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April 30, 1951

Gunnison Watershed Conservation Committee
Gunnison, Colorado

Attention Mr. E. L. Dutcher, Chairman

Gentlemen:

In response to your letter of recent date enclosing copy of the resolution passed by the Gunnison Watershed Conservation Committee relative to the building of the Curecanti Dam, we wish to say that while the Montrose Water Committee goes along with Gunnison in some of their requests and demands, it is felt that these requests and demands should be considered as subsequent to the building of the Curecanti Dam. The Montrose Water Committee does urge the Colorado River Water Board to approve the construction of the Curecanti Project in the initial phase of the Colorado River Water Development.

In meeting, the Montrose Water Committee took up the Gunnison resolution, point by point, and its conclusions were as follows:

1. COFFER DAM: It is ~~was~~ not believed that the Montrose Water Committee was capable of passing on the engineering problems involved in the construction of such a coffer dam. It was felt, however, that the additional cost of construction, together with the decreased capacity of the reservoir might be a prohibitive factor.

2. TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR: The Committee was agreeable to any mutual understanding that might be reached between the parties concerned in the transfer of storage rights in the Taylor Park Reservoir to the Curecanti Reservoir, but believes that such an agreement should not be a condition precedent to the construction of the Curecanti Dam.

3. ENGINEERING SURVEYS & INVESTIGATIONS: It was agreed that these should be completed as rapidly as possible when requested by those concerned.

4. COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF REVENUE: It is believed that Gunnison County and the individuals concerned should be properly re-imbursed for all losses sustained as a result of construction of the Curecanti Dam.

5. PROVISION FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES; It is the understanding of the Montrose Committee that in the case of the construction of such projects as the Curecanti Dam it is customary for the Government to provide a town with full facilities to take care of the working force.

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6. RELOCATION OF HIGHWAY 50: The Committee is in agreement with Gunnison on this matter but feels that it is a matter for the Government agencies and the Colorado State Highway Board to decide. Experience has shown that the Government in reconstruction of roads on such projects usually replaces with better roads than those originally in use.

7. HIGHWAY FROM GUNNISON TO HINSDALE COUNTY LINE; Committee is in agreement with Gunnison, but reference to Point #6, above, will also cover this matter.

8. FISH AND WILDLIFE: It is reasonable to expect that the general policy followed by the various services in the creation of other reservoirs will be followed in the construction of the Curecanti Dam.

9. SURVEYS FOR THE UPPER GUNNISON: STUDY OF RE-SEEDING AND METHOD OF IRRIGATING: The Montrose Committee is in agreement with the State to the extent that it requires a pledge that participating projects in this area be given priority on the revenues from power development for survey projects, but believe that these surveys should not be a condition precedent to the construction of the Curecanti Dam.

On the matter of the five points outlined on page 4 of the Gunnison resolution relative to further adjustments "provided legal considerations will permit", the Montrose Committee reports to you the following conclusions:

1. It is agreed that the ranchers whose lands have been inundated shall have first right to re-location.

2. It is agreed that proper arrangements should be made for the transfer, without reduction, of range rights on National Forest land and the Public Domain lands, for those whose land is inundated.

3. It is agreed that the resort owners whose property is affected by the building of the dam at Curecanti be given preferential right to new sites.

4. It is agreed that in cases of property owners affected by the Curecanti Dam the effect of Income Tax and the devaluation of the dollar should be considered.

5. Regulation of the Taylor Park Reservoir is a matter for a mutual understanding between those parties directly concerned and the Government agencies.

In closing, the Montrose Water Committee would be glad to meet at any time with the Gunnison Watershed Conservation Committee if the latter Committee so desires, in the event that said committee is in possession of information not available to the Montrose Water Committee that would enable the Montrose committee to go along with

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