

It is our hope that the Congress will authorize the study and that the Corps of Engineers will be able to initiate

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the works necessary to promptly resolve the problems associated with the Canal. We are looking forward to your support during testimony before the Congress to look into the Martín Peña Canal.

Cordially yours,



Carlos Romero Barceló