STATE WATER BOARD SETS POLICY ON CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

AFTER EIGHT MONTHS WORK which included 60 meetings of the Colorado River Advisory Committee, board staff and related committees, the Colorado Water Conservation Board hammered out a unanimous state policy on the controversial Central Arizona Project on the Lower Colorado River which proposed to divert 1.2 million acre-feet of water into Central Arizona. The policy came in the form of a resolution adopted at a board meeting held in Denver on February 8 which was a continuation of the meeting held on February 1.

The policy terminated an all day executive session between the board and Governor Love and it expressed approval of HR 4671, called the Colorado River Basin Project Bill, which would authorize the Central Arizona Project and related facilities, subject to provisions contained therein designed to protect the water rights of the Upper Basin.
The major points of revised HR 4671 as recommended by the Colorado Water Conservation Board are:

- Authorizing a feasibility study for the importation of 6 million acre-feet of water annually into the Colorado River Basin for the benefit of both the Upper and Lower Basins and for the satisfaction of the Mexican Treaty obligation.

- Authorizing the construction of Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams on the Lower Colorado to furnish the power to divert 1.2 million acre-feet of water annually into Central Arizona.

- To return to the credit of the Upper Basin those funds which have or may hereafter be expended from the Upper Basin Fund to compensate for power deficiencies at Hoover Dam resulting from the filling of Lake Powell.

- To operate Glen Canyon Reservoir to protect the Upper Basin consumptive use rights in accordance with the Colorado River Compact.

- Authorizing the construction of the Animas-La Plata, Dolores, Dallas Creek, West Divide, and the San Miguel Projects in Western Colorado and authorizing the appropriation of $360 million for their construction.

- Authorizing planning studies on the Basalt, Middle Park, Upper Gunnison, Upper Yampa and the Lower Yampa Projects in addition to other projects authorized for study in Public Law 485 (CRSP Act).

- The creation of a Colorado Pacific Regional Water Commission to function as an advisory board.

The Board agreed to the revised bill subject to acceptability by the states of the Lower Basin.

LEGISLATURE GIVES OKAY TO WATER POLLUTION BILL

THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE passed and sent to the Governor a bill designed to control water pollution in Colorado. The measure, first introduced by Senator David J. Hahn of Aurora, was co-sponsored by 17 other members of the Senate. The measure as passed creates a separate 11-member
pollution control commission empowered to set water quality standards to be administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health. Stimulus for passing the measure came from Congressional enactment of the "Water Quality Control Act of 1965" which empowers a federal pollution control administration in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to set water quality standards on interstate waters if the states fail to act by June 30, 1967. In essence the bill provides:

- Membership of the commission includes designated representatives of the Game, Fish and Parks Commission, the State Board of Health, the Water Conservation Board and the Governor's Coordinator of Natural Resources, and seven members to be named by the governor, three of which would represent industry, agriculture and city or county governments and four would represent the public at large. Commissioners would receive a per diem allowance of $20 plus travel and other expenses.

- The commission is empowered, among other duties, to exercise supervision over the administration of the act, to adopt a program of pollution control, to accept and supervise federal aid, to hold public hearings, and to adopt and promulgate reasonable quality standards for the waters of the state to protect, maintain and improve the quality of water for public water supplies, for the propagation of fish and wildlife and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, recreational and other beneficial uses.

- That in administering the act, including the adoption and promulgation of standards of quality, the commission shall not require any present or future appropriator of water to divert, cease diverting, exchange, cease exchanging, store, cease storing, or release any water for the purpose of controlling pollution in the waters of the state.

- Water quality standards would be established by the new commission between the effective date of the act, March 1, 1966, and March 1, 1967, on which date the new standards as developed would take effect.

Reports from reliable sources indicate that Governor John Love will sign the measure into law.
WATER BOARD ACTION APPROVED

THE COLORADO WATER CONGRESS at its annual convention in Denver on February 10, unanimously approved a resolution supporting the action of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in endorsing a revised version of HR 4671, the Colorado River Basin Project Bill.

Officers elected by the Congress for the ensuing year include:

Chairman - J. R. Barkley of Loveland.
Vice Chairman - Archie Toner of Pagosa Springs.
Secretary-Treasurer - Robert W. Fischer of Denver.

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More news on the Colorado Water Congress convention will be included in the March 1 issue of the Newsletter.