#### NAVAJO RESERVOIR WATER SUPPLY

1985 Bureau of Reclamation Hydrologic Determination -- 72,000 Acre-feet available for contract.

At the July 1985 meeting of the Interstate Stream Commission, the following requests for water were considered and those recommended by the Commission are indicated:

Entity	Requested	Recommended
Utah International Public Service Southern Union Subtotal	35,300 AF 16,200 50 51,550	$ \frac{\frac{1}{1}}{\frac{1}{1}} = \frac{35,300 \text{ AF}}{16,200} $ $ \frac{\frac{1}{1}}{\frac{50}{51,550}} $
BPOE #1747 Bloomfield Refin. Jicarilla Paragon Gallup-Navajo Total	20 340 26,000 17,000 24,000 118,910 AF	20 340 3,000 *  54,910 AF

 $\frac{1}{}$  Existing Contracts

Remainder from 1985 Determination = 17,090 AF (72,000 - 54,910).

1987 Bureau of Reclamation Hydrologic Determination -- 94,500 acre-feet available for contract.

Amount currently available for contracting = 39,590 AF (94,500-54,910).

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# DURANGO PROJECTS OFFICE FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DPO SEND FAX # FTS-323-6539 DPO CONFIRMATION FAX # FTS-323-6500 (COMMERCIAL SEND #303-385-6539 AND COMMERCIAL CONFIRMATION #303-385-6500)

DATE: 2-6-90	TIME: 2:47
NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVE	RR SHEET: 6
TO ATTENTION: Philip B. Mut-	CODE
ORGANIZATION: Naw Mayico	Interstate Stream Commission
FAX SEND #(505) 827 - 6188 C	ONFIRMATION # (SOS) 827-6160
FROM: Errol Jensen	CODE:
ORGANIZATION Durango Project	
COMMENTS:	

Draft

Honorable Pete V. Domenici United States Senate Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Domenici:

We have reviewed the issues summary concerning the Animas-La Plata Project provided by your letter dated January 26, 1990, and provide the following comments. Our comments follow the order of the issues as they are presented in the summary.

1. "The BOR's projected Animas/La Plata Project stream flows show that the Animas stream bed will be all but dry except during spring runoff. Verbal assurances by BOR personnel to the contrary have been relied upon to advance the project, while such statements are not supported by the Definite Plan Report. The 1979 Environmental Impact Statement did not take this type of impact into consideration."

Both the Animas-La Plata Project Definite Plan Report (DPR) and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) address the effects of the Animas-La Plata Project on the Animas River. As stated in both documents, the Animas River downstream of the Durango Pumping Plant would generally be decreased most of the year. In the DPR, Chapter VI-page 79 (attached), it discusses the impacts of the project. The table shows that there is water in the river at Farmington all year.

A discussion of projected effects on the Animas River can be found several places in the EIS. However, the discussion on page C-21 and Table C-5 (both attached) best describe pre and post project conditions. It should be noted that under project conditions the minimum flow at Farmington is increased. The pre-project condition of the Animas River at the confluence with the San Juan River shows no flow in the Animas River during the dry periods. This condition is caused by irrigation diversions between the water measurement gage at Farmington and the confluence of the San Juan River. Under project conditions, water would be delivered to the San Juan River from the Animae River to satisfy the exchange required to deliver water to the City of Bloomfield and to provide the Navajo Nation their annual 7600 acre-feet of project water.

2. "To construct an earthen dam on such a site constitutes an unacceptable failure potential and flood risk to all persons living downstream. Neither this risk nor the cost of stabilizing the site were considered in the A-LPP Definite Plan Report."

Detailed geologic research and investigations conducted through 1989 do not indicate that the dam site or reservoir area have been heavily mined. Mining around the reservoir rim and downstream of the dam did occur. Our research of these abandoned coal mines along with surface and subsurface geologic investigations have not revealed the presence of subsurface mining which will affect the reservoir.

Both the risk and cost of stabilizing any site were considered in the Definite Plan Report (page 23 of Appendix A).

Conditions similar to those at Ridges Basin Dam site have been experienced on past Reclamation projects, and as with these other dams, the site specific design for Ridges Basin Dam will treat the particular geologic conditions encountered.

3. "We can either pay an unspecified amount to be determined by the Secretary upon completion of the project or forfeit a prorata share of the water. BOR personnel are making public statements which are not true and misleading."

The funding agreement and repayment contract which has just recently been negotiated with the San Juan Water Commission provides certain safety checks to assure that the Commission has some say in what it's final investment is in the project and also provisions to assure the United States is fully reimbursed for all of the costs allocated to the 30,800 acre feet of municipal and industrial water. Simply stated, the contract provides:

Article 7 - The Commission will provide \$12,800,000 as up-front cost sharing on those project facilities necessary to provide M&I water to non-Indians in New Mexico. (The \$12,800,000 was derived using a 1985 construction cost estimate for the project.)

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Article 8(a) - The Commission agrees to pay, through a 50-year repayment obligation, any additional costs that exceed the \$12,800,000 justifiable by reasons of ordinary fluctuations in the cost of construction. However, the total obligation under this contract will not exceed \$16,640,000 (\$12,800,000 plus 30% of "12,800,000).

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Article 8(e) - If the Commission's allocable share of construction costs exceed the \$16,640,000 cap provided in the contract, amendment of the contract or other financial arrangements will need to be made. One possible "other financial arrangement" might be for the Commission to receive a pro rata share of 30,800 acre feet commensurate with what they have obligated themselves to pay.

These three provisions acknowledge that contrary to the old way of contracting for the repayment of M&I water, up-front cost sharing requires that the contracting entity must expend money prior to receiving benefits from the project and, therefore, should have some right to some portion of the benefits they prepaid without giving them a closed-ended contract.

4. "Since 1917, BOR water projects have cost three (3) times the projected amount. If history replays itself, A-LLP will cost \$1.5 billion, the non-federal cost will be \$1.2 billion and we either agree to pay our additional share of accept 1/100th of our water."

The total cost of the project allocable to the 30,800 acre feet of project water for the San Juan Water Commission is presently (Oct. 1989 price level) estimated to be \$14,135,000. This figure does not include any interest during construction charge. Interest during construction will not begin until the \$12,800,000 upfront cost sharing is depleted. The \$12,800,000 upfront cost sharing is to be provided concurrent with the construction of those project facilities that are necessary for storing and delivering the New Mexico

non-Indian water. If construction begins in 1990, those facilities are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1996. Assuming the present rate of inflation in construction costs, the Commission's share of the construction cost allocation would be \$16,572,000 at the time of completion of the facilities, within their total obligation cap in the contract.

5. "Phase I funding is comprised of \$354 million in Federal funding and \$66.33 million, plus all cost increases, in non-federal funding."

The statement that all cost increases will be borne by non-federal funds is in error. Cost increases experienced by the project in total will be distributed proportionately among all of the funding sources. Based on a final allocation of costs upon completion of the project, each user (irrigation, M&I, etc.) will be allocated a certain repayment obligation. M&I water users will repay their full allocation; the irrigators will repay up to their ability to repay with Upper Colorado River Basin Funds picking up that portion above their ability; Indian irrigators will have their final construction cost allocation deferred under the Leavitt Act; and a certain allocation of costs will be made to nonreimbursable uses such as recreation and fish and wildlife enhancements.

6. ". . . it was the BOR's intent to start construction without the required consent decree for settling the Indian water rights claims."

A stipulated consent decree is presently being finalized by the State of Colorado, the Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District, the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Indian Tribes, and other involved entities. This stipulated consent decree is scheduled to be filed with the court in April 1990. Informal discussions with the Department's Solicitor's Office indicate that it is not necessary to file this decree before a construction start. The decree cannot be finalized until water deliveries, as provided for in the Colorado Ute Water Rights Final Settlement Agreement, are being accomplished.

7. "They also stated that we should not be concerned about the unaccounted for \$171 million cost of Phase II because 'It may never be built'."

All of the facilities necessary to store and deliver the San Juan Water Commission's project water are being built under Phase I of the project. The Commission is under no obligation, as far as we know, to assist in funding any of the Phase II costs.

8. "We wonder if the Ute Indians are going to consider their water rights claims settled without their storage and delivery systems?"

Under Phase One of the project, both tribes will have their water made available to them in Ridges Basin Reservoir, or at the point on the Animas River where diversions are made to the Durango Pumping Plant, or for La Plata River water, at the point where water is diverted for project purposes. In addition, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe will receive most of their irrigation water through a pressurized lateral system provided in Phase One.

9. "Area land costs have risen to a point that has eliminated agriculture as a viable industry."

Area land costs should have a minimal affect on the success of the irrigated

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agriculture within the Animas-La Plata Project. The lands scheduled to be served are now privately owned and it is the private owners who are now petitioning for irrigation water from the project.

10. "Phoney accounting for electricity has been used to obscure the real cost of operating and maintaining the A-LPP."

As a participating project of the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP), the Animas-La Plata Project receives a special power rate. The combined energy and capacity charge using the current CRSP rate of 5.00 mills per kilowatt-hour consumed (energy charge) plus \$2.09 per kilowatt-month standby cost (capacity charge) equates to a power cost of approximately 10 mills per kilowatt-hour. Under full project development (Phases One and Two), nearly 163 million kilowatt-hours of electricity will be required. This equates to \$1.63 million of power costs annually (10 mills \* 163,000,000 kWhrs.).

11. "Who owns and/or controls the 30,800 acre feet of San Juan County M&I water?"

The 30,800 acre-feet of water which will be provided to the San Juan Water Commission is considered to be State of New Mexico Water under the Colorado River Compact. The Bureau of Reclamation (Department of Interior) does not own the 30,800 acre-feet but holds the rights to put the water to beneficial use under the Animas-La Plata project. If this right is not exercised under the Animas-La Plata Project, the water right would no longer exist and the water would revert back to the State of New Mexico for readjudication.

12. "Placing the Indian storage and delivery systems in Phase II further jeopardizes a settlement. No specific source or means of repayment is provided for beyond the statement that the source will be 'one or more non-federal entities signatory to this agreement . . . '."

Placing the Indian storage and delivery system in Phase II will not joopardise the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement. Both Ute Tribes were both full time participates when the water rights settlement and cost sharing negotiations were taking place. The tribes had full knowledge of the negotiations and were signatory to both agreements.

13. "Only superficial consideration has been given to such alternatives."

Planning on the Animas-La Plata Project has been taking place for many years. Throughout this planning period a great effort was made to involve the public, farmers, city officials, local and state governments and other state and federal agencies. Numerous alternatives have been studied throughout the years. The project, as now documented in the 1979 Definite Plan Report and Final Environmental Statement, is the result of the planning effort. The project is a multipurpose project and was formulated to benefit the whole project area rather than being a single purpose project.

Various single purpose alternatives to supply 30,800 acre-feet to the San Juan County New Mexico area were studied. Reclamation instructions require this be done in order to determine cost allocations. The San Juan Water Commission recently hired Black & Veatch, a engineering-architectural consulting firm from Aurora, Colorado to complete a "40-year Regional

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Water Supply Plan" for the San Juan County, New Mexico area. The study was completed in October 1989. Black & Veatch report that a single purpose alternative to supply the San Juan Water Commission the same amount of water which they would get from the Animas-La Plata Project would cost approximately \$26,200,000. This is a much higher cost than is now being negotiated in the San Juan Water Commission contract. The San Juan Water Commission may not obtain water rights as good as those provided with the Animas-La Plata project.

A benefit that cannot be overlooked is the benefit of the Colorado Ute Indian water rights settlement which will be accomplished with the completion of the project.

14. "The most viable alternative for San Juan County M&I storage already exists: Alavajo Reservoir."

New water rights would have to be obtained in order for San Juan County to obtain additional water from Navajo Reservoir. As stated above, these new water rights may be subordinate to most other rights on the river. With the Animas-La Plata Project the City of Bloomfield will be getting their water from the San Juan River, however water from the Animas-La Plata Project will be required to flow down the Animas River to the San Juan River to replace the water diverted by the City of Bloomfield.

15. "The La Plata Valley needs storage of La Plata River water. Such a gravity flow storage system was one of the only worthwhile elements of the A-LPP until 1986 when, in the cost reduction efforts, it was eliminated."

Everyone agrees that the La Plata Valley needs storage of the La Plata River water. Throughout the planning of the project various alternatives to store water in the La Plata drainage have been studied. Studies have included storage high up in the drainage and storage both on and off stream lower down in the drainage. Southern Ute Reservoir was found to be the most feasible storage area on the La Plata River, however there in not a sufficient supply to satisfy project demands.

Southern Ute Reservoir was not eliminated from the project, only delayed until Phase II is built.

We appreciate your interest and continuing support of the Animas-La Plata Project.

Sincerely,

Dennis B. Underwood Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

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### **MEMORANDUM**

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County Commissioners

FROM

B. J. Baggett, County Attorney

DATE September 20, 1989

SUBJECT

ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT

**DEPARTMENT** 

Legal

This memorandum is to set out the present alternatives being discussed with reference to the 30,800 acre feet (a/f) of water appropriated by the Secretary of the Interior for use as municipal and industrial (M & I) water in San Juan County.

Prior to 1986 the idea of "cost sharing" in Western water projects was advanced by the Reagan administration. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) was required to enter into cost sharing contracts with the beneficiaries of the projects to help defray the construction costs.

Negotiations were undertaken with BOR, and the original costs to be paid by the County were estimated to be 30 million plus. The County thought that this figure was too high and commissioned a study by Black & Veatch, consulting engineers in Kansas City, Missouri, to estimate the cost of building local reservoirs for the storage of water in Barton and Cox Canyons. This study indicated that the least cost alternative just for the storage of water would be less than the amount estimated for cost sharing in the Animas-La Plata Project.

Further negotiations with BOR reduced the agreed upon cost sharing amount to 12.8 million, plus an escalation cap of up to 30 per cent, or 3.84 million, placing the total figure required of San Juan County at 16.64 million (12.8 + 3.84). This figure was less than the least cost alternative, and on June 30, 1986 the County Water Commission executed an Agreement in Principle agreeing to this amount as its share of the costs for the Animas-La Plata Project.

The County insisted on a fixed amount for the reason that New Mexico State law limits local governments in levying taxes, and the County did not want to chance being unable to raise its share of costs because of those limitations.

Several matters were left to be negotiated in the June 30, 1986 Agreement, such as the makeup of the Coordinating Committee, the point of measurement of the water delivered under the Agreement, and the amount and manner of repayment for administrative overhead. The 12.8 million is to be paid as construction progresses, with the idea being that the County's share would be paid in full when construction is completed. The 30% escalation and administrative costs could be amortized and paid back over a 30 to 40 year period.

Memorandum to County Commissioners September 20, 1989 Page 2

In the past three years, the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes, who had filed suits and laid claim to much of the water in the San Juan River System, which includes the Animas and La Plata Rivers, agreed to settle their claims for stipulated and recognized water rights in the Animas-La Plata Project. I believe Congressional action was required and obtained to approve that agreement, and the agreement is contingent upon the Animas La Plata Project being built as planned. If it is not, the Ute Tribes are free to again file suits in Federal Court seeking more water rights than they had agreed to settle for if Animas-La Plata is completed.

We are now told that the Project could be killed by the County's failure to execute a new cost sharing agreement being presented by the BOR, which removes the cap of 12.8 million and makes it an open ended contract with no set limit on the amount the County might be required to pay. Therein lies the rub.

If past history is repeated, this Project can far exceed the estimated or projected costs. The new contract provides that the BOR can amend, change, expand or modify this Project at any time before or during construction, and the County's share could be increased accordingly. By increasing the base share, you also necessarily increase the amounts represented by the 30 per cent escalation cap. As a result of the new contract, which the County will not execute at this time because of the uncertainties of the final costs, the idea of the least cost alternative is being revived by some of the County's governing officials.

One thing that we would like to point out is that under the pay-as-youconstruct plan, the water would be paid for and no other payments would be required, other than our share of the annual operating costs. This is a departure from the usual situation where the users "rent" the water and pay for its use more or less in perpetuity.

The questions being posed are:

- Is it cheaper to build our own storage facilities in San Juan County as a least cost alternative to an open ended contract with the BOR?
- If San Juan County decided that the least cost alternative would be to construct its own storage reservoirs, can we get the 30,800 a/f of water, plus the 7,200 a/f for the Navajo town of Shiprock, and retain the 1956 appropriation date established by the Secretary of the Interior when he first appropriated the water?

# 3. Would we have anything of value in the way of water rights if the Secretary released the water to San Juan County and we had to apply through the Interstate Stream Commission and the State Engineer's Office and received a 1989 or 1990 priority date, instead of the priority date now held by the Secretary?

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Memorandum to County Commissioners September 20, 1989 Page 3

- 4. Would Animas-La Plata survive as a water project if San Juan County pulls out of the deal?
- 5. What would be the effect on existing water rights in San Juan County if Animas-La Plata goes down the tube and the Ute Tribes establish a senior priority to the New Mexico (and Colorado) irrigators, industrial and domestic water users?
  - 6. Could the Secretary (with Congressional approval) transfer the 30,800 a/f of water rights to San Juan County and retain the earlier priority date? Could he transfer it without Congressional approval and retain the earlier priority date?
  - 7. If San Juan County cannot get the earlier priority date through a transfer or relinquishment by the Secretary, can we legally sign an open ended contract to construct Animas-La Plata when the total could exceed our ability to pay?
  - 8. If we can legally sign an open ended contract, should we?

The local governments agree that it is vital to acquire the 30,800 a/f of M & I water. This memorandum simply reiterates the differences some feel about the economics, legalities and mechanics of so doing.

BJB/emj-m

#### MEMORANDUM

#### November 6, 1989

TO: Jon Barela, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

FROM: S. E. Reynolds, State Engineer

SUBJECT: San Juan Water Commission - Joint Powers Agreement

On the afternoon of November 3, 1989, I discussed the subject Agreement with Mr. Bill Baggett, San Juan County Commission Legal Adviser, he advised me that the Agreement dated March 5, 1986, was approved, as required, by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) on March 28, 1986, after consulting with the Attorney General. Mr. Baggett has nothing in writing from the Attorney General in his files. He reminded me that on the day that officials from San Juan County brought the Agreement to Santa Fe for the DFA approval, I accompanied them to consult with Ms. Kay Marr, then an Assistant Attorney General.

Mr. Baggett also advised me that those who were drafting the Joint Powers Agreement carefully considered Sections 72-4-2 and -8, NMSA 1978, probably at my suggestion. It is Mr. Baggett's opinion that the phrase "untreated water" in the last Whereas clause at page 2 of the Joint Powers Agreement was inserted to make clear that they were paying for raw water in the river and not acquiring any part of a water supply system. I have no clear recollection of making the suggestion, but I do note that the two relevant sections of Article 4 are clearly marked on my desk copy of the water statutes.

Please feel free to call me if some further discussion of this subject would be helpful.

Sincerely,

S. E. Reynolds State Engineer

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NOTES FOR MEETING REGARDING ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT AZTEC, NEW MEXICO, MARCH 29, 1990, 7:00 P.M.

- 1. The State Engineer Office and the Interstate Stream Commission are responsible for the administration, development, conservation and protection of New Mexico's water resources. In accordance with the long standing tradition and practice of the two agencies, I am here tonight to provide factual information to proponents and opponents of the Animas-La Plata Project.
- 2. The records of the State Engineer Office reflect that the water rights for the New Mexico portion of the Animas-La Plata Project are held by the Secretary of the Interior (under permit number 2883, with a priority date of May 1, 1956) pursuant to New Mexico statutes dealing with water rights for Reclamation projects (Section 72-5-33 NMSA 1978).
- 3. The Constitution and statutes of New Mexico require proper administration of the water rights on the Animas River in New Mexico to ensure that prior water rights are protected against junior appropriators. The records of the State Engineer Office reflect that a maximum rate of diversion of 598.55 cubic feet of water per second was adjudicated in the 1948 San Juan Decree for 18 ditches serving about 21,620

acres of irrigated land. In addition a maximum rate of diversion of about 18.381 cubic feet of water per second has been permitted by the State Engineer since the 1948 decree and prior to the Secretary of Interior's permit. Therefore the total maximum rate of diversion having a priority earlier than that of the Secretary's is about 617.0 cubic feet of water per second. It is important to note that the maximum diversion limit is not the legal entitlement to water for the water rights having a priority earlier than that of the Secretary's. Rather the legal entitlement is based upon the amount of water required for beneficial use as set forth in the Constitution and New Mexico statutes.

- 4. The Animas-La Plata Project will operate to ensure that sufficient water will bypass the Durango pumping plant to satisfy the current demand for senior water rights. If it becomes necessary, the State Engineer may demand sufficient control of pumpage from the Durango pumping plant to ensure that the current demand for senior water rights is fully satisfied.
- 5. If the U.S. Congress were to deauthorize the Animas-La Plata Project, as might happen if the San Juan Water Commission

does not contract for the 30,800 acre-feet of water, the Secretary of the Interior would likely, but not necessarily, release his rights to the 49,510 acre-feet per year of New Mexico's water to be delivered from the Animas-La Plata If the Secretary did release his rights to New Mexico water for the project, the water would revert to the state in twd for public supply; however, the Secretary still holds rights for 1,504,000 acre-feet per the diversion of year for other purposes, including Juan-Chama Project, the Navajo Project, the Hammond Project and for contracts for municipal and industrial water supply Because that amount is more than from Navajo Reservoir. enough to use the entire 727,000 acre-feet per year of consumptive use that New Mexico is entitled to pursuant to the Upper Colorado River Compact, the State Engineer may not be able to grant new permits for the released Animas-La Plata Project water. Of course, under New Mexico law, the person, firm or corporation making in application for a new appropriation of public surface water in the state, has the burden to show that ustor is a scileble for appropriation and that the granting of the application would not be to the detriment of ony existing water right acquired prior to the filing of the application, would not be controry to the conservation of water in the state and would not be detrimental to the public welfare of the state. That Durden can be heavy.

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#### Bypass Conditions

Durango has a water right on the Animas River for 6.00 cfs absolute and 44.00 cfs conditional with an appropriation date of 1883 and a decree date of 1966. The Animas-la Plata Project right in Colorado which is junior to Durango's rights has an appropriation date of 1938 and the same 1966 decree date. The project permit in New Mexico has a priority date of May 1, 1956.

Downstream rights determined for the Animas-La Plata Project operation study were considered to be also applicable to Durango since there are only 6 cfs of downstream rights in Colorado that are senior to the project but junior to Durango. The project bypass for downstream rights was estimated to be the net depletion of the river by senior diversions below the Durango Pumping Plant over and above tributary inflows. The net depletion has the following components:

- 1. The historical net depletion between the Durango gage and the Cedar Hill gage or the Durango gage and the Farmington gage whichever is larger.
- 2. The diversions of Farmer's Mutual Ditch, the only diversion located downstream of the Farmington gage.
- 3. The portion of any senior water rights that were not being diverted during the critical 1951-56 drought period used to size the project.

The historical flows at Cedar Hill and Farmington prior to 1963 were adjusted for the estimated effects of the Florida Project. The same adjustment was used at both gages because flow data indicate that the Farmer's Mutual Ditch below the Farmington gage is the only ditch to have shortages. Their right with a priority date of 1920 is the most junior of the San Juan Decree rights on the Animas River.

The net depletion between the Durango and Farmington gages adequately represents the bypass needed for the ditches above the Farmington gage because the location of the ditches relative to tributary inflow generally allows for full utilization of the inflow. In addition, Farmer's lutual Ditch is capable of using all return flows available at their diversion so an extra bypass allowance for wasted return flow at the mouth of the Animas River is not required.

Diversions by Farmer's Mutual Ditch were limited to a monthly demand pattern based on the annual farm delivery limitation of their water right. According to the San Juan Decree, the Farmer's Mutual Ditch serves 4181.51 acres and their water right stipulates a maximum diversion rate of 104.53 cfs. Individual allotments in acre-feet were based on 3.16 acre-feet per acre measured at the farm headgate. The portion of the decree pertaining to the Animas River specified 3.00 acre-feet per acre for irrigation plus water for domestic and livestock uses. The .16 acre-feet per acre added on to the allotments for Farmer's Mutual Ditch

evidently was intended for domestic and livestock uses. The monthly farm delivery was assumed to be proportional to the farm delivery requirement computed for the La Plata, New Mexico area at elevation 5,740 feet which has an annual demand of 4.00 acre-feet per acre based on a 45% farm irrigation efficiency. It is noted that with a farm delivery of 3.16 acre-feet per acre, a farm irrigation efficiency of 57% would have to be achieved in order to supply the same amount of water for crop consumptive use as was designed for the La Plata, New Mexico area. Ten percent was added to the farm delivery to account for flow measurement errors, administrative errors and variance in cropping patterns and timing of irrigations.

Conveyance losses for the 20-mile long Farmer's Mutual Ditch were estimated using the Moritz formula assuming an average flow of 50 cfs, an average velocity of 2 fps, and a loss of .5 cubic foot per square foot per day.

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Loss per mile = .2(.5) (50/2).5 = .5 cfs/mile
Total loss = 20 miles X .5 cfs/mile = 10 cfs
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The conveyance loss was assumed to be constant from April through October.

To account for the diversion needed to initially fill the soil profile in a dry year, it was assumed that the May demand was equal to the June demand. This assumption was equivalent to having a soil profile diversion demand of .46 acre-feet per acre in May. The monthly diversion requirements for April through October are computed in Table 3. A diversion requirement of 10 cfs was assumed for November through harch to alion for winter stock watering.

The only downstream senior water rights that probably were not being diverted during the 1950's drought were portions of the Farmington and Aztec water rights. According to the State Engineer, the City of Farmington has a total right of 18,103 acre-feet of which 1,156 acre-feet is on the San Juan River and 16,947 acre-feet is on the Animas River. The Animas rights are listed below.

	Amount (acre-feet)	Decree	Priority Date
	9,747	1948 San Juan Decree	Several Dates (All Prior to 1900)
	7,200	Permit No. 2995	Aug. 20, 1959
Total	16,947		

The 7,200 acre-feet is junior to the Animas-La Plata Project but would not have shortages with the project in operation because of the existing 6,400 acre-feet of storage in Farmington Lake. In 1956, Farmington had a population of about 15,000 with an estimated diversion of 5,000 acre-feet. Therefore, the unused portion of their senior water right was about 4,800 acre-feet.

Aztec has a total right of 846 acre-feet which is all senior to the project as shown below.

	Amount	Decree	Priority Date
	17 4 672	1948 San Juan Decree Permit No. 2801	1877 Dec. 18, 1953
Total	846		

Aztec diverted about 500 acre-feet in 1956 under their 1953 water permit. The 174 acre-feet of old adjudicated water had not been acquired yet but it is assumed it was being diverted by others. Their unused water right in 1956 was about 200 acre-feet (672-500 rounded).

The total unused right of 5,000 acre-feet was assumed to have a monthly distribution proportional to Farmington's average water use pattern as shown in the following table. The table also shows the total bypass needed over and above the net depletion between the Durango and Farmington gages.

	Average Demand (%)	Unused (AF)	Water Rights (CFS)	Farmer's Mutual Ditch (CFS)	Total Added Bypass (CFS)
January	5	250	4	10	14
February	5	250	4	10	14
March	6	300	5	10	15
	8	400	7	16	23
April	11	550	9	74	83
May	12	600	10	74	84
June	14	700	11	73	84
July	12	600	10	53	63
August	10	500	8	38	46
September	10	350	6	16	22
October	,	250	4	10	14
November	5		, A	10	14
December	5	250			
Annual	100	5000	7	. 29	36

The estimated 5,000 acre-feet of unused water right is also a reasonably good estimate for the 1934 drought. In the San Juan decree, water allotted in acre-feet to a town is doubled to compensate for excessive loss by seepage and evaporation when diverted into numerous small laterals for irrigation of small lots and tracts of land. The population of Farmington at the time of the San Juan Decree was only about 3,500 so most of the irrigated land in the city limits referred to in the decree (about 1800 acres) was probably not yet divided into small lots and tracts. In other words, the allotment to towns was doubled mainly in anticipation of future development. Actual irrigation used in 1934 was probably much less and maybe only one-half of the present right of 9,747 acre-feet.

Since water use in Farmington and Aztec in 1976 was 12,300 and 1,000 acre-feet, respectively, their senior water rights were being entirely used during the drought of 1977 and that use is reflected in the Farmington gage.

In the Animas-La Plata Project operation study, the unused rights estimated for 1956 were added to the downstream rights in all years of the 1929-77 study period. In the operation study for Durango alone, the unused rights estimated for 1956 were only added to the downstream rights in 1934 and 1950 but not in 1977.

The bypass for Farmer's Mutual Ditch and unused rights cannot exceed the flow at the Farmington gage. It was assumed that there are no required non-project deliveries from the Animas River to the San Juan River. The Animas-La Plata Project would increase the flow of the San Juan River during dry periods as a result of return flows from storage water delivered to the Farmington and Shiprock areas.

The Animas-La Plata Project minimum aquatic bypass would be 125 cfs in October through March and 225 cfs in April through September. These same minimum bypass conditions were used to size Durango's single purpose alternative.

One of the bypass conditions used in the Black and Veatch report included an estimate of the Southern Ute Indian Winters Doctrine water right claims on the Animas River. The report assumed that water claims by the Southern Ute would be the same as their planned allocation from the Animas-la Plata Project. The Southern Ute have been allocated 26,500 acre-feet for industrial purposes and 3,300 acre-feet for irrigation with the following monthly demand pattern.

	Industrial Demand (cfs)	<pre>Irrigation Demand (cfs)</pre>	Total Demand (cfs)
January February March April May June July August September October November	Demand (cfs)  37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37	Demand (cfs)  0 0 0 1 6 15 16 10 6 1	37 37 37 38 43 52 53 47 43 38 37
December	37	0	37

Several alternative bypass conditions were considered for the sizing of single purpose alternatives that would serve Durango only. However, it was decided that the bypass for the single purpose alternatives should be the same as used for the Animas-La Plata Project.

	NAU	FEB	₹	σ.	AS FL MAY	A W0	H J	<u>س</u> ح	PROJECT (A	VE. CFS) OCT	> 0 <i>N</i>	DEC		ANNUAL
1 (4	14.8	44.5	63.7	43.3	57.7	243.9	72.1	79.8	26.	44.	382.75	250.03	* (	634
n	22,3	95.6	81.9	04.7	204.5	2.445	76.9	96.8	23.55	7.16	F • 2 7	2 0	• •	47.47
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3	84.8	95.0	21.6	673.8	411.5	161.7	86.3	46.7	58.2	23.3				2671
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	84.1	6.6	28.2	651.3	350.0	370.3	٠	30.7	81.9	66.5	9.96	9		# S
	68.6	64.6	95.7	44.1	283.9	238.1	29.5	91.1	96.5	63.9	40		• •	10014
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IO.	57.4	4.49	64.3	92.1	95.6	457.5	95.6	0.01	30.00	45.4	ב מ			1307
Ľ	41.2		80.7	52B.6	400.7	175.4	36.5	7.00	200		76.45			3
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AVERAGE	184.98	193,82	284,15	2		401.		438.49		287,36	212,99	182,71		499349.
MAXIMIM	380.44	350.12	633,61	1869,56	4780.64	5242,73	3136.50	1479.84	1557.40	6.7	4.1	9	•	
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AVERAGE ANNUAL FLOW IN ACRE-FEET =

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E :	. 79	8	æ	96.56	16.66	94.		21.5	_		263.9			4577
*	20		0	48.81	59.07	A1.		83.0	S	-	275.6	~	•	799
C :		8.1	7.44	6,43	95.09	50.	<u>.</u>	03.6	•	7.	237.0	٥.		1792
0 :		ຄຸ	6.3	52.21	88.72	72.		•	n	5	220.6	8	*	372
		c :	•	00	- !		431.08	6.8	c	4	203.4	188.70		0
AVERAGE 240	0.13	24.642	<b>~</b>	3,96	328.71	80			13.	452.70	327.99	253.80		627662.
AXIMUM 39	<b>7</b> 0	0	772,70 1	9.31	7.40	B.09	3552.78	895.14	1923.01	2404.31	1080.85	548.21	-	367345.
MINIMUM 169	9.18	2.2	146.41	9	457,11	484.11	250,52	260,28	171.46	182.19	183.22			07076

627662,39

AVERAGE ANNUAL FLOW IN ACRE-FEET =

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194.15 26	200	53,12	787.02	2448.72	2921.16	1098.04	1071.53	907.55	129.46		212.61	• •	399941
38.86		9	209.1	3.0	936.B	9	0		æ	. 6	26.	•	89,
6.61 1	16	9.6	8.	5.2	90.4	••		4	6	6.5	26.	*	2
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26.61	7.		845.1	2.0	55.3	Α.	Œ		40	.0		•	7
26.25	_	8.5	3.8	2.1	627.5	. 9	Ŧ	:	2	=		*	5659
26.25 2	23	`:	1.2	6.5	38.5	5.9	'n	:	3	3	٠-	•	030
27.69 13	3	9	٠,	4.1	729.0	304.2	m.	~	7.	~	Ξ.	*	6415
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26.43	<b>*</b>	*	148.7		689.0	469.9	œ.			*		*	9324
87.13 2	23	7:	.,	4.7	089.5	.5	9	:	-	•	_	*	5089
26.79 1	73	7.3	4.1	6.0	231.4	3.9	9	6.	3.	٤.	٠:	*	105
26.43 1	=	6.7	7.7	2.B	932.0	5.9	Š	ζ.	•	9.0	_	*	8841
26,79 1	=	7.2	7:1	6.7	335.3	5.0	L.		8.5	:	٠:	•	8482
25.85 2	N	8.3	5.7	7.4	153,4	1.7	ŝ	3.9	8	<u>*</u>	٠.	*	1352
26.97		7.5	٠,	6.4	355,6	S.	8		8.6	3.0	_	•	3744
27,15	_	9.0	* .	6.	390.9	0.3	٦,	3.	-	.5		*	035
30.39	_	8.3	6.	6.6	266.7	9.1	~		3.	4.	~	*	3759
1 16.9	-	6.7	3.3	9.3	580.7	4.9	_		•	٠ <u>٠</u>	٠.	*	58
26.61	-	1.2	9.0	5.0	890.2	4	_		÷.	-	_	•	7274
33,10	_	3.5		4.6	761.3	. 8	0	6		•	``	•	4442
6,43	-	27.2		2.0	586.3	2	_	æ		.5	٠.		6940
6.61	_	65.1	7.7	0.7	326.4	4	0	1	ີ	.5	•:	•	42
1 26.9	_	27.0	. 2	9.6	711.5	4.0	0	6.5		. 2	•	•	5083
8.05	=	8.5°	4.	2.0	079.8	2.7	ď	5.5	10		• • •	*	7039
1 26.99	~	7.0	6.0	2,6	1.65	:	ď		4.0	æ.	•	*	550
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8.77	_		7.0	9.1	132.8	۲. ع	4	5	4.	5.	.,	•	3846
27.33	Ť	9.2	6.	0.5	96.8	325,51	ŝ	۳,	٠. ا	9	ω,	*	246752.
9,31	-	3.2	•	3.4	955.4	347.3	c	ູ້		•		*	1649
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26.61	Ť	٦.	7.0	8.2	26.2	6.0	· v	•	•	3 (		<b>*</b> :	7 0 0 0 V
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27.15		26.5	6	2.	651.9	¥.	Ξ,	:	•	= `	,		
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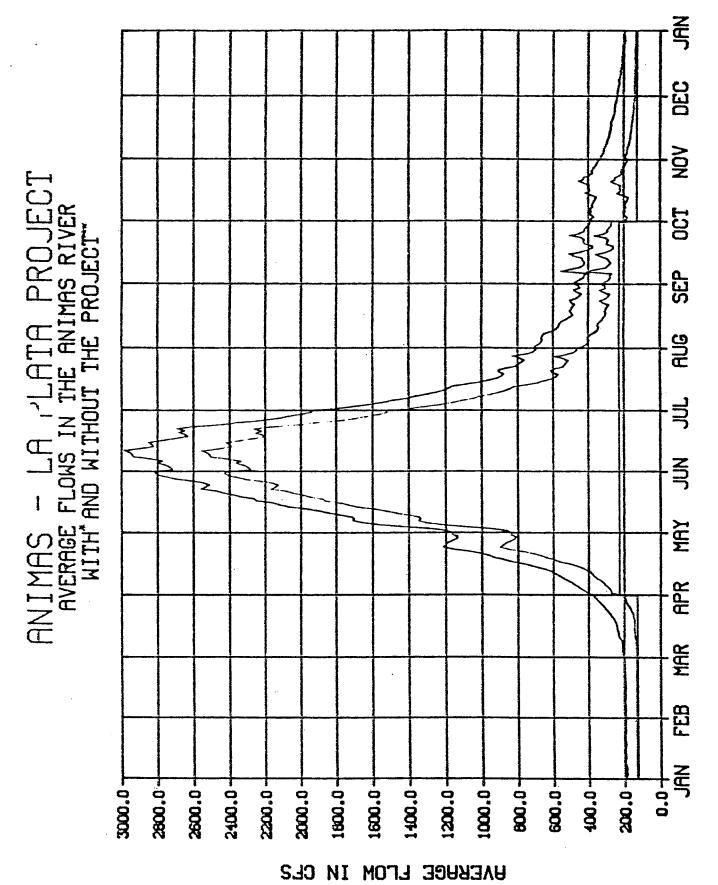
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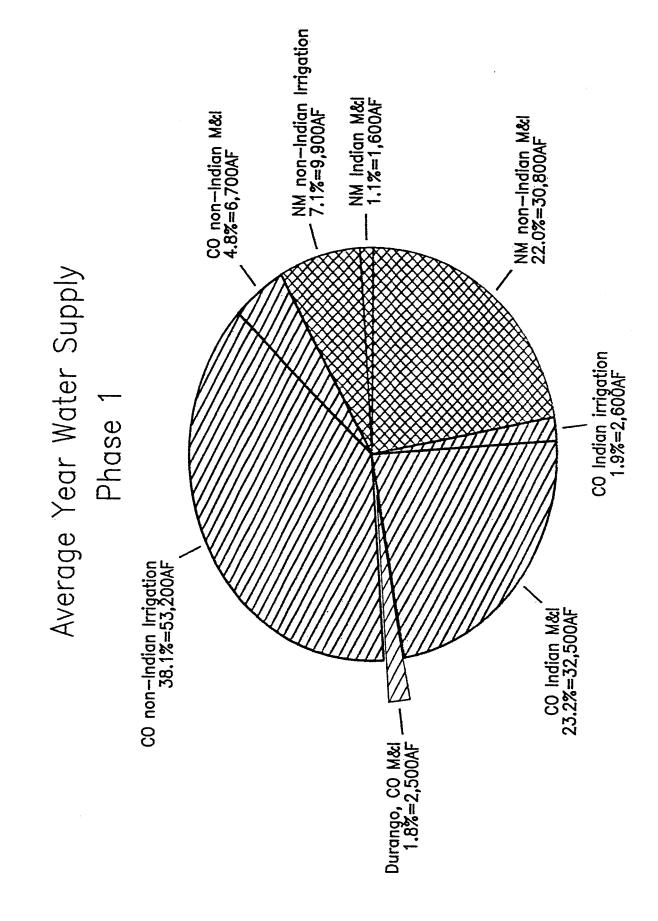
Table 28 Population projections, municipal water requirements, existing supply, supply needed, and project supply

	Colo	rado		New Me	xico		
	servic	e areas		service	areas		
	Durango	La Plata	Farmington	Aztec	Bloomfield	NTUA1/	Total
1980							
Population 2/	19,000	1,600	47,000	8,600	8,100	10,300	94,600
Per capital use <sup>2</sup> /	275	175	240	215	215	215	235
Water requirements3/	5,800	300	12,600	2,100	1,900	2,500	25,200
Existing supply3/	5,300	0	12,600	200	400	0	18,500
Supply needed 3/	500	300	0	1,900	1,500	2,500	6,700
Project supply 7	500	300	0	1,900	1,500	2,500	6,700
<u>1990</u>							
Population 2/	26,500	2,200	74,100	13,500	12,800	16,100	145,200
Per capita use 3/	252	175	240	215	215	215	235
Water requirements	7,500	400	19,900	3,200	3,100	3,900	38,000
Existing supply 3/	5,300	0	18,100	200	400	0	24,000
Supply needed 3/	2,200	400	1,800	3,000	2,700	3,900	14,000
Project supply/	2,200	400	1,800	3,000	2,700	3,900	14,000
2000							
Population 2/	33,600	2,800	105,600	19,200	18,200	23,000	202,400
Per capita use 3/	252	175	240	215	215	215	235
Water requirements	9,500	600	28,400	4,600	4,400	5,500	53,000
Existing supply	5,600	0	18,100	200	400	0	24,300
Supply needed 3/	3,900	600	10,300	4,400	4,000	5,500	28,700
Project supply 2/	3,900	600	10,300	4,400	4,000	5,500	28,700
2010							
Population 2/	40,600	3,400	133,800	24,300	23,000	29,200	254,300
Per capita use 2/	252	175	240	215	215	215	235
Water requirements 3/	11,500	700	36,000	5,900	5,500	7,000	66,600
Existing supply	5,600	0	18,100	200	400	0	24,300
Supply needed 3/	5,900	700	17,900	5,700	5,100	7,000	42,300
Project supply 2/	5,900	700	17,900	5,700	5,000	7,000	42,200
2020							
Population 2/	48,900	4,100	169,600	30,900	29,200	37,000	319,700
Per capita use 3/	252	175	240	215	215	215	235
water requirements	13,800	800	45,600	7,400	7,000	8,900	83,500
Existing supply	5,600	0	18,100	200	400	0	24,300
Supply needed 3/	8,200	800	27,500	7,200	6,600	8,900	59,200
Project supply	8,200	1,000	19,700	5,800	5,300	7,600	47,600

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority. Gallons per capita per day. Acre-feet per year.

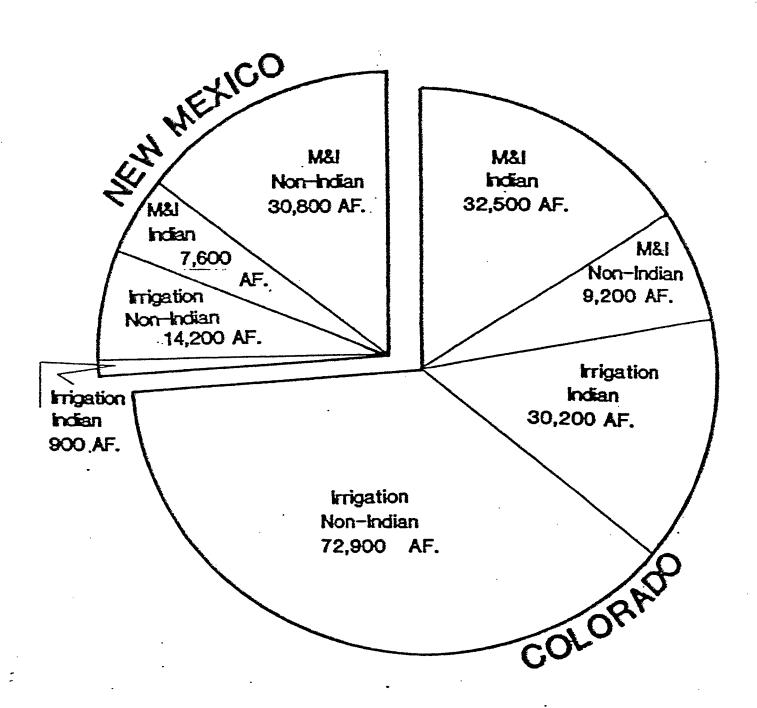


1929-1973



## Water Supply

ANIMAS-LA PLATA FULL PROJECT OPERATION



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#### Faxed to Max Stodolski on March 21, 1990

KK

#### Notes for Durango

Question: Who owns and controls the 30,800 acre-feet per annum proposed to be contracted to the San Juan Water Commission from the Animas La Plata Project?

Section 2 of Article XVI of the New Mexico Constitution reads as follows:

The unappropriated water of every natural stream, perennial or torrential, within the state of New Mexico, is hereby declared to belong to the public and to be subject to appropriation for beneficial use, in accordance with the laws of the state. Priority of appropriation shall give the better right.

The Secretary of the Interior holds the rights for the use of New Mexico's water from the Animas-La Plata Project in New Mexico, under Section 72-5-33, NMSA 1978 (copy attached for convenient reference).

If the Congress were to deauthorize the Animas-La Plata Project, as might happen if the San Juan Water Commission does not contract for the 30,800 acre-feet, the Secretary of the Interior would likely, but not necessarily, release his rights to the 49,510 acre-feet per year of New Mexico's water to be delivered from the Animas-La Plata Project.

It is important to note that if the Secretary released his rights to New Mexico water for the Animas-La Plata Project, he would still hold rights for the diversion of 1,504,000 acre-feet per year of New Mexico water for other purposes, including the San Juan-Chama Project, the Navajo Project, the Hammond Project and for contracts for municipal and industrial water supply from Navajo Reservoir. Because that amount is more than enough to use

up the entire 727,000 acre-feet per annum of consumptive use that New Mexico is entitled to, the State Engineer likely could not justify granting new permits for the released Animas-La Plata Project water.

If the Animas-La Plata Project were not to be constructed, it might be possible to meet part of the long-term requirements of the San Juan Water Commission and the Navajo Nation from the Navajo Reservoir supply; but that would diminish the supply available for the long list of others who have already expressed interest in contracting for water from Navajo Reservoir. In any event, it is very doubtful that there would be economic justification for works to serve Aztec from that supply.

If the Animas-La Plata Project were not constructed, it would not be possible to develop the planned works for irrigation in the La Plata Conservancy District. The cost of that work is estimated at about \$30 million and only \$6 million of that would be repayable by the irrigator.

If the Animas-La Plata Project is not constructed, the water rights settlement with the Ute Mountain Ute and the Southern Ute Tribes in Colorado would be invalidated. In that event, the U. S. Justice Department would be obliged to sue to settle those water rights. The Department would likely claim all of the flow of the Animas River. The Compact protects all of the uses being made from the Animas River in 1948 in Colorado and New Mexico, but Colorado and New Mexico non-Indians could lose all or most of their rights for uses established later than 1948.

While it might be possible to construct offstream storage capacity for Animas River flows in New Mexico, to meet at least

part of the requirements of the San Juan Water Commission, that construction would be costly, estimated at \$26 million for 12,000 acre-feet of capacity. If the Ute Indian Tribes' water rights settlement is invalidated, such construction might have little value.

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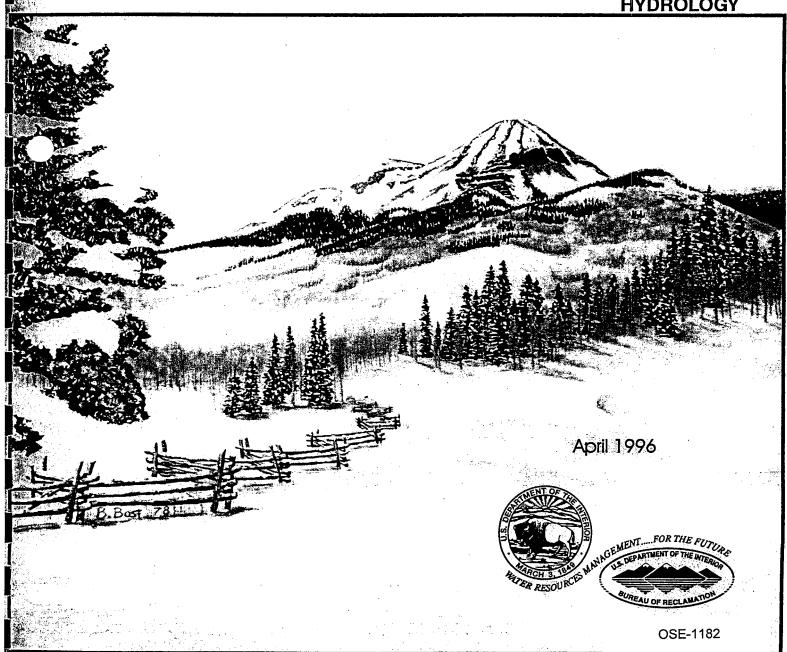
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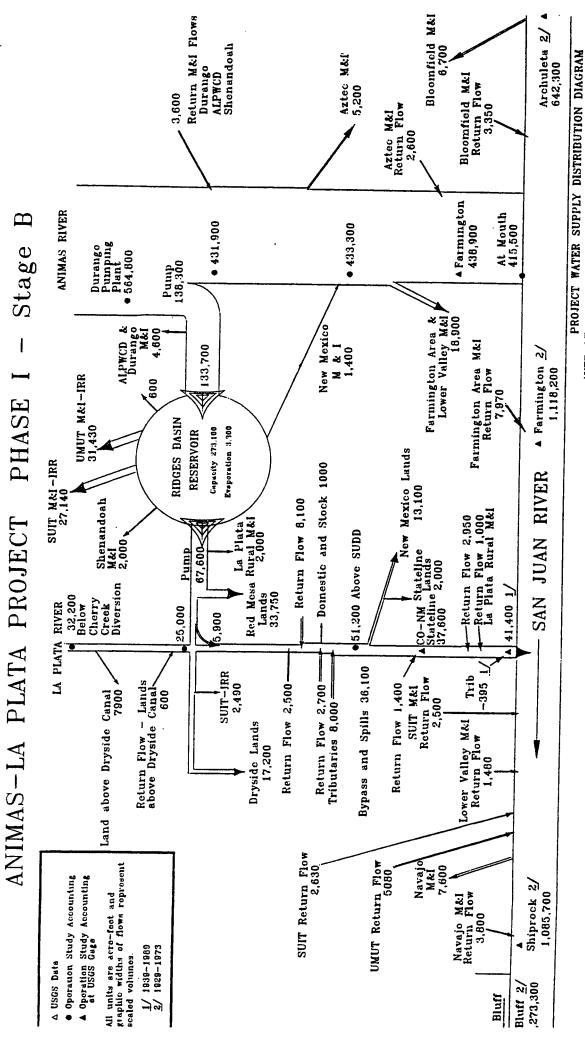
## Apimas-LaPlata Ppoject

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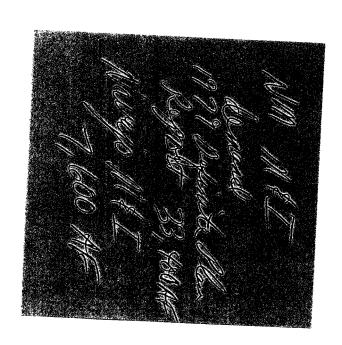
FINAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

APPENDIX A HYDROLOGY





AVERAGE ANNUAL ACRE-FEET 1929-1989 (except where noted



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Sent: Wed 7/22/2009 7:20 AM

🛕 Attachments can contain viruses that may harm your computer. Attachments may not display correctly,

## Whipple, John J., OSE

From:

Page, Patrick J [PPage@usbr.gov]

To:

Whipple, John J., OSE

Cc:

Thomas, Susannah; Warner, Ed

Subject:

Letter to SJWC - re: Permit 2883

Attachments: Ltr to SJWC - 2883 revised.doc(46KB)

John,

As I briefly mentioned a few weeks ago in Albuquerque, our solicitor has suggested we write a letter to the San Juan Water Commission in light of their appeal on the State Engineer's rejection of their application for "excess" water under Permit 2883, coupled with the passage of PL 111-11 and the language regarding Permit No. 2883. We feel that, procedurlly, we need to do this to protect our water right (since we are not a party in the case) and to convey to SJWC that a federal statute now governs in this case. So, we plan to send the letter to them but wanted to give you an opportunity to comment on it before we send it.

I know you mentioned a couple of concerns regarding this letter and I'll try to address those here:

1) Concern: Making a final determination on the quantity of water needed under 2883 prior to the reservoir being completely filled and the Project being transferred from construction to O&M status.

Response: The Project is substantially complete and all features have been designed and sized and, with the exception of NNMP, have been constructed. The 2000 Amendments locked in the allocation to the individual sponsors. For NM entities, the allocations in the 2000 Amendments is what will be used out of Permit No. 2883.

2) Concern: Need to include the NM interests' portion of reservoir evaporation in Permit No. 2883.

Response: I couldn't find anywhere in Permit No. 2883 where reservoir evaporation had been identified therefore I'm concluding that an earmark in 2883 for evap does not need to be included now. I recognize that quantification of NM's portion of Lake Nighthorse evap will eventually be needed as it counts towards NM's Colo River apportionment, but I'm thinking the physical water right covering this evaporation comes out of Southwestern Water Conservation District's Project water right in Colorado.

Please note that We didn't address the issue of priority date of the "excess water" that I believe you are trying to clarify in the Settlement Agreement. We don't feel we need to address this because it's not our issue.

If there are any other concerns you have, please let me know. Also, since we do plan on sending the letter, please feel free to provide edits to the letter that might diffuse any concerns the State may have with us sending the letter.

Thanks,

OSE-1185

This inbound email has been scanned by the MessageLabs Email Security System.

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## DRAFT 7/21/2009

Mark Duncan, Chairman San Juan Water Commission 7450 East Main Street - Suite B Farmington, NM 87402

Subject: New Mexico State Engineer Permit No. 2883, Animas-La Plata Project, Colorado and New Mexico raised when?

Dear Mr. Duncan:

The purpose of this letter to is address the issue regarding transferring the water allocation from Permit No. 2883 that is in addition to the water allocations to users in New Mexico made by Section 302 of the Colorado Ute Settlement Act Amendments of 2000 (2000 Amendments). In 2001, the San Juan Water Commission (Commission) submitted an application to appropriate this additional water in the amount of 15,080 acre-feet per year of consumptive use. The New Mexico State Engineer rejected the application, noting that the United States had not made a decision regarding the construction of the remaining features of the Project that were not included in the 2000 Amendments. On October 31, 2008, the Commission filed a Notice of Appeal in the state district court for de novo review of the State Engineer's decision.

The filing of the appeal noted above has compelled us to offer the following information that may be relevant to this case:

- Permit No. 2883, was assigned to the Bureau of Reclamation by the State Engineer on April 6, 1959, to develop and use up to 49,510 acre-feet per year of surface water from the Animas and La Plata Rivers. Willed Jon the
- The Project features necessary to divert, store, and deliver the non-Navajo portion of the New Mexico allocation have been determined to be substantially completed. The Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline, the feature necessary to deliver the Navajo Nation's allocation from Farmington to Shiprock has been designed and is being constructed. Therefore, with the current status of the Project, Reclamation has determined that the Project has reached its ultimate size for New Mexico in terms of water allocations.
- The 2000 Amendments allocated 13,520 af per year of depletion to New Mexico users (the Commission, the Navajo Nation, and the La Plata Conservancy District). With the assumption that was used in the July 2000 Final Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) that the Project water supply allocations will result in 50% depletion, the water supply allocated to the New Mexico users is calculated as 27,040 afy. That means of

the total water supply associated with File No. 2883 (49,510 afy) 22,470 could be considered "additional" and available for reallocation to New Mexico.

- The San Juan Basin in New Mexico Navajo Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement) was recently approved, ratified, and confirmed by Congress with the passage of Public Law 111-11. Section 8.1 of the Settlement Agreement states that the water supply associated with New Mexico State Engineer File No. 2883 that is in addition to the water allocations to users in New Mexico made by Section 302 of the 2000 Amendments may be allocated to New Mexico water users if the allocation can be made without impairment to existing water rights in New Mexico. Thus, the State Engineer must first determine if such an allocation could be made without impairing existing water rights, but assuming he finds no impairment, Section 8.1 of the Settlement Agreement then describes how such an allocation would be made. Specifically, 50% of the additional water would go to the Navajo Nation and the remaining would be reserved for uses of water by member entities of the Commission, subject to approval by the State of New Mexico.
- Based upon the percentages identified in Section 8.1 of the Settlement Agreement, coupled with the water allocation Reclamation has concluded to be "additional" (22,470 afy), we have determined that 11,235 afy is available to be allocated to the Commission, subject to the approval of the State of New Mexico, acting through the Interstate Stream Commission.

While we recognize that the water supply under File No. 2883 was appropriated pursuant to New Mexico state law, we believe that the state statute has been pre-empted by the more recent federal statute (P.L. 11-111), which specifically governs the use and allocation of this water. Therefore, given that 1) this is a Reclamation water right, 2) the state court has no jurisdiction at this time over Reclamation, and 3) a federal statute now governs the use and allocation of this particular water right, we feel that your application to appropriate this water must be governed by the terms of the Settlement Agreement

Consequently, Reclamation has initiated discussions with the State Engineer's Office and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission regarding this issue and will continue to work with them as well as you and your staff to bring closure to this issue. If you have any questions, please contact

Sincerely,

cc: Randy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director

San Juan Water Commission

bc: FCCD-100, FCCD-110, WCG-CDeAngelis; WCG-EWarner; WCD-PPage