Chinese Water Official Tours Reclamation Sites

A water official from the Peoples Republic of China is in Salt Lake City and Provo to study the Bureau of Reclamation's water resources planning techniques, on the second leg of a year-long study program that will cover most of the Western States, Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Director Clifford Barrett announced today.

Chen Chunhuai, Senior Engineer and Secretary of the Planning Office of South-to-North Water Transfers in Beijing, China, began his study at Reclamation's Engineering and Research Center in Denver. He specializes in the planning of interbasin water transfer for conservation and agriculture. He has been in Provo where he is especially interested in Utah's transbasin diversion created by the Central Utah Project.

He has been observing how Americans plan massive water projects in the West. "We have very similar problems; economical, environmental, and in our relations between local states in planning our (water resource) activities," said Mr. Chen. "I have found some very interesting experiences that would be useful for China," he added.

Massive water projects are nothing new to China. The CUP's transbasin diversion utilizing the Strawberry Aqueduct and Collection System comprises approximately 37 miles. By comparison, China has a transbasin diversion 700 miles long.

According to Chen, China has sent 26 engineers to this country--some with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, some with the Tennessee Valley...