

about alternatives, we want to look at all of them. It may very well be that desalting this brackish water might be much more attractive than other alternatives, whether it were for reuse in Imperial or for blending or for other purposes.

An interesting comparison to me is the Great Salt Lake, which has been receding constantly, as Congressman Burton well knows, largely because of use of water for irrigation and industrial and municipal purposes that would otherwise go into the basin, plus, I suppose, the long term drought which has had an effect on it, too.

But there has been a constant shrinking. This is part of the overall process of the region.

Mr. TUNNEY. Thank you.

Speaking as a supplicant, Mr. Chairman, please do not take away our Salton Sea. That was not the point of my line of questioning.

Mr. ASPINALL. This goes to prove how important this is. All that I suggest is that you please do not take away our fresh water when there is an alternative. This is a give-and-take effort and we have to face it in that respect—and each one of us gives.

Mr. TUNNEY. I think California is probably in the process of giving right now on this central Arizona project on many points that before we thought were terribly important to our survival.

I would like to just add as a footnote that the U.S. Public Health Service has established as drinking water standards for consumptive use a 500 parts per million standard of salt and the Imperial Valley now is receiving water that has 945 parts per million. So it is almost twice the amount of salt that the Public Health Service establishes as a standard for desirability in consumptive use.

Mr. Secretary, one point that I would just like to clear up. I questioned you on it yesterday with regard to moving water from a desalting plant in the Gulf of California north to some point where it could sweeten up the water that comes down into the southwestern part of the United States.

In our dialog, we talked about putting the water in, perhaps, at Imperial Dam or putting it in at the Mexican border and then finally Mr. Dominy said that probably the most likely place would be at Mojave.

I would just like to ask Mr. Dominy, is it not true that there is no storage facility available at Ventura? The only storage facility that would be available would be either at Mojave or Lake Mead?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, that is what we confirmed in this reconnaissance study. In order to have economy of production, the desalting plant must operate around the clock, 24 hours a day on a steady basis. During many days the desalted water would be sufficient to meet all demands and there would be no blending. Without blending, water users would have serious problems operating with desalted water for a few days and then with water of a thousand or so parts per million for the next few days.

In order to make operations feasible, the desalted water should be delivered to the river as far up as Lake Havasu.

Mr. ASPINALL. Have you gone so far on the desalting plant as to determine whether or not there would be a need for the power in the South-