

(The material referred to follows:)

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT,
Imperial, Calif., January 26, 1968.

THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: A number of public statements have been made concerning the alleged waste of usable water into Salton Sea, California, by Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley County Water District. Examples are:

"Conservation and Improved Uses of Existing Usable Water in the Lower Basin.—Perhaps the outstanding example of usable water being wasted in the Lower Basin is the one and one-third million acre feet which annually flows into the Salton Sea. This water is unused Colorado River water which is diverted for irrigation use in Imperial and Coachella Valleys—but is permitted to flow unused into the Salton Sea through New River and the Alamo River as 'regulatory waste.'"¹

"Water Salvage.—If someone said he knew a secret underground river which would add right now 1.5 million acre-feet of water annually to the Colorado River—enough to satisfy the Mexican Treaty burden—you would agree to go after it. Such an underground river does not exist, but something about as good does. An annual average of 1,320,000 acre-feet of usable water pours into the Salton Sea in Imperial Valley as waste from the Imperial Valley and Coachella Valley irrigation districts."²

These statements are simply not true. Imperial Irrigation District does, as a matter of fact, divert between 2.9 and 3 million acre-feet of water annually, most of which is a present perfected right, and is not used indiscriminately, but beneficially. The accompanying reports have been prepared to set the record straight and are submitted for that purpose:

"Imperial Irrigation District, Diversion Required at Pilot Knob for Imperial Unit Based on Blaney-Criddle Formula and 1959-1966 Crop Pattern for Historic PPM Salinity Concentration of Irrigation Water."

"Imperial Irrigation District, Diversion Required at Pilot Knob for Imperial Unit Based on Blaney-Criddle Formula and 1964-1966 Crop Pattern for Historic PPM Salinity Concentration of Irrigation Water."

I believe that the most significant information to be derived from the two reports is developed on the final page of each captioned, respectively:

"Imperial Irrigation District, Theoretical Distribution, 'IID Contribution to Salton Sea' 1959-1966."

"Imperial Irrigation District, Theoretical Distribution, 'IID Contribution to Salton Sea' 1964-1966."

I call your attention to the fact that the difference between "Total Theoretical" and "Observed to the Sea" (measured), aggregates on the annual average for the 3-year period, 46,000 acre-feet and on the 1959-1966 report the annual average is 52,000 acre-feet. Since the "Theoretical" does not take rainfall into consideration and the "Observed to the Sea" does include rainfall (for any runoff from rainfall would of necessity have to pass through the measuring instruments logging the quantity of water flowing to the Sea from all measurable sources) and, as the reports indicate, the area irrigated for crops averages 434,000 acres and, assuming that at least two inches of the historic 3-inch average rainfall over the District's system finds its way to the Sea, this would develop approximately 72,500 acre-feet of water per annum. I wish to point out that 72,500 acre-feet is almost one-half again as much as the quantity diverted annually to the Sea which could be classified as that quantity over and above the amount required for beneficial consumptive use based on the consumptive-use formula used in the Arizona vs. California lawsuit, as tabulated.

Imperial Irrigation District feels very keenly about the charges of wasting water to the Salton Sea and it has taken the opportunity of having these two re-

¹ "Central Arizona Project Report" delivered to Mountain States Association, Salt Lake City, by Les H. Alexander, Associate General Manager, Salt River Project, Phoenix, Arizona, September 11, 1967.

² Letter dated October 2, 1967, to Mr. William H. Nelson, Associate Editor, The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado, from Congressman Morris K. Udall of Arizona.

³ "Countdown on the Colorado," a speech by Congressman Morris K. Udall of Arizona, before the Town Hall of California, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, December 19, 1967.