

niques for combined nuclear-desalting and thermal-electric plants, (2) the enactment of those provisions of pending legislation which would declare that discharge of the Mexican Water Treaty obligation is a national responsibility, and (3) the establishment of a Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund to provide financial assistance in repaying the reimbursable costs of augmentation works.

As pointed out throughout this report, a number of conservative assumptions and choices of alternatives have been incorporated in the analysis of the basic plan. This approach has been taken with the objective of minimizing, to the extent possible, the potentially adverse impact which indeterminate future conditions could have upon the validity of study. The accomplishments of the base plan, as presented in the analysis, therefore, are reasonably capable of being achieved.

Furthermore, a number of opportunities exist to improve upon the base plan and achieve major financial advantages if detailed studies and future conditions prove favorable. Examples of the most significant of these potential improvements are siting of the desalting plant on the Gulf of California along with delivery of augmentation water downstream of Boulder Dam, postponement of the construction of facilities through weather modification or advantageous natural runoff in the Colorado River Basin, and coordination of the augmentation plan with pumped storage hydroelectric installations.

Augmentation of the natural runoff of the Colorado River in the amounts projected herein would, among other things, achieve the following:

1. Guarantee the Lower Basin States a minimum annual water supply from the Colorado River of 7.5 million acre-feet for beneficial consumptive use.
2. Resolve the question of responsibility for delivery of water to Mexico and thereby assure the right of the Upper Basin to deplete the flow of the river for beneficial consumptive use unhampered by any controversy over obligations for delivery of Mexican Treaty water.
3. Eliminate, or make completely academic, the question of a 4.4 million acre-foot priority for California.
4. Enhance, significantly, the quality of Lower Colorado River water.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Secretary, do you not think it a little foolish to propose the conveyance of Pacific Ocean water into Lake Mead, lifting it more than 4,000 feet in the process?

Mr. DOMINY. I felt that way about it when we first started these studies, Mr. Chairman. But as we developed the facts of life and if we are going to fully use augmentation of the lower river to take care of the problems of the lower river which include water quality, I became convinced that we had to introduce the desalted water into the river at a point where it would do some good. It has to come in as far upstream as Lake Mojave in order to get the mixing that would be required.

Mr. ASPINALL. Why wasn't your report prepared on the basis of the closest and most economical source of water?

Mr. DOMINY. As you well recognize, this is merely a reconnaissance report. There is a joint study being made with the Republic of Mexico as to the possibility of locating a plant on the Gulf of California. We decided to fashion this study as to what the costs would be involved for a development entirely within the continental United States and not complicate it with international considerations, knowing that these other aspects would be fully considered if we go into a feasibility grade study.

Mr. ASPINALL. Assuming the water has to be obtained from the Pacific Ocean, surely it is not necessary to bring the water all the way to Lake Mead, is it?

Mr. DOMINY. As I have said, you have to bring it as far as Lake Mojave in order to get the essential mixing. If it is to be brought that far north, there is reason to pump it into Lake Mead and use it for peaking power purposes.