It's a real pleasure for me to be here today, not only because I enjoy visiting this part of California, but because it gives me the opportunity to meet with the Auburn Dam Committee.

Successful accomplishment of the critical steps or milestones in carrying a massive water development such as the Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Central Valley Project from dream to fruition requires the efforts of many people.

But almost always a few stand out because of their dedication, leadership, and perseverance.

The story of public support for Auburn Dam is familiar to many of you because you have been so much a part of it.
Back at the very beginning, a small group of Placer County citizens watched a roaring American River threaten the city of Sacramento during the disastrous Christmas floods of 1955. By an uncommon stroke of luck, along with lots of hard work, Folsom Dam had been completed earlier that year. Because the reservoir had not yet filled, most of Folsom's million acre-feet of storage capacity was available to check the river's flow.

Sacramento was spared a calamity, but the lesson of that event was not lost on those watching. The American River could not be controlled by Folsom Dam alone.

The witnesses to that scene decided to do something about it. Within days they formed the Auburn Dam Committee, which from January 3, 1956, until today has worked continuously for this project -
20 years of dedicated effort.

No one knows more than those of you committee members here today how many thousands of personal dollars and hours of toil have gone into this project.

Ten years of Auburn Dam Committee work alone went into the project's authorization. Although legislation was first introduced in 1956 - at the urging of the Committee - it was not until 1965 that the authorizing law was finally signed.

While monuments are not much in vogue these days, when the Auburn-Folsom South Unit is completed, it will indeed be a working, productive monument to the many of you who have spent so much to see its fruition.

The magnitude of the project is becoming clearly discernible as major work on Auburn Dam gets underway. Those of you who accompanied me
on this morning's review of the job, I'm sure, have a much better idea of what we have undertaken.

Auburn Dam, when it is completed, will be one of the world's major water control structures - 700 feet high, with a crest length of 4,000 feet. The thin-arch, double curvature structure will require some 6.5 million cubic yards of concrete.

Auburn powerplant will have an initial installed capacity of 300,000 kilowatts, with an ultimate capacity of 750,000 kilowatts in an uncommon powerhouse curved to fit the configuration of the dam.

Auburn Reservoir, about twice the capacity of Folsom, will be capable of containing 2.3 million acre-feet of water. It will have a 10,000-acre surface area and 140 miles of shoreline. We anticipate recreation development around the reservoir for a broad range of uses.

Next year we expect employment on the project
to increase to about 500. In about 5 years we expect to be at peak construction activity on the project, with some 2,000 workers employed. As of today, we are about 15 percent along the way toward completion of the entire project.

Road work, foundation excavation, earth placement, and diversion of the river are rapidly changing the Auburn canyon. The pace of current construction work now makes it appear that we can award the prime contract for Auburn Dam about 5 months ahead of schedule, or in December of 1976. Assuming future appropriations are sufficient to maintain maximum construction efficiency on the dam, we expect to be able to provide the first power from the Auburn powerplant early in 1983, well ahead of schedule.

The enthusiasm and capability of Auburn Constructors is largely responsible for the
stepped-up timetable. This year they advised us that $21 million would be required for the work to be completed by June 30. Since our appropriations did not provide enough money to meet that rapid a rate of progress, it was necessary for us to transfer other funds to the Auburn-Folsom South Unit. Funds included in the regular appropriation bill for FY 1976 and the transition quarter and also in the Emergency Employment Appropriations bill which are all now before Congress will help take care of earnings by the contractor this year and next, and will add substantially to the construction work contemplated in the 15 months beginning July 1.

We plan to open bids this month for the relocation of Highway 49 through the city of Auburn. The bid opening is scheduled for May 29. We estimate the highway relocation work will be completed by November 1976, including a bridge, specifically authorized in lieu of the originally
contemplated culvert, to provide better access to city recreation areas. We estimate that the Project Administration Building will be completed by August of this year.

The President's budget request, plus available prior year funds, for the Auburn-Folsom South Unit in Fiscal Year 1976 amounts to $29.7 million, and $9.1 million is included in the budget for the three-month transition quarter; that's a total of $38.8 million for the next 15-month period.

Funds expected to be appropriated pursuant to the President's budget request will be used for purchase of additional right-of-way and to keep Auburn Constructors, as well as the Highway 49 contractor, on schedule. Also, preconstruction activity will start on the Auburn Visitors' Center. We are looking toward a construction start on that
facility late in 1976. About 1,000,000 people yearly are expected to visit the Auburn Dam site during construction.

We estimate that when the project is completed, the annual recreation visitation at Auburn will exceed 2,000,000 people per year.

Preconstruction work has started on the two remaining upstream bridges crossing the arms of the reservoir. The middle fork crossing will be the first constructed.

Next fiscal year we will commence purchase of right-of-way and start preconstruction work for the prime contract to build Sugar Pine Dam.

We do not contemplate any construction work in fiscal year 1976 on reaches 3, 4, and 5 of the Folsom-South Canal. Construction work on the canal is abeyant pending resolution of the American River minimum flow problems. Our proposed report on the
Lower American River problems, developed in consultation with an advisory committee which included representatives of the State, counties, cities, water districts, and various segments of the general public, will include a number of alternative possible solutions. It will be available for review and discussion this year.

Currently water is being delivered from the canal to SMUD's Rancho Seco Nuclear Generator Plant in Sacramento County.

When the Auburn project is completed, those of you who worked so tirelessly on it can rest assured that you have benefited the Nation generally, and thousands of Californians specifically, for many generations to come. The product of your vision and effort will be realized in crops for a hungry world; hydropower for an energy-short society; a great city safe from the ravages of flood; recreation for millions; and an
added component of prosperity for your neighbors.

As I mentioned earlier, the progress I have been able to report on today has been made possible because of the dedication, perseverance, and leadership of many people who are in this room.

But, as is often the case, one man stands out through thick and thin, from start to finish.

Recently the Bureau of Reclamation instituted a program of publicly recognizing such individuals by presenting them with Citizen Awards.

All of which brings me to the primary reason for my appearance here today—the opportunity to present such an award. Accompanying that award, is a letter addressed to ... Mr. Bert William Cassidy .... It reads:

Dear Bill:

For many years you have shown dedication and zeal in the cause of water resource development.
The leadership that you provided was extremely important in developing and sustaining public support for the Auburn-Folsom South Unit. Your capable liaison work contributed materially to the bipartisan legislative support which has brought the project to reality.

In recognition of your continuous and effective campaign on behalf of Bureau water resource development programs, it is a pleasure to honor you with the Bureau of Reclamation Citizen Award.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Gil Stamm
Commissioner

Bill, if you would step up here now, I would like personally to present this letter and plaque to you.

#    #    #

Congratulations