Reclamation to Revise Acreage Limitation Rules
to Implement So-Called Hammer Clause

The Bureau of Reclamation today announced plans to revise the acreage limitation rules to implement section 203 (b) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

Section 203 (b) of the act, commonly known as the "hammer clause," gives water districts 4½ years from the date of enactment to amend their existing repayment or water service contracts to come under the provisions of the law. After April 12, 1987, individuals in nonamending districts who do not execute irrevocable elections must pay full-cost for Reclamation water supplied to lands leased in excess of 160 acres. The current rules of the act do not contain provisions for implementing this section.

Therefore, the regulations must be revised to incorporate this provision of the law. The rules will also be revised to clarify and expand upon other specific provisions. These latter revisions will be based primarily on comments that have been received from both inside and outside of government since the current rules became effective in January of 1984.

# # #