The sheer magnitude of the job of putting together a Western U.S. Water Plan makes it absolutely essential that it be multi-agency in its development and interdisciplinary in perspective. I pledge the full support of my staff and intend to devote my own personal attention to the accomplishment of this common task of uncommon proportions. I have high hopes that at its conclusion the resulting plan will provide fresh and yet practical approaches and answers to serious questions on how we are to meet the water requirements of a dynamic West.  (Ellis L. Armstrong, commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, September 30, Denver.)

COLORADO WATER CONGRESS NEWSLETTER

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WATER BOARD TO MAKE STATE-WIDE WATER PROJECT SURVEY

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD is initiating a county by county state-wide study on the possibility of small water project planning and development, according to an announcement by Board Director Felix L. Sparks speaking at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council on Water in Cortez on September 23.

Sparks said that the Board will assign a staff of planning specialists to meet with water interests in each county to formulate preliminary plans, and he urged all interested water users to meet in advance and come to the meetings with the Board staff fully in agreement as to their wishes and desires.

Sparks said, "If there is any disagreement, you might as well forget it as it would be extremely difficult to incorporate local plans into a state-wide plan for legislative consideration unless everyone is fully in accord."

Sparks unveiled his plans in a series of meetings held by the Executive Committee on Water throughout the Western Slope of Colorado beginning on September 21 and extending through September 24. The group met with water users in Grand Junction, Delta, Norwood, Cortez and Durango.
En Route the Committee inspected the Grand Valley and Uncompaghre Project irrigated lands, and sites for the Grand Mesa, Battlement Mesa, San Miguel, Divide, Dolores and Animas-La Plata Projects, including the lands proposed to be irrigated. The Committee also inspected the nearly completed Morrow Point Dam and the Blue Mesa Dam and Reservoir on the Gunnison River. Both are part of the Curecanti Project.

Andy Williams, Grand Junction attorney, speaking at the Grand Junction meeting, pointed out the need for corrective legislation in Senate Bill 81 for more orderly process in tabulations, and to clarify procedures on proving of diligence for conditional decrees. He urged the establishment of an administrative tabulation so local water users could thoroughly know where they stand in priority as to local water use.

Williams urged the passage of legislation which would protect the waters of the "basin of origin". He called attention to the salinity problem now existing in the Colorado River and he pointed out a significant reason for the increase in salinity is transmountain diversions which reduce the river flows necessary for dilution. He urged Eastern Slope diverters to help pay the bill if the local people are eventually assessed to meet water pollution control standards.

Rep. T. John Baer (Loma) urged a massive community effort to obtain federal funds for lining canals and lateral ditches on the north side of the Grand Valley. "This would help control the salinity problem and would provide more water on existing lands and water for new lands," he said. "As water demands rise, people are becoming increasingly sensitive about wasting water."

Rep. Hiram McNeil (Montrose) said, "The water quality of the Colorado River should be improved and the Eastern Slope should put what water it has to better use before it diverts any more Western Slope water."
Rollie Fischer, secretary-engineer, Colorado River Water Conservation District, supported Williams' request for a Basin of Origin bill, and he called on transmountain diverters who reduce the Colorado River flow of high quality water to assist in salinity control. "The State Legislature should consider this issue," he said.

Don Smith, division engineer, called for enactment of legislation which would create a workable definition for the term "abandonment".

Tom Ten Eyck, state director of Natural Resources, had this to say about the pollution problem in the Colorado River: "The time will come when agricultural interests will be required to conform to established water pollution control standards just as any other water user."

A. Allen Brown, president of the Colorado River Water Conservation District Board, argued that the big problem in Senate Bill 81 is the time limits imposed on tabulations and correction of errors in the listings. "Too many people are confused about the position of their water decrees," Brown said.

Director Sparks, speaking at the meeting in Delta, shed some hope on the future of the five projects authorized in western Colorado by Public Law 90-537. "According to the Colorado River Compact we are entitled to use 3.8 million acre-feet of water annually out of the Upper Colorado River Basin in Colorado. On paper we are not yet committed to that much use so there should be adequate water for all of the projects," he said.

State Engineer Kuiper, speaking to more than 150 people attending the Committee meeting in Norwood on the night of September 22, assured all water users that the tabulations recently compiled are just an inventory of decrees and an administrative tool until the water judge makes the final adjudication in 1974. "Senate Bill 81 authorizes the State
Engineer to make corrections until that date. By that time the tabulation should be a correct document of Colorado's water rights in their correct priority," he said.

"This session of the Legislature should correct inadequacies that exist on the adjudication of wells which cannot be tied to surface decrees."

Sen. Dan Noble (Norwood) again urged the people of Colorado to support requests for appropriations for the five western Colorado projects, and he predicted if sufficient planning funds are appropriated construction should start by 1975. "In the development of our water resources we must work for a unified Colorado - today, tomorrow and always."

Dave Clark, Upper Colorado River representative for the Federal Water Quality Administration, pointed out to the Committee that the big pollution problems of the Colorado River include salinity, feedlot pollution, fertilizers and pesticides. He explained that his branch of the government is making an extensive survey on these pollution sources. He advocated the program of lining canals and lateral ditches.

Rep. Wad Hinman (Yampa), commenting on Senate Bill 81, told those in attendance at the meetings that the Western Slope did not need nor demand the passage of this legislation but as it is now on the books corrective legislation should be passed to make it work. "We must proceed with caution from now on as far as water is concerned," he said.

Fred Kroeger, Colorado Water Conservation Board member from Durango, advised the Committee at the Durango meeting on September 24 "re-publication of the entire tabulation in accordance with Senate Bill 81 would be too soon, and accordingly would be a waste of money." He called on the Committee to pass legislation to provide retroactive relief for those water users who failed to make the June 1, 1970 deadline on due diligence. "These people should not be penalized for the lack of knowledge of all requirements of the newly enacted legislation," he said.
Judge Wm. Eakes, water judge in Durango, agreed with Kroeger, and contended the Court should be allowed time to grant continuances in the deadlines if good cause is shown. He pointed out Senate Bill 81 is too rigid as far as the water courts are concerned.

Sam Maynes, Durango attorney, argued the tabulations have caused too much confusion among the water users. "The concept of Senate Bill 81 is good but it needs clarifying amendments, and legislation should be passed providing that proof of abandonment rests on the State Engineer."

Sen. Wayne Denny (Cortez), chairman of the Legislative Committee on Water, summarized the tour by saying "the Committee, during this past summer, worked long and hard touring and inspecting water projects throughout the entire state and listening to the demands and comments of statewide water users." He gave assurance that the information gained will provide the Committee with the necessary background to recommend needed legislation.

Charles F. Cook, attorney for the U.S. Senate Interior Committee, and Charles Woodruff, attorney for U.S. Sen. Peter Dominick, were in attendance during the entire Western Slope tour.

WILD RIVERS BILL FOR COLORADO PROPOSED

COLORADO GAME, FISH AND PARKS DIVISION is preparing a draft of a bill for proposed legislation which would create a system of "wild, scenic and recreational" rivers in Colorado. The proposed legislation is being prepared in response to an Act passed by the 1969 General Assembly calling for a study of the possible classification and management of the state's rivers.

Under the criteria proposed a "wild river" and a "scenic river" would be free of any kind of impoundment or diversion. Recreational rivers would permit such impediments but would make adjacent shorelines available for recreational development.
The bill would provide the opportunity for upgrading a river classification but would prohibit any downgrading.

Among sections of rivers recommended for consideration were the Monument sections of the Green and Yampa Rivers, the canyon sections of the North Platte and South Poudre, the North Fork of the Colorado, the North and South Forks of the Fryingpan, the canyon sections of the South Platte River below Cheesman Reservoir, the Blue River and the South Fork of the Conejos.

Jack Ross, Denver water attorney, in an interview with the Colorado Water Congress, said "such a proposal clashes head-on with the constitution of the State of Colorado which provides that the right to divert unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses shall never be denied." Established rights and priorities granted under this provision must be given constitutional recognition, he said.

No rivers in Colorado were given a "wild river" designation under a recently enacted federal act creating a National Wild Rivers systems.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

A joint federal-state Western Water Plan meeting of all natural resource agencies held in Denver on September 30 and October 1 disclosed that many of the Western states to be involved in the water study believe that the plan as developed by the Bureau of Reclamation is too extensive and takes in too much territory. Most contended that the study should be limited to water resources as called for in the Act.

Felix L. Sparks, director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board, had this to say:

"At this point, we in Colorado wish to emphasize again that the plainly stated purpose of the Colorado River Basin Project Act was to provide a program for the further comprehensive development of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin. All other directives in the Act are, in our opinion, incidental to that major purpose.

Any study which attempts to accommodate entirely all of the views of these various agencies and states is doomed to be carried over into the next century."

Public Works Appropriation Bill as recently passed by the U.S. Congress includes these appropriations for Colorado water projects: Bostwick Park, $1,214,000; Chatfield Dam, $13,200,000; Curecanti, $3,000,000; Fruitland Mesa, $165,000; Fryingpan-Arkansas, $20,000,000; Savery-Pot Hook, $300,000; North Poudre, $134,000; Trinidad, $3,400,000; and Uncompahgre, $133,000.

Pre-construction appropriations - Animas-LaPlata, $240,000; Dallas Creek, $230,000; Dolores, $200,000; Mount Carbon, $1,000,000; and San Miguel, $50,000.

Planning funds - Armel, Arkansas Valley, Basalt, Boulder Flood Control, Colorado Water Plan, Front Range, Grand Mesa, Lower Yampa, South Platte, Uncompahgre, Upper Gunnison, and Upper South Platte - $949,000.

Irrigation Age, a Dallas, Texas irrigation publication, reports recent statements as to potential losses from an invasion of the corn leaf blight throughout the Midwest were greatly exaggerated. The article cited a U.S.D.A. July report forecasting a 1970 corn crop of 3 percent increase over 1969.

Testimony presented at public hearings on the proposed Eagles Nest Wilderness area held in Frisco and Denver was largely in favor of establishing the boundary encompassing 125,000 acres as opposed to the 71,785-acre area as proposed by the U.S. Forest Service. Most of this testimony came from a coalition of conservationists and concerned citizens throughout the state. Most of the testimony favoring the Forest Service proposal came from timber and mining interests. The proposed wilderness area is located in the Gore Range in Arapaho and White River National Forests.

A statement submitted by the Denver Water Board said: "Provisions should be made at the outset for wilderness preservation and also for the conservation and use of the water supply. We believe that divergent views and conflicts can and should be resolved at the local level. The local and national interests can best be served if proper safeguards for both water and wilderness are inserted now."

Ted Moulder, Denver district chief of the U.S. Geological Survey, reports he has sent a twelve-man crew to measure peak flows which occurred during the recent floods in the southwestern part of Colorado.
The 1970 Convention of NWRA begins with a tour of Las Vegas water facilities and Hoover Dam on Monday, November 16. General sessions open at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, November 17, but this session will be preceded by Colorado Caucus at 8:00 A.M.

**CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**
- 8:00 A.M. - Colorado Caucus
- 11:00 A.M. - President's Message
- 11:30 A.M. - "Public Lands - For Nature and Man" -- Boyd Rasmussen, Director, Bureau of Land Management
- 12:00 Noon - "Water Care - For Nature and Man" -- James R. Smith, Assistant Secretary of Interior
- 2:00 P.M. - "A New Life for the Country" -- Panel featuring William L. Guy, Governor of North Dakota and Dr. Henry Ahlgren, Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**
- 8:00 A.M. - Colorado Caucus
- 9:00 A.M. - "Water Rights and the Rainbow" -- Harvey Banks, member, Environments for Tomorrow
- 9:30 A.M. - "Water Gall" -- Panel discussing water problems relating to the city, the environment and recreation
- 11:30 A.M. - "The Whole Man" -- Joseph Foss, former Governor of South Dakota
- 12:00 Noon - "Water Care and the National Interest" -- John J. Rhodes, Representative from Arizona
- 2:00 P.M. - "Reclamation Works for Man and Nature" -- Harold "Bizz" Johnson, Representative from California
- 3:00 P.M. - "Environmental Concerns in Soil and Water Conservation" -- Kenneth E. Grant, Administrator, SCS
- 3:30 P.M. - "Canadian Water - Here and There" -- Cleo Mowers, V.P., Canadian Water Resources Association

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19**
- 8:00 A.M. - Colorado Caucus
- 9:00 A.M. - "Irrigation and Uncle Sam" -- Dr. M. L. Upchurch, Administrator, Department of Agriculture
- 10:00 A.M. - "Updating Outlooks" -- Panel including Sidney McFarland, Chief Clerk, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; Theodore Schad, Executive Director, National Water Commission; Jerry Verkler, Staff Director, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; W. Don Maughan, Director, Water Resources Council
- 12:00 Noon - "Water Development - For Nature and Man" -- Ellis Armstrong, Commissioner of Reclamation
- 2:30 P.M. - Business Session