The following report is a discussion of a selected few items of current interest to the River District Board. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive analysis or in-depth discussion, but instead is intended to be generally informative and an introduction to questions, discussion and Board instruction. I will discuss additional items in my report to the Board on October 16, 1984.

DEDICATION: TAYLOR DRAW DAM AND KENNEY RESERVOIR

The dedication of Taylor Draw Dam and Kenney Reservoir was held on Saturday, September 29, 1984. Five Directors attended: George Petre, Kenneth Kenney, David Mott, Wesley Signs and James Pughe. The dam plug is in place. One minor construction problem remains; installation of hydraulic lines for the main outlet gate. As soon as the gate can be operated water storage will begin.

GALLOWAY - SAN DIEGO

The Board has received copies of correspondence, reports and news items concerning the proposal of Galloway Group, Ltd. to sell/lease water from the Yampa (including from the District's Juniper site) and White Rivers to the San Diego County Water Authority. The Board recently received copies of Greg Williams' October 2, 1984 memo to Bob McCarty discussing the Galloway proposal as related to the District's Juniper-Cross Mountain project and the FERC. Mr. Williams recommends that the District take some action.

Upon the direction of several River District Directors, I have talked with both management and board members of California water agencies with the message that the River District's position is that if Upper Basin water is to be delivered to Lower Basin states, it must be by a public agency, and that the District will talk with them. There is general agreement with this position within the Colorado Water and political communities. In 1980 the River District received an overture from a California irrigation district to investigate
the possibility of delivering Colorado water for an undetermined price. The River District responded but there were no substantive results at that time. Directors Pughe and Signs have begun talks with landowners in the Juniper basin.

I request discussion and instruction.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE

At the September 26, 1984 meeting of the State Legislative Interim Committee on non-tributary ground water, I testified to the general effect that technically, no ground water is totally non-tributary, and that western Colorado will be greatly impacted by any new legislation that addresses non-tributary ground water. The River District Board has not addressed significant issues surrounding non-tributary ground water, including whether or not the overlying land should own the non-tributary water under the land. In the Huston cases, the River District took the position that the overlying land owners do own the non-tributary ground water under their land. However, with the United States owning most of the land in western Colorado this is an issue that the District must address. Because of the Interim Committee's schedule, a River District statement will probably be submitted before the October 15, 1984 Board Meeting. However, Board discussion and instruction are necessary.

RESERVED WATER RIGHTS - WILDERNESS

The State Legislative Interim Committee on Non-tributary Groundwater requested and was given, an enlargement of its charge to include the issue of potential federal reserved water rights in wilderness areas. Senator Armstrong's Wilderness Bill, S.2916, (98th Congress, Second Session), includes specific language declaring that wilderness designation does not create a reserved water right for the United States. Director Brooks testified in support of that language at the Senate Committee Hearing in Washington, D.C. on September 19, 1984. The language is an attempt to address legislatively the issues raised in the suit Sierra Club v. Block, wherein the Sierra Club is asking the Court to instruct the Secretary of Agriculture to quantify reserved water rights for the United States Forest Service wilderness areas. The Legislative Interim Committee was concerned enough about the issue to adopt language making recommendations to the full legislature. I helped prepare that language and copies are included. At this writing, the issue of language to protect Colorado's water vis-a-vis a potential federal reserved rights claim in wilderness areas, is unresolved. However, we have delivered the message that
the River District's position is in support of the original language which declares that creation of wilderness does not create a reserved water right.

**COLORADO WATER CONGRESS SPECIAL PROJECT**

On Tuesday, September 18, 1984, members of committees of the Colorado Water Congress Special Project met with members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States Natural Resources Committee. Several members of the Chamber's Natural Resources Committee will be working with their own organization towards participation by the Chamber with the Colorado Water Congress in issues surrounding endangered species and Section 404 (of the Clean Water Act) Permits.

The River District will be very active in issues surrounding the re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act in 1985. (First Session of the 99th Congress).

**H.R. 4444 AND S.B. 1981 SMALL PROJECTS**

On September 19, 1984, we sent mailgrams to appropriate members of the United States Congress urging re-authorization of Small Projects Loan Legislation. The Board has received copies of the mailgram language.

**GRAND MESA PROJECT**

The Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District has requested that the River District and the State Water Board re-evaluate the Grand Mesa Project. The State Water Board is expected to take action on Grand Mesa's request at its November 1984 meeting. I request discussion and instruction concerning the River District's possible participation.

**COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT REVENUES**

It is likely that the issue of a surcharge on power and/or water sales from Colorado River Storage Project reservoirs will be addressed at some level in the Congress in 1985. The District will be a very active participant in the addressing of the issue.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN**

The District is continuing work on the Green Mountain water marketing environmental impact statement.
JOINT USE AND GREEN MOUNTAIN EXCHANGE

It is expected that the engineering contractor will be selected around the middle of October, 1984 for the Water Resources and Power Development Authority's "joint use and exchange" study, jointly sponsored by the Denver Water Board and the River District.

TERMINAL GLACIAL MORAINES

On October 3, 1984, the staff met with Bureau of Reclamation personnel representing both the Lower Missouri and Upper Colorado Regions and representatives of Cory Company, Incorporated. The Bureau and Cory have signed a contract for a joint study ($771,000 over 42 months) of water which may be in reservoirs naturally created by terminal glacial moraines. The Bureau and Cory requested the District participate in their study at no cost to the District. I request discussion and instruction.

SELECTED FUTURE MEETINGS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO THE BOARD

November 30 - December 1, 1984 - Colorado Water Convention, Sheraton, Denver Tech Center

November 12 - 14, 1984 - NWRA Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona

November 14 - 15, 1984 - Tour of Central Arizona Project

December 12 - 14, 1984 - Colorado River Water User's Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada