June 14, 1951

Honorable Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your proposed report entitled "Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, Upper Colorado River Basin," dated January 26, 1951, was received on February 15, 1951, for review in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 534, 78th Congress, 2nd Session. On the latter date, the report was transmitted to the State Engineer for review and comment thereon. The State Engineer has submitted his comments, in which I concur and request that they be considered as expressing the views of the State of California on your proposed report.

Very truly yours,

C. H. PURCELL Original signed by
Director of Public Works
STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ON
PROPOSED REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
ENTITLED
COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT
AND
PARTICIPATING PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Section 1 of the Flood Control Act, approved December 22, 1944 (Public Law 534, 78th Congress, 2nd Session), on January 30, 1951, the Assistant Commissioner of Reclamation transmitted two copies of the proposed report of the Secretary of the Interior entitled, "Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, Upper Colorado River Basin," to the Director of Public Works, the official designated by Governor Earl Warren as his representative in such matters, for his views and recommendations thereon. The report was received in the office of the Director of Public Works on February 15, 1951, and referred on the same date to the State Engineer, who is Chief of the Division of Water Resources, for review. One copy of the report was referred by the State Engineer to the Colorado River Board of California on February 23, 1951, for comment of that Board. Additional copies of the report and substantiating material were required for use in connection with the review of the report, and upon request, copies of the report and of reports on seven of the participating projects were transmitted on March 2, 1951, by the Regional Director, Region 4, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, to the State Engineer and to the Chief Engineer, Colorado River Board. On April 17, 1951, copies of reports on two additional participating projects were furnished by the Regional Director, Region 4, to the Director of Public Works and to the Chief Engineer of the Colorado River Board, and on May 11, 1951, copies of two reports, which were all of the reports on participating projects prepared to date, were transmitted to the Director of Public Works and Chief Engineer of the Colorado River Board.

On April 10, 1951, the State Engineer addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Reclamation, as follows:

"Reference is made to letter from Mr. Wesley R. Nelson, Assistant Commissioner, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, dated January 30, 1951, transmitting two copies of the Department of the Interior's proposed report on the Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, to Mr. C. H. Purcell, Director of Public Works. These reports were received in the Director's office on February 15, 1951.

"On February 23, 1951, Mr. Purcell acknowledged receipt of the two copies of the report and stated that additional copies of the report and of the substantiating material would be needed for this office and for the Colorado River Board of..."
California. In accordance with the suggestion in Mr. Nelson's letter, a request was made to Mr. E. O. Larson, Regional Director at Salt Lake City, for the additional material.

"On March 2, 1951, Mr. Larson forwarded the additional copies of the report and supplemental reports on Florida Project, Silt Project, Smith Fork Project, and Paonia Project in Colorado; Pine River Project Extension, Colorado-New Mexico; Hammond Project, New Mexico; and Lyman Project, Wyoming. This material was received on March 5, 1951. Reports on six of the recommended projects have not yet been received.

"In view of the delay in receiving sufficient copies of the main report on the Colorado River Storage Project, and the additional delay in receiving substantiating material, it is anticipated that it will be necessary to ask the Secretary of the interior to withhold transmittal of his report to the Congress until the comments of the State of California can be submitted."

By letter dated May 11, 1951, the Secretary of the Interior advised the Director of Public Works as follows:

"On January 30, 1951, copies of this Department's proposed report on the Colorado River Storage Project were sent to you by the Commissioner of Reclamation acting in my behalf, for the views and recommendations of the State of California in accordance with the provisions of Section 1(c) of the Flood Control Act of December 22, 1944. This Act provides for a waiting period of ninety days during which the affected States may submit comments on the proposed report.

"In consideration of the unanimous action taken by the Upper Colorado River Commission at its April 22, 1951 meeting, in passing a resolution urging an extension of the time for the submittal of comments and recognizing the complexities and magnitude of the project, the Department of the Interior will withhold transmittal of the report to the Congress until after June 15, 1951, in order to permit additional time for the States to comment on the report."

The Commissioner of Reclamation by letter dated May 17, 1951, advised the State Engineer as follows:

"Response to your letter of April 10, relative to the review of the proposed report of the Department of the Interior on the Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects, has been held up pending decision by the Secretary as to whether transmittal of his report to the Congress would be held up beyond the expiration of the ninety-day period established by the Flood Control Act of 1944 for submittal of comments by the States on the Secretary's proposed reports.

"In consideration of the unanimous action of the representatives of the Upper Colorado River Basin States in requesting an extension of time for submittal of comments on this report, the Secretary has decided to withhold transmittal of the report to the Congress until after June 15, 1951,"
so as to permit those States which require it additional time
in which to submit comments. A letter to that effect has
already gone forward from the Secretary to Mr. Purcell.

"It is noted that at the time of writing your letter
you had not received copies of the reports on six of the
participating projects. By this time, you have undoubtedly
received copies of the reports on Central Utah and Emery
County reports directly from Mr. Larson, and the LaBarge and
Seedskaee Project reports should be furnished you soon.
These small projects in Wyoming would appear to have little,
if any, effect on the State of California, and it is not
expected that the delay in furnishing you with copies of
the reports will affect the submittal date of comments. It
is not contemplated that a participating project report
will be made on the Eden Project, certain features of
which are, as you know, already under construction.

"At the time the recommendations for the Colorado River
Storage Project were formulated, we had expected that the
report on the Shiprock Project, New Mexico would be completed
before the present time. It is now clear that the report
will not be completed in the immediate future, however, we
are hopeful that the various interests concerned will soon
reach agreement."

The proposed report of the Secretary of the Interior consists
of (1) a letter, dated December 22, 1950, from the Commissioner,
Bureau of Reclamation, to the Secretary of the Interior, which letter
was approved on January 26, 1951, by the Secretary of the Interior;
and (2) the interim report of the Regional Director, dated December 15,
1950, with substantiating materials. Reports on participating projects
which have been received for review consist of the following:

Florida Project, Colorado
Silt Project, Colorado
Smith Fork Project, Colorado
Paonia Project, Colorado
Fino River Project Extension, Colorado-New Mexico
Hammond Project, New Mexico
Lyman Project, Wyoming
Central Utah Project, Utah
Emery County Project, Utah
LaBarge Project, Wyoming
Seedskaee Project, Wyoming

The Commissioner of Reclamation in his letter, dated
December 22, 1950, to the Secretary of the Interior, makes, among
others, the following recommendations:

"(a) That the plan of development of the water
resources of the Upper Colorado River Basin described in
this report be approved:

"(b) That authority be sought for the Secretary
of the Interior acting pursuant to the Federal reclamation
laws (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, and acts ...)
amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto) to construct, operate, and maintain (i) the following units of the Colorado River Storage Project:

- Echo Park
- Flaming Gorge
- Glen Canyon
- Navajo
- Whitewater

and (ii) the following initial participating projects subject to the terms of paragraphs (g) or (g), as appropriate, of these recommendations:

- Central Utah (initial phase), Utah
- Emery County, Utah
- Florida, Colorado
- Hammond, New Mexico
- La Barge, Wyoming
- Lyman, Wyoming
- Pine River extension, Colorado-New Mexico
- Seedskadee, Wyoming
- Silt, Colorado
- Smith Fork, Colorado
- Paonia, Colorado

all as described in the report of the Regional Director but with such modification of, omissions from, or additions to the works as the Commissioner of Reclamation, with the approval of the Secretary, may find proper;

(Note: Paragraphs (g) and (g) set forth qualifications to be met by the participating projects.)

In the report of the Regional Director, the construction cost of the entire Colorado River Storage Project is estimated at $1,139,100,000, and the average annual operation, maintenance, and replacement costs are estimated at $9,732,100, with full project development.

COMMENTS

The voluminous reports on the Colorado River Project and on the participating projects have been reviewed and studied by the State Division of Water Resources and the Colorado River Board of California as fully as practicable within the limited time available under circumstances existing, and as permitted under provisions of the Flood Control Act, approved December 22, 1944.

It is the policy of the State of California to favor full development of the Upper Basin of the Colorado River System, utilizing the water apportioned to it under the Colorado River Compact.

The primary interest of the State of California in the specific projects set forth in the report of the Commissioner of Reclamation
as approved by the Secretary of the Interior on January 26, 1951, is that in the construction and operation of any of those projects, California will receive its due apportionment of the waters of the Colorado River System as provided for in the Colorado River Compact and related laws, instruments and documents. Therefore, the State of California favors Congressional authorization of the specific projects set forth in the proposed report of the Secretary of the Interior or as may be modified, and their construction with Federal funds consistent with national welfare if (a) such projects qualify under criteria, policies and procedures of the Congress, and (b) the diversion and utilization of the waters of the Colorado River System by and through these projects will not impair the rights of the State of California or any of its agencies to the waters of that system as defined and set forth in the Colorado River Compact and related laws and documents.

Submitted by:

(s) A. D. EDMONSTON
A. D. Edmonston
State Engineer

APPROVED with the understanding that the phrase "criteria, policies and procedures of the Congress" refers to "uniform criteria, policies and procedures to be established by the Congress."

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By

(s) FRANKLIN THOMAS
Franklin Thomas
Chairman

Sacramento, California
June 14, 1951