Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced today that the Bureau of Reclamation is realigning its activities in Central Arizona with the establishment of an Arizona Projects Office in Phoenix.

The Secretary said the new office will handle all preconstruction and construction activities for the Central Arizona project. He added that certain other Reclamation functions will be assigned to the office.

Commissioner of Reclamation Ellis L. Armstrong said the present Phoenix Development Office will be deactivated and selected personnel from that office will be assigned to the Arizona Projects Office.

Key personnel will include C. A. Pugh, Projects Manager; Richard E. Shunick, Associate Projects Manager, and O. H. Lillard, Division of Planning.

Commissioner Armstrong also announced assignment to the Arizona Projects Office of Robert W. Gilbert, former Assistant to the Regional Director, Region Four, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah; A. K. Dolynaik, former Construction Engineer in the Parker-Davis Project Office in Phoenix, and M. C. Thomas, formerly Office Engineer for the Southern Nevada Water Project, Henderson, Nevada.

The Commissioner pointed out that personnel being assigned to the new office have been carefully selected from the ranks of Reclamation's career employees to form the nucleus of a highly-trained engineering and administrative organization to handle the complex duties associated with the Bureau's huge water development program in Arizona.

The Office of Management and Budget recently released $2.7 million in funds to be used to finance repayment contract negotiations, environmental statements and other preconstruction activities leading to the award of the first construction contract for the Central Arizona Project's water facilities.

Commissioner Armstrong said construction is well under way on the 2.3 million kilowatt capacity Navajo Generating Station, near Page in northeastern Arizona, which will furnish electrical energy for pumping water for the Central Arizona Project. The Bureau of Reclamation, a financial participant in the Navajo Generating Station along with five utilities, will use about one-fourth of the powerplant's power generating capacity to pump CAP water.
Destined to be one of Reclamation's largest multipurpose water developments, the Central Arizona Project will deliver an average of 1.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water annually to the central Arizona area to supplement present supply to farms, cities and industries. The water will be pumped from the Bill Williams Arm of Lake Havasu behind Parker Dam—155 miles downstream from Hoover Dam—through a system of waterways stretching 377 miles southeasterly across Arizona.