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colorado river association

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Colorado River Board of California Wednesday (1/18/78) went on record unanimously opposing any federal studies on importing water from the Columbia River Basin into the Colorado River Basin.

The board is the state agency responsible for protecting California's interests in the water and power resources of the Colorado River.

The action by the Colorado River Board came a little more than a month after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution urging the federal government to develop programs to export Columbia River water into the southwest.

At present, there is a federal moratorium in effect which prevents any studies on exporting water out of the Columbia River Basin. However, this moratorium expires on September 30 of this year.

The Colorado River Board in its Wednesday action passed a resolution which listed five reasons Columbia exports are not feasible.

- "Officials of the Northwest states have declared that there is no surplus water in the Columbia River Basin over the

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needs of their states (for water supplies, hydroelectric power generation, navigation and fisheries).

● "Costs of various proposals would be extremely high, with capital costs of several billions of dollars, and high annual costs.

● "Energy demands would be high, costly and most likely could not be met.

● "Environmental problems could be severe.

● "Federal policy is evolving towards having beneficiaries pay most or all of water project costs. Agriculture, the principal water user within the Colorado River Basin, could not repay even a small portion of the costs."

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1/19/78