Honorable Stephen McNichols  
Governor of Colorado  
State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado  

Dear Steve:

The underlying cause of many of our problems in developing and making optimum use of the water resources of the Colorado River Basin is the deficiency of the water supply available to meet the existing, proposed, and potential demands upon it. We all know there is a physical limit to the water supply that can be developed for use on a dependable basis, but do we know what that limit is?

We all know the physical limitations generally, but how much greater our mutual understanding would be if we all could start deliberations and discussions from the same datum. Unquestionably, the legal and political problems with which we have wrestled for so many years can be solved most objectively if our knowledge of basic facts is precise and reliable. We need to have the physical limitation of the water supply defined accurately and authoritatively by the federal agency which is largely responsible for the administration of the Colorado River and which is the official engineering advisor to the states and the Congress in these matters -- the Department of the Interior. I believe we are entitled to such knowledge.

For these reasons, I propose the seven governors request that the Secretary of the Interior cause to be prepared and published a comprehensive up-to-date inventory of the water resources of the Colorado River system and their relation to the known demands on those resources. The findings should be as objective, factual, and
precise as human knowledge and study can make them, and as free as possible from legal interpretations and conclusions. Most of the basic data needed are available, I am sure, but they may have to be augmented somewhat, and certainly need to be thoroughly evaluated in order to determine how much of the natural resource can be developed, conserved, and regulated to a long-time dependable supply for beneficial use, net of reservoir and channel losses and unavoidable waste.

Enclosed is a copy of my letter of July 13 to the Secretary. I hope you will send him a similar request at this time.

Sincerely

/s/ PAT

EDMUND G. BROWN, Governor

Enclosure