Reclamation to Award Anasazi Center Construction Contract

After a thorough review of funding and staffing needs by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management, Reclamation anticipates awarding a contract for the construction of the Anasazi Heritage Center, 2 miles west of Dolores, Colo., by mid- to late April 1984, according to Reclamation Upper Colorado Regional Director Clifford Barrett.

Reclamation earlier had approval to enter into negotiations to contract for the center with the J.S. Walker Company, Denver, Colorado, an (8a) minority contractor, a subcontractor to the Small Business Administration in Denver, Colorado. However, the proposal, when added to the proposed BLM interpretive plan, appeared to require more funds than were available. There were also questions on the availability of staff to operate the center. After a complete review of the situation with Bureau of Land Management, Reclamation now believes that proper arrangements can be made, and recommends construction of the 40,500-square-foot building.

Local citizens in the Dolores area have offered volunteer help to staff the center and possibly some funds for interpretive material if the Federal Government's 4 percent ceiling on archeological mitigation funding would not cover it. "If, as we near completion we run short of funds, we may have to accept their offer," Barrett noted.

"We expect, however, that the costs will be covered," Barrett added. "It will not impair Reclamation's commitment to finish all of the archeological studies, including the publishing of the necessary reports." The Bureau
of Reclamation already has spent over $9 million to recover archeological data from the area to be affected by the Dolores Project.

Reclamation expressed appreciation for the assistance of Senator William Armstrong and Congressman Ray Kogovsek, and has planned a groundbreaking ceremony for the spring of 1984.