

Appendix 101

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF ALL-AMERICAN CANAL BOARD, JULY 22, 1919

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ALL-AMERICAN CANAL BOARD (P. 63)

The board recommends:

1. That the all-American canal, or an equivalent high-line canal, from the Laguna Dam into the Imperial Valley be constructed under one of the above-noted methods or under some other similar procedure for financing the enterprise, and that Congress pass such laws as may be necessary to put into effect any plan that may be agreed upon between the Secretary of the Interior and the Imperial Irrigation District.

2. That the connection of the Imperial Canal with the Laguna Dam be made at once.

3. That, so far as practicable, the water power of any canal that is constructed be utilized and the apportionment of the cost of installing power plants and of providing the necessary transmission lines should be made on the assumption that the tentative Government plans for the Yuma project would some day be carried out. The Yuma project on this assumption would maintain an interest and would be charged with the proportionate cost of canal capacity for 4,000 second-feet of water to near Araz, and it would be charged for power plant installation in the ratio that 8,500 water horsepower bears to the total water horsepower for which the power installation is to be made.

4. That the development of power with water from an all-American or high-line canal, regardless of the location of power stations, should be charged with such portion of the cost of canal construction down to Araz, and no farther, as is determined by the ratio that one-half of the capacity required for the water used for power bears to the total canal capacity.

5. In case that no other work be undertaken for the joint benefit of the Yuma project and Imperial Irrigation District, except the alterations at the Laguna Dam, the enlargement of the Yuma Canal and the extension of this canal to a connection with the head of the present Imperial Canal, then funds for this work should be provided either jointly by the United States for the Yuma project and by the

Imperial Irrigation District, or by the United States alone subject to repayment of a proper proportionate part of the cost with interest by the Imperial Irrigation District, or by the Imperial Irrigation District alone, subject to a participation in the power plant and power output by the Yuma project upon a repayment to the district of a proportionate part of the construction cost.

6. The power plant installation for construction and other purposes at Pilot Knob should, at the outset, be for the utilization of about 3,000 second-feet of water falling 30 feet, and space should be provided for a possible later enlargement of the plant.

7. The United States should undertake the early construction of storage reservoirs on the drainage basin of the Colorado River as part of a comprehensive plan for the betterment of the water-supply conditions throughout the entire basin of this river. The stored water should be made available for power and irrigation at a fair charge for this service. By storage on a large scale in well-distributed reservoirs the peak of the lower river's flood discharge will be cut down and the menace to the submersible lands along the Colorado River below the Grand Canyon, and in particular to the delta region and the Imperial Valley, will be reduced.

8. Negotiations should at once be entered into, through appropriate channels to bring about an understanding with Mexico, in reference to the control of Colorado River at its high stages on Mexican territory and in reference to the use of the river's water for irrigation in Mexico, and also to permit the United States to construct canals for the irrigation of lands in California across Mexican territory if found desirable to so locate them.

9. That funds be provided for a continuation of the studies relating to the movement of the blow sand on the line of the canal and that these studies be conducted under supervision of the United States Reclamation Service.