

- **Board of Directors**
Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee

February 13, 2001 Board Meeting

10-4

Subject

Proposed reservoir or reservoirs near the All-American Canal

Description

Senator Wash Reservoir, a federal reservoir located off the Colorado River just upstream of Imperial Dam, provides the bulk of regulating capacity below Parker Dam. However, operating problems have required the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to reduce the active capacity of this reservoir from about 12,000 to 7,350 acre-feet. Even with a fully functional Senator Wash Reservoir, additional regulatory storage below Parker Dam could provide for improved river and supply management. The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) wishes to augment storage capacity of the All American Canal by constructing a reservoir or reservoirs near the All-American Canal. IID's desire stems from its concern that the All-American Canal Lining Project may reduce the regulating capacity of the All-American Canal. The amount of storage proposed, 11,000 acre-feet, is an order of magnitude greater than the potential reduction in storage that would be due to the lining project.

To explore the feasibility and benefits of providing additional regulatory storage below Parker Dam near the All-American Canal, in September 2000, IID, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Metropolitan, and Reclamation formed an All-American Canal Reservoir(s) and Associated Facilities Project (Project) Technical Team (Team). The Team has produced a *Technical Report of Proposed All-American Canal Reservoir(s) and Associated Facilities* (Technical Report), which concluded the Project would have the following variety of benefits:

- Improved capacity to reregulate flows in the Colorado River thus conserving water that would otherwise be lost before being put to beneficial use in the United States.
- Minimize losses that could result due to short-term releases from Parker Dam for environmental enhancement purposes as currently contemplated under the Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Program planning process being conducted among the Department of the Interior and the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada.
- Enhance IID's and CVWD's ability to effectively manage the daily fluctuating agricultural water demands in their distribution systems while maximizing hydroelectric power generation along the All-American Canal.
- Facilitate the operation of potential groundwater storage and conjunctive use programs in the Coachella Valley identified in the draft California Plan.

The locations of the proposed reservoirs are shown in [Attachment 1](#).

The Project, as discussed in the Technical Report, could also improve the water supply infrastructure serving the Imperial and Mexicali valleys that straddle the international boundary. Specifically, the Technical Report includes a discussion and cost estimate for a connection from the All-American Canal for delivery of water to Mexico at a rate of 100 cubic feet per second. Such a connection would enable Mexico to receive a portion of its Colorado River water supply provided in accordance with the 1944 Treaty between the United States and Mexico. The turnout for Mexico was included in the Technical Report to facilitate discussion of this proposal that has been advanced in the interest of improved water supply management and international comity between the United States and Mexico.

It is estimated that a funding requirement in an amount of about \$50.5 million would be required for the planning and construction of two reservoirs near the All-American Canal and associated facilities. The \$50.5 million required funding includes \$300,000 for the development of a reservoir operational plan that would maximize the benefits to the agencies, the State of California, the Colorado River Basin States, federal interests, and to provide for deliveries of a portion of Mexico's treaty deliveries through the All-American Canal. Depending on the outcome of the reservoir operational plan, the configuration of the Project reservoir(s) and facilities could change. The funding requirement also includes \$400,000 for environmental documentation that may be required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and any other applicable laws and regulations.

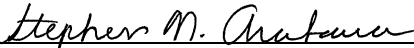

Efforts of the agencies are now focussed on the development of a timeline, funding options, and recommended financing for the Project. While the Project would help facilitate implementation of the draft California Plan, it is recommended that the Project continue to be pursued cooperatively, and separate and independent from the All-American Canal Lining Project.

Policy

At its October 18, 1999 meeting, the Board approved the use of the October 15, 1999 *Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD* (Key Terms) as the basis for drafting the Proposed Quantification Settlement Agreement among the parties to the Key Terms (Minute Item 43767). Construction of a reservoir or reservoirs near the All-American Canal, while not a component of the Key Terms, would compliment activities implemented in accordance with the Key Terms.

Fiscal Impact

None. The proposed reservoirs are not a condition precedent contained in the Key Terms.

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|  | 1/26/2001 |
| Stephen N. Arakawa | Date |
| Manager, Water Resource Management | |
|  | 1/29/2001 |
| General Manager | Date |

Attachment 1

BLA #642

