

experts that projections which would completely dedicate the upper basin's total remaining unused Colorado River water supplies to specific areas or uses would be developed at rates commensurate with upper basin projections.

It seems more likely that some reserves will be withheld for future municipal and industrial growth. Also influencing our judgment is the uncertainty as to whether the upper basin is obligated to meet part of any Mexican water treaty deficiencies. Until that issue is resolved, we doubt that projects dependent on the contested water supply, as a practical matter, would be authorized or undertaken.

To the extent that weather modification, desalting, or other measures provide water for additional use, we would expect that the rate of future upper basin depletions would increase accordingly. In the interim, we believe that our estimates of future upper basin depletions are realistic.

NET WATER LOSSES ALONG LOWER COLORADO RIVER

The third broad category where projection or assumption is necessary to estimate future lower basin water supply involves estimating the future net water losses along the Lower Colorado River. Our proposal for the Colorado River Basin project include works to salvage some 680,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water that have constituted river losses in the past. With these salvage works in operation, we estimate that there will remain some 590,000 acre-feet of net losses along the lower river, primarily from evaporation and evapotranspiration from nonbeneficial vegetation. For comparative purposes, other estimates of future net losses are as follows:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Estimate, acre-feet</i>
Bureau of Reclamation-----	590, 000
Upper Basin (Tipton)-----	810, 000
Colorado River Board of California-----	1, 000, 000

The magnitude of the future losses would affect significantly the residual water supply for the central Arizona project.

Again, we believe our estimates are realistic. Senator Wash Reservoir is now in operation and preventing overdeliveries to Mexico. We are confident that water losses can be reduced through eradication and control of phreatophytes and through further channelization. We know that we can salvage water through ground-water recovery.

WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

The effect of varying assumption in the three broad aspects of water supply I have just discussed—virgin runoff, upper basin depletions, and lower river losses—is as follows and as shown graphically on the chart before you.