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COMBINED REPORT
of the
SECRETARY-ENGINEER and COUNSEL
of
THE COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 21, 1959

Over three years have elapsed since the passage of the Colorado River Storage Project and Participating Projects Act, Public Law 485. During that period, the Board of Directors and the staff of the District have directed their efforts toward the establishment and firming up of rights to the use of water for the storage and participating projects which are designed, primarily, to develop the water resources of the Colorado River and its tributaries within the district boundaries. Your secretary-engineer and counsel feel that their report, to be submitted at the third quarterly meeting in 1959, should review the activities and accomplishments of the District during these three years, in order that the Board may be advised as to the status of water rights for these projects, in determining its future course of action.

The report divides itself into river basins. In considering it, the members of the Board should have in mind the fact that, as to some of the filings which have been made and decrees which have been obtained or are sought in pending adjudication proceedings, competition with transmountain diversions, either existing, planned, or possible, is of prime importance. Some of the District's conditional decrees, for example that to the West Divide Project, not only establish rights to the use of water for the project involved, but also protect the sources of supply therefor against such diversions to the Eastern Slope as are planned or may be possible.

THE GUNNISON BASIN

Development of water resources in the Gunnison Basin will be made in five general areas, the Uncompahgre Valley, including Bostwick Park, Gunnison County proper, the North Fork, the cities of Delta and Grand Junction, and the Redlands Project, west of Grand Junction.

THE CURECANTI UNIT.

1. This is actually the Curecanti Project, authorized by Public Law 485, upon which the feasibility report required by that Act has been completed by the Bureau of Reclamation and submitted through the Secretary of the Interior to the President of the United States. In passing, it should be noted that the President has not yet officially advised the Congress that the report of the Bureau of Reclamation establishes the feasibility of the project, as he is required to do by the Storage Project Act; and, for that reason, appropriations for construction of the project may not be included in the budget for fiscal 1960. It is noteworthy, however, that the Senate has appropriated \$1, 000, 000 for initiation of construction of the Curecanti Unit in fiscal year 1960.

The Curecanti Project is designed, primarily, as a hold-over storage and power generation facility, performing the same function as do the Glen Canyon and Flaming Gorge reservoirs. In addition, however, as planned by the District, as a part of the Upper Gunnison Project, the Curecanti Project will also serve to provide water for irrigation and other beneficial uses within the Gunnison Basin itself. These uses may be made in the following manner:

The Curecanti Project, as now planned by the Bureau of Reclamation, includes two reservoirs, plus a third which is still under investigation and study, and which may or may not form a unit of the completed project. These are: (a) The Blue Mesa Reservoir, located below the confluence of the Gunnison and Lake Fork, which is the principal storage structure of the project, and is designed to impound 939, 204 acre feet of water; (b) Morrow Point Reservoir, which is to be located immediately above the confluence of the Gunnison and Cimarron Rivers. The amount of storage in this reservoir is comparatively small, 114, 706 acre feet; and it will serve primarily as a power generation generating facility; (c) the Crystal Reservoir, the exact location of which has not yet been determined. If built, the Crystal Reservoir will be located in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River a short distance above the East Portal of the Gunnison Tunnel. It also is primarily a power generation facility. In-basin use of stored water will be made possible by the following procedures:

(1) Water impounded in these reservoirs can be made available to supply the demands of the decrees to the Uncompahgre Project through the Gunnison Tunnel. Thus, the burden on the stream above the Blue Mesa Reservoir will be relieved; and water, which now must be released or bypassed to meet these demands, will be available for diversion in Gunnison County under existing decrees, and may be utili-

zed for irrigation and other purposes, by exchange for stored water in Blue Mesa Reservoir.

(2) Water stored in these reservoirs may be used to provide stored water for the Uncompahgre Project, which is now made available by the Taylor Park Reservoir. This will make possible the use of Taylor Park water for the generation of power, by the Taylor Park Power Plant. It should be noted that a power house and penstocks have been constructed at the Taylor Park Dam; but, by reason of the seasonal nature of releases of water on the reservoir to meet the demands of the Uncompahgre Project, it has not been feasible to install or to operate power generating machinery. With the Curecanti water available for this purpose, releases from Taylor Park Reservoir may be made according to such a schedule as will permit power generation. By exchange, water for irrigation use in the Ohio Creek Unit area may be made available by means of the proposed Taylor River Canal, diverting below the confluence of the East River and Taylor River.

(3) Storage of water in the reservoirs of the Curecanti Project, and releases therefrom for power generation, will so regulate the flow of the Gunnison River downstream therefrom that a full supply for domestic and municipal use in Delta, Grand Junction, and other towns and cities served by the water from the Gunnison River or its tributaries will be assured. These cities now have decrees, conditional and absolute, for sufficient water for their present and reasonable future needs; but, during the low-flow period each year, there is insufficient water in the river to fill these decrees. With the operation of the Curecanti Reservoir sufficient water will be provided for these and other decrees for domestic and municipal uses.

(4) The regulation of the flow of the Gunnison River at the headgate and diversion works of the Redlands Power and Water Company, west of Grand Junction, will permit that company to divert sufficient water at all periods of the year to meet its present and future needs and requirement for water irrigation, domestic, and power generation purposes.

THE TOMICHI UNIT.

The Tomichi Unit includes the following structures and facilities: Ohio City Reservoir; Quartz Creek Canal; Monarch Reservoir; South Crookton Canal. The two reservoirs will impound the water of Quartz Creek and Tomichi Creek, and the water stored in the reservoirs, together with direct flow diversions from the two streams and their tributaries, intercepted in the course of the canals, will serve lands on