Construction Contract Awarded for Anasazi Heritage Center

Acting Commissioner of Reclamation Robert A. Olson said today a $2.9 million contract has been awarded for construction of the Anasazi Heritage Center 2 miles west of Dolores, Colo.

The $2,917,801 contract was awarded May 3, 1984, to the Small Business Administration, who subcontracted the work to the J. A. Walker Company of Denver, Colo., Olson said.

The 40,500-square-foot building, which will contain a theater, storage rooms, a foyer, and a reception center, primarily will be a museum to house ancient artifacts of the Anasazi Indians. The building is expected to be completed in 1 year. During the construction of the center, approximately 40 jobs will be provided in the area at a total salary of $945,000.

Reclamation has already spent over $9 million to recover archeological data from the Dolores Valley. The recovery work has been underway since 1978 to mitigate the effects of the Dolores Project on cultural resources in the valley, an area exceptionally rich in ancient Indian and other historical artifacts dating back as far as the 7th to 10th centuries, A.D.

The Dolores Project, using McPhee Dam as the primary storage facility, is designed to provide water to irrigate about 61,000 acres in southwestern Colorado and water for municipal and industrial use to four Colorado communities.