"Now we are engaged in a great national effort to make our country energy self-sufficient by the 1980's. Colorado, with its enormous coal resources and soon to be tapped vast reserves of oil shale will have an enormous role to play in that effort. A key to the successful development of those resources will be water." (J. W. O'Meara, U.S. Office of Saline Water, at the annual meeting of Colorado Water Congress, February 26, 1974)

"The era of the development of available water supplies in Colorado is about over," Ten Eyck, director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, told more than 120 delegates of the Colorado Water Congress at its annual meeting in Denver on February 26.

"From now on, our major efforts will be devoted to water conservation and water quality control.

"In the field of water conservation, we must devise methods to make the available water supplies serve a greatly expanded need.

"The magic words in water conservation are 'greater efficiency' and it seems entirely possible to maintain our present agriculture economy with substantially less water; however, greater efficiency cannot be limited to agricultural uses - municipal and industrial uses must also be made more efficient," he said.

Ten Eyck emphasized that the establishment of the proposed salinity standards on the Colorado River poses a serious problem to any further uses of the waters of that river. "While the Colorado River may be the first case for which salinity standards have been proposed, it will not be the last."
"A further complicating factor in the use of our water resources lies in the production of energy. We are already using a considerable amount of water for the conversion of coal into electricity. A considerable expansion of this type of use is certain to take place within the immediate future. To this expansion will be added the requirements of the oil shale industry."

He said that in 1959 the Colorado Water Conservation Board conducted a comprehensive study to determine the potential requirements of an oil shale industry based upon the production of 1,250,000 barrels per day. "The results of that study were that shale oil production and its related municipal and industrial development would require about 250,000 acre-feet of water per year, of which about 93,000 acre-feet would be returned to the streams."

"However, the study did not take into contemplation either the salinity or the environmental problems, and it could be that the water requirements of the oil shale industry might be considerably higher than originally anticipated," Ten Eyck warned.

"We are faced with immense challenges in the field of water resource planning and development, and I doubt that we are fully prepared to meet all of the issues presented by increased energy production within Colorado. However, past planning has taken into consideration the need for additional water for both the coal and oil shale industries. With some modification and extension of presently developed plans we can probably accommodate substantial energy producing industries, though there will be a corresponding loss in agricultural production," Ten Eyck concluded.

State Senator Harold McCormick (Canon City), speaking to the delegation, said the increasing prominence of Colorado's energy resources is forcing the state to pay greater attention to its water. "Without water the oil shale industry will not be any good," he said.
"The staggering $210 million bid for a federal oil shale lease in northwestern Colorado will compel the state to take a closer look at how much water will be consumed. Long standing water compacts on the Colorado River may have to be reviewed and revised.

"The federal government may have to decide whether it is in the national interest for Colorado's water to be used for the development of oil from shale or for the production of food in Arizona and California," he said.

J. W. O'Meara, director, Office of Saline Water, U.S. Department of the Interior, speaking at the luncheon meeting of the convention, said "the national need for petroleum in this nation is about 7.6 billion gallons of petroleum daily which takes about 7 gallons of water to produce a single gallon of gasoline."

"The coal gasification plants and the oil shale cracking plants envisioned for Colorado and other areas of the west will require millions of gallons of water. Some of that water will have to be desalted to provide high quality water for processing operations, and additional desalting plants will be required to desalt the effluent from those operations in order to meet environmental criteria.

"The technology we have developed in saline water will be of exceptional value to Colorado. So as we set about to become energy self-sufficient, and as we continue to work for the development of our water resources, you have your work cut out for you. Through the dedicated work and the vision of men concerned about our water supplies, our water problems have been and will be solved, one by one," O'Meara concluded.

Wayne Aspinall, former U.S. Congressman from Colorado, and former chairman of the U.S. House Interior Committee, was presented a certificate of Life Membership in the Colorado Water Congress honoring his long and dedicated years of service in the interests of western water development and legislation. The certificate was presented at the luncheon meeting.
The Colorado Water Congress adopted these resolutions for 1974:

- **Colorado River Salinity Control** - If the United States intends to make international assurances with water belonging to the people of the States of the Colorado River Basin, the United States should make provision out of the Federal Treasury for the development of such water quality enhancement programs as may be necessary to keep those assurances without imposing a direct cost upon the people dependent upon the Colorado River, and without causing any reduction in the availability for beneficial uses of the waters of that stream as allocated by compact ratified by Congress, all as recognized by the basic principles of HR 12165, which principles the Colorado Water Congress supports.

- **Augmentation Program** - Regarding proposed legislation now before the 1974 General Assembly which would alter the determination procedure by giving the State Engineer authority to make initial temporary determinations on water augmentation programs, the Colorado Water Congress continues its long-standing support of the adjudicative system and its equally long-standing opposition to the administrative "permit" system.

- **Federal State Relations in Water Law** - The Colorado Water Congress urges the Federal Congress to enact a "National Water Rights Act" which would require compliance with state laws and procedures in the creation, administration and protection in the future of Federal water rights as well as the quantification of all existing Federal water uses heretofore acquired, whether by reservation or appropriation; and, that the Colorado Water Congress take an active part in urging the passage of appropriate legislation.

- **Wilderness Areas** - The Colorado Water Congress opposes administrative procedures and proposed legislation that would include lands in "wilderness areas" for the purpose of impairing the development or operation of water resource projects.

- **Notice of Water Right Changes** - The Colorado Water Congress urges the adoption of amendments to the "Water Right Determination and Administration Act of 1969" which would make mandatory, in the case of water right changes, appropriate portions of the currently permissive notice procedures.

- **Colorado River Compact** - The Colorado Water Congress urges the legislative and executive branches of the State of Colorado and all their officers and employees to take such action as may be necessary to cause a definite interpretation of the compact which recognizes that one-half of the available flow of the river was apportioned to the upper basin for its beneficial use.

- **Geothermal Resources** - The Colorado Water Congress urges that no legislation seeking to regulate the development of geothermal resources of the state which does not require that those who develop such resources comply strictly with all water right and water quality laws of the state and all the rules and regulations governing the construction of water wells.

- **Adequate Appropriations for State Agencies** - The Colorado Water Congress directs its officers to support before the Legislature requests for sufficient appropriations to: permit the Colorado Water Conservation Board to continue and expand its vital programs for water resources development; provide the office of the State Engineer with sufficient funds to implement work of his office, including an adequate program for the competent and
equitable administration of the waters of the State of Colorado under his jurisdiction; and finance vitally needed water research programs.


Officers elected to serve the Colorado Water Congress during the ensuing year include: Chairman - Franklin Eddy, Moffat; Vice-Chairman - Earl Phipps, Loveland; Secretary-Treasurer - L. Richard Bratton, Gunnison; NWRA Director - J. R. Barkley, Loveland; NWRA Resolutions - Jack Ross, Denver; NWRA Resolutions, Alternate - John Sayre, Denver; WRC State Chairman - Bill Raley, Norwood; Vice-Chairman - Charles L. Thomson, Pueblo.

Executive Committee members elected include: Ralph Adkins, Pueblo; Anthony Medonna, Boulder; Garner McKnight, Delta; Clarence Burr, Walden; Robert W. Fischer, Denver; Roland Fischer, Glenwood Springs; Floyd Getz, Monte Vista, and Frank Maynes, Durango.

COURT OPINION VALIDATES DENVER'S NEW TAP FEE

Daniel J. Shannon, District Judge of the Jefferson County Court, in a lawsuit brought by the City of Arvada against the Board of Water Commissioners, City and County of Denver, ruled that the system development charge levied by the Board of Water Commissioners on all new water taps connected to the Arvada water service system is a valid rule and regulation of the Board. Judge Shannon further ruled that the case be dismissed.

Arvada brought the case before the Court to determine the validity of the development charge as it applies to Arvada under the terms of a water service contract between the Denver Water Board and Arvada.

The purpose of the charge for connecting new water taps to the system is to provide a method of raising revenues for Denver's forecasted future capital development program, and also a method whereby these revenues would
be paid exclusively by new and future customers, rather than be subsidized by all of the customers both old and new, according to testimony presented by the Water Board.

The ruling of the Court provided that Denver cannot, by a previously executed contractual lease, restrict its future revenue-raising methods, nor can it allow the citizens of Denver to subsidize costs of furnishing water to those outside of Denver.

George L. Zoellner, general counsel for the Denver Water Board, termed the ruling as "significant" because it validates Denver's plans for financing new water development projects.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

State Senator George Jackson, Colorado Springs, introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 which would submit to the qualified electors of the State of Colorado an amendment to Section 2 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Colorado to provide that cities and towns may become shareholders in ditch or water companies and joint owners with others in order to effect the discovery, development, production, transportation or transmission of water or energy.

A report submitted recently by the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City said that feasibility studies of the Grand Mesa Project have been completed and that no further Federal action will be undertaken on the project at this time.

"The report preserves the results of the studies made for use in the future if changing circumstances indicate that renewed consideration of the project is warranted," according to David L. Crandall, regional director in Salt Lake City.

Crandall invited comments on the report by March 15. Comments by the Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District and the North Fork Water Conservancy District are expected to include protests against shelving the project.

Denver Board of Water Commissioners on February 14 lifted its ban on extending water service outside the city limits of Denver. The move was a reversal of a previous action tabling water service to three applicants, including the Johns-Manville Corporation complex southwest of Denver. The Board's action clears the way for Johns-Manville to proceed with plans and construction on its $55 million "world headquarters." The action also clears the way for the Water Board to consider about 50 other pending applications, covering about 25,000 acres.
The Bureau of Reclamation in cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board have completed and published the Phase I report of the Colorado State Water Plan. The report presents a compilation of statistical data on an inventory of water and related land resources and a summation of the current status of development and utilization of these resources.

Phase II report, Legal and Institutional Considerations, and the Phase III report, Plans for Development, are scheduled for completion and release later this year.

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Denver Board of Water Commissioners approved a resolution which if accepted would pay one-half the cost, not to exceed $75,000, of making a metropolitan Denver-area water requirement study. The motion offering the proposal, made by Andrew Horan, Jr., stated that the purpose of the study would be to "get away from the haphazard guesses as to what should be done" about water supply and administration in the area. The Board's offer contemplates the appointment of a committee representing Denver, Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties which would direct the technical work involved in the study.

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U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources have published a report on "Hydraulic Data from the Piceance Basin, Colorado." The purpose of the report is to make available all of the water data collected and compiled in the Basin, an area rich in oil shale resources, according to J. E. Biesecker, district chief of the Survey. Copies may be obtained from the Colorado Geological Survey or the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Price - $2.00.

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Gilbert G. Stamm, commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, told a recent meeting of the Denver Rotary Club that "Denver will grow with or without water," and that the responsible thing for Denver to do is to make sure the new people have adequate water supplies. "A nondevelopment policy would eventually cause the city to be short of water," he said.

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The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is eyeing portions of the North Fork and the South Fork of the South Platte River above Denver for designation as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. If such a plan should come to pass, the designation would preclude the construction of the proposed Two Forks Reservoir or the construction of a dam at Ferndale on the North Fork which has been suggested as an alternate.

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James J. O'Brien has been appointed as Assistant Commissioner for Resource Planning in the Bureau of Reclamation's Washington, D.C. office, according to an announcement by the Department of the Interior. O'Brien replaces Warren D. Fairchild who was transferred in August of last year to become Director of the Water Resources Council.

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