A $585,594 Bureau of Reclamation contract for construction of the final portion of the Southside Canal of the Collbran Project in west-central Colorado has been authorized for award, the Department of the Interior announced today.

A. S. Horner Construction Company, Inc., Denver, Colorado, submitted the lowest acceptable bid. Seven other bids were received ranging up to $827,094. Second low bid was for $592,453 by Syblon-Reid Construction Company of Warden, Washington. Third low bid was for $602,893 by F. H. Linniman, Inc., of Denver.

Assistant Secretary Fred G. Aandahl said that this is the seventh major contract let within slightly over a year for construction of features on the Collbran Project. One of the earlier contracts was for construction of a tunnel on the Southside Canal, which is the principal feeder canal to bring irrigation water from the reservoir to be created by Vega Dam, now under construction on Plateau Creek by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Collbran Project will provide a full irrigation supply to 2,310 acres and a supplemental water supply to 18,340 acres.

Other features of the project for which contracts have been let within the last year include the Upper and Lower Molina Powerplant structures, approximately 11 miles of concrete pipeline, two generating units for the Upper and Lower Molina plants and the first section of the Southside Canal.

Work to be done under the present contract by the end of January 1961 includes earthwork for approximately 11.6 miles of unlined canal, approximately 325 feet of earth-lined canal and construction of roughly 2,100 linear feet of siphons. The barrels of the siphons are to be pretensioned concrete pipe.