TABLE 3.—*Distribution of acreage irrigated, by organizations in 17 Western States, 1959*

Type of organization	Irrigated acres (thousands)	Percent
Mutual organizations:		
Unincorporated	2,067	11.7
Incorporated	6,733	38.0
Commercial suppliers	573	3.2
Irrigation districts	6,921	39.2
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation projects or storage operated directly by the Bureau	711	4.0
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	579	3.3
States	44	.2
Cities	73	.4
Total	[1] 17,701	100.0

[1] Total differs from total in table 1 because Hawaii was excluded here.

Source: 1959 Census of Agriculture.

(c) *Current Value of Irrigation Facilities*

Gross capital investment chargeable to irrigation by irrigation organizations in the 17 Western States was estimated at $1.38 billion as of 1950. An additional $1.04 billion was invested by organizations in the period 1950 through 1959.[3] Neither estimate is corrected for capital replacement or for depreciation. Also, the estimates are not corrected for price-level changes. Thus, their total of $2.42 billion does not accurately portray the 1959 net capital value of irrigation systems investments in the Western States.

No estimate of total capital investment in irrigation works is available for the 31 conterminous Eastern States, which contained 1.8 million acres of irrigated land in 1959.

B. Costs and User Charges

CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The Bureau of Reclamation estimates that the average construction costs of future potential projects in the West will be about $920 per acre of irrigated land or irrigated land equivalent, though many proposals exceed this figure considerably.[4] This estimate was developed for projects identified by the Bureau as potential Federal projects. Approximately two-thirds of the projects identified were classified as potential Federal projects. An ex post approximation of irrigation construction cost can be made for the 17 Western States, plus Louisiana, by dividing the total of new capital investment by organizations, 1950–59 ($1,040 million) by the increase in organizations' irrigated acreage, 1950–59 (2.7 million acres).[5] This amounts to $381 per additional irrigated acre. This figure is not corrected for changes in the price level during the 1950's. New capital investment, 1950–59, reported by the Census of Agriculture includes some unknown amount of new capital invested in existing irrigation struc-

[3] "Census of Agriculture, 1959," vol. III; p. 69.

[4] "Water Resources Activities in the United States," Committee Print No. 14, Select Committee on National Water Resources; U.S. Senate (Washington, D.C., 1960), p. 19. Irrigated land equivalent is the number of acres fully supplied with irrigation water. It is made up of (*a*) newly irrigated land, and (*b*) land presently irrigated but not fully supplied with water. For example, a project may (*a*) newly irrigate 10,000 acres, and (*b*) upgrade water supplies for an additional 10,000 acres where supplies had been only 50 percent adequate. The project in this case would be considered to involve 15,000 acres of irrigated land equivalent.

[5] "Census of Agriculture, 1959," vol. III, pp. 30, 77, and 192.