

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ARNOLD L. JONES, SECRETARY

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

General Information Concerning the Boulder Canyon Project

July 1, 1933

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BOULDER CANYON PROJECT

APPROVAL OF BOULDER CANYON PROJECT ACT

1. On December 31, 1906, the President approved the Boulder Canyon Project Act, which authorizes the construction by the Secretary of the Interior of the Boulder Dam and incidental works on the Colorado River at a cost not to exceed \$100,000,000. The project includes:

BOULDER DAM AND RESERVOIR

(a) The construction of the Boulder Dam in Boulder Canyon where the Colorado River forms the boundary between the States of Arizona and Nevada. The dam will raise the present water surface of the river 523 feet. The dam site is about 15 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nev., a town with a present population of about 5,000, located on the Los Angeles and Salt Lake City and Great Salt Lake Union Pacific System. The dam will be about 700 feet in height, the highest ever constructed, and will form a reservoir with a capacity of 30,500,000 acre-feet. It will serve to impound the surplus flood waters of the Colorado River for use in irrigation and will also regulate the flow of the river so as to improve navigation and protect the lands in the valleys adjacent to the river below the dam and in the Imperial Valley in southern California from overflow, water shortage, and sil accretion, which are at present a great menace to successful agriculture. The lake formed by the dam will be about 115 miles in length and have an area of 145,000 acres—the largest artificial reservoir in the world.

POWER DEVELOPMENT

(b) The development of hydroelectric energy at the dam will make 663,900 firm or constant horsepower available at all times. The installed capacity of the plant will be 1,535,000 horsepower. The United States will construct the dam, power plant, and appurtenant works by contract, and will furnish generating, transmitting, and high-voltage switching equipment for the generation of energy allotted to the lessees and to the various purchasers. Rates of payment for selling water in terms of energy have been fixed at 1.62 mills per kilowatt-hour for firm energy and one half mill per kilowatt-hour for secondary energy. In addition, the contractors must pay for the power machinery and its installation and construct the necessary transmission lines.

ALL-AMERICAN CANAL

(c) The construction of an All-American diversion dam to be built about 5 miles above Laguna Dam near Tuma, Ariz., to construct an irrigation distribution system in the Imperial Valley in southern California, a distance of about 50 miles, and also a 130-mile branch canal to the adjacent Coachella Valley. Preliminary surveys and studies have been made, under a cooperative agreement with the Imperial and Coachella Valley Irrigation Districts, and a report was submitted in May 1931. Present plans contemplate a maximum canal capacity of 1,000,000 acre-feet. A preliminary contract has been negotiated with the irrigation district. No appropriation has yet been made for this feature of the project.

TIME REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION

2. It is expected that it will take about six years to complete the dam and appurtenant works from the time construction began in 1934. It is proposed to install units of the power plant progressively as rapidly as demand for power develops. The first units will go into service in September 1935. Construction of the

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