COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
102 Columbine Building
1845 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

December 13, 1971

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Colorado Water Congress Advisory Committee.

FROM: Felix L. Sparks, Director.

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 5, re Collbran Project, Board Meeting, December 15, 1971.

In the original formulation of participating projects as a part of the Colorado River Storage Project Act, the Collbran Project was to be included as a participating unit. As a result of delay in getting the Storage Project Act passed by Congress, separate legislation was enacted in 1954 authorizing the construction of the Collbran Project. The project was subsequently constructed. Irrigation water users were required by the legislation to repay construction costs in accordance with repayment ability for a period of fifty years. The total cost of the Collbran Project was approximately $16,646,000, with $6,191,000 being allocated to irrigation. The irrigation repayment assistance required from power revenues is estimated to be about $5,061,000.

Congressman Wayne N. Aspinall feels that there is an obligation on the part of the Upper Basin fund established by the Colorado River Storage Project Act to provide repayment assistance for the irrigation costs of the Collbran Project. He, therefore, proposes to introduce legislation during the next session of the Congress to establish the Collbran Project as a participating unit of the Colorado River Storage Project. The staff of this board agrees with Congressman Aspinall's position. The Collbran Project utilizes water which is tributary to the Colorado River and is therefore entitled to the same treatment accorded to other similar projects.

Prior to the introduction of legislation, the Congressman desires that this board establish some position in the matter. It is therefore recommended that the board approve the inclusion of the Collbran Project as a participating unit of the Colorado River Storage Project.

FLS:mm