

WATER

Flood control

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

March 24, 1970

M E M O R A N D U M

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

FROM: Felix L. Sparks, Director.

SUBJECT: South Platte River Levees and Channel Improvement.
Agenda Item #5, Board Meeting, April 1, 1970.

By the Flood Control Act of 1950, a project was authorized to improve the channel of the South Platte River from Denver to Fort Morgan. The project contemplated a system of continuous levees on the South Platte River from the Chatfield damsite to Denver and from Denver downstream to the junction of St. Vrain Creek, a distance of approximately 40 miles. Additional levees and channel improvement would be provided where needed from St. Vrain Creek to Fort Morgan, a distance of about 42 miles.

That part of the project which authorized channel improvement from the Chatfield damsite to Denver is included as part of the Chatfield Project. However, at the present time no plans have been prepared to improve the channel from Denver to Fort Morgan.

The authorized Chatfield and Mt. Carbon dams, together with the already completed Cherry Creek dam, will provide a high degree of protection from future flood damages along the channel of the South Platte River from Denver to the state line. However, as the metropolitan growth increases, the danger of extensive flood damages occurring along the South Platte channel from runoff originating below the Cherry Creek, Chatfield and Mt. Carbon dams also increases. The conversion of land to buildings and streets drastically changes the normal runoff pattern and increases the possibility of damaging accumulations of water in the South Platte channel.

During the past year flood damages along the South Platte channel and from lower tributaries amounted to more than \$20 million. The probability is that this type of damage will occur with more frequency in the future. Despite the pending construction of the

Chatfield and Mt. Carbon dams, there will still be the necessity of controlling the channel of the South Platte River and some of its downstream tributaries. The staff therefore recommends that the Colorado Water Conservation Board request that the Corps of Engineers initiate the necessary planning which will result in the improvement of the South Platte River channel from Denver to Fort Morgan as contemplated by the Flood Control Act of 1950.

It is further recommended that as an intermediate measure the Corps of Engineers be requested to initiate further snagging and clearing projects along the South Platte River and its downstream tributaries as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1937 and that emergency bank protection works be constructed as required under the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1946.

A form of resolution to accomplish the above recommendations is enclosed for the Board's consideration.

FLS:lk
Enclosure

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R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, during the past several years extensive flood damages have occurred along the channel of the South Platte River from Denver to Fort Morgan, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, as the result of continuing metropolitan growth there is a probability that such flood damages will occur with more frequency in the future; and

WHEREAS, it appears imperative for the future welfare and safety of the citizens of Colorado that adequate flood control protection be provided along the channel of the South Platte River in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, by the Flood Control Act of 1950 a project was authorized to improve the channel of the South Platte River from Denver to Fort Morgan for flood control protection; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the 1950 Flood Control Act have not been carried out through lack of past appreciation by the State of Colorado and its residents of the serious flood threat which is now posed by the accumulation of flood waters in the South Platte River;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Colorado Water Conservation Board in regular meeting assembled in Denver, Colorado,

this 1st day of April, 1970, that the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, be requested to expedite the necessary action to carry out the purposes of the Flood Control Act of 1950 as said act pertains to the construction of flood prevention works on the channel of the South Platte River from Denver to Fort Morgan, Colorado; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as an intermediate measure the Corps of Engineers be requested to initiate further snagging and clearing projects along the South Platte River and its downstream tributaries as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1937, and that emergency bank protection works be constructed as required under the authorization of the Flood Control Acts of 1944 and 1946; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of this Board is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers at Omaha, Nebraska, and to each of Colorado's elected representatives and senators in the United States Congress.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Colorado Water Conservation Board in regular session assembled at Denver, Colorado, on the 1st day of April, 1970.

FELIX L. SPARKS, Secretary