# DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES 

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES 

W. C. WILKINSON P.E.

IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER
ROOM 208 8th AND 8th OFFICE BLDG. GREELEY, COLORADO B0631
OFFICE: 352-8712 HOME: 484-3917
December 11, 1969

ANNUAL REPORT

Irrigation Division No. 1

```
Mr. C. J. Kuiper
State Engineer of Colorado
1845 Sherman Street
Denver, Colorado 80203
```

Dear Sir:

The Annual Report of the Division Engineer of Irrigation Division No. 1 of the State of Colorado for the 1969 water year is herewith presented.

Included in this report are tabulations showing a sumary of the water used in the several districts, transmountain importations into the division, water storage in reservoirs on the first of each month of the year, distribution of water to the various ranches on the Laramie River in District 48 under their allotments, interdistrict river calls during the water year from Nov. 1,1968 to Nov. 1, 1969, and a list of the personnel within the division.

Also included are some comments in various areas of interest inherent to the administration of water in Division No. 1.

The writer would also like, at this time, to express his sincere appreciation to the State Engineer, his entire staff in the state office and the personnel of Division No. 1 for their courtesy, help and encouragement over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. Wilkinson

Irrigation Division Engineer Irrigation Division No. 1

## SEASON

The 1969 water year started with a nearly average carryover in the reservoirs and snowfall conditions that produced normal snowpack through January. However, February and March were deficient in moisture and the forecasts on the first of April indicated an $80 \%$ of normal supply of water from spring runoff. Conditions continued dry through April, necessitating irrigation to germinate and start crops in many areas. On May 4th the rains came. Severe flooding occurred on all the tributary streams south of the Big Thompson River, resulting in damage in excess of $\$ 1,000,000$ to irrigation facilities in the Division. It has been estimated that in excess of 200,00 acre feet of water escaped into Nebraska due to lack of storage facilities and irrigation demand at the time of availability. Total precipitation for the year over the entire area was nearly double that of normal.

Hail damage, considering the division as a whole, was less than average. There were only about three areas involving major agricultural hail damage. The first was a strip from approximately Johnstown to Kersey, the next was an area near Hillrose, in which, fortunately, most of the hail fell on nonirrigated range land and lastly, a small storm near Masters late in the season.

The harvest was complicated by a major snow storm starting October 3 and followed almost weekly by additional moisture and poor drying conditions with subnormal temperatures. As a result a considerable loss was sustained by farmers with crops unharvested at that time. The beet harvest suffered the worst. Muddy fields and frozen ground have made for a slow, costly operation and reduced the crop value with considerable damage to harvested beets and many beets still unharvested in the fields.

Some loss was sustained also by farmers raising onions, potatoes, hay and beans. Most corn suffered minimal damage as a result of the weather.

Generally speaking, crop yields were very good over the area.

The greatest single item of interest to those people working with water the past year was no doubt the passage of Senate Bill 81. The new law was viewed both with optimism and concern. It covered a wide range of water related subjects in an attempt to recodify and update the water laws of the state of colorado.

The main impetus for passage of this legislation was provided by the necessity of integrating the use and administration of surface and underground water supplies.

Among other things, the new law provided for the establishment of water courts in each division served by a water judge, water clerk and referree. The District Court of Weld County, with Judge Donald A. Carpenter of Greeley presiding, has been designated for Division No. 1. Judge Carpenter has appointed Mrs. Joy Ahlborn as water clerk, but at the time of this writing has not yet appointed a water referree.

Senate Bill 81 also changed the location of the office for Division No. 1
from Denver to Greeley. The new office was opened the middle of July in Room 208, 8th and 8th Office Building in Greeley.

## LITIGATION

The administration officials of Division No. 1 , as well as the State Engineer and his staff, were enjoined by water users from enforcing the rules and regulations promulgated to integrate surface and ground water use during the latter part of the irrigation season. The court in granting the injunction held that no injury to surface users as a result of pumping operations had been proven. The case will be appealed to the supreme Court.

## CONSTRUCTION

Several projects varying from stock water ponds to major reservoirs have been approved and construction has been completed or is under way.

Buttonrock Reservoir, with a capacity of 16,500 acre feet, was completed just days before the May flood and was filled to capacity in a very short time, no doubt reducing the flood damage that might otherwise have occurred on the St. Vrain in District 5 and subsequently further down on the South platte. Park Creek Reservoir in District No. 3 with a capacity of approximately 7,000 acre feet is virtually complete at this time. With the present outlook of next season's water supply it appears that Park Creek will be able to fill. In any event it will be a real advantage to the North Poudre Irrigating Company as an exchange and regulating reservoir.

Numerous stock water ponds have been approved. Outlet gates and conduits have been required on those which appear to affect existing downstream surface rights.

Modification and repair work has been approved for some existing structures. The embankment on Boyd Lake, in District No. 4, is being repaired and enlarged to allow the exercise of that priority to the full extent.

The outlet from Larimer and Weld Reservoir, locally known as Terry Lake, in District No. 3 is being replaced this fall. Freezing weather will probably delay completion until spring. Last winter about one-third of the concrete apron on the face of the dam was broken up and covered with a good grade of rock riprap. This was necessitated by development of small holes in the concrete face which allowed wave action to pump out fill material beneath the apron.

In spite of continual patching and maintenance laxge cavities tended to develop without being readily discernable. As a matter of safety the reservoir company started a program of replacement of the concrete with broken rubble and rock which has helped to alleviate the condition.

Also, in District 3, the Hourglass Reservoir Dam developed some signs of distress with some sloughing around the downstream end of the outlet and the dam abutments. The situation was relieved with the immediate release of water. The level of water storage in the reservoir will be restricted until proper repairs are made.

Standley Reservoir, in District 2, has required some regulation on the stage of fill. Due to the steep upstream slope some of the riprap has slumped down requiring additional rock to be placed. This is now being done. Some settling and movement in the dam embankment has become apparent and is being closely observed for further signs of distress.

Since the Standley spillway channel to Dry Creek has never been completed, storage in the reservoir has been restricted to a gauge height 3.8 feet below spillway level. Plans are now being completed for the final spillway construction.

The diversion dam for the Lower Platte and Beaver Canal in District l was lost in the May flood. It is now being rebuilt.

Many other structures were lost or damaged as a result of the flood and are being repaired prior to the next irrigation season. Federal funds have been made available to the extent of the actual damage caused by the flood.

## PERSONNEL

With the adoption of Senate Bill 81 the Division office was moved from Denver to Greeley. Concurrently, Mr. M. W. Mattern, who had been serving as Division Engineer, was promoted to the office of Supervising Water Resources Engineer and the writer, W. G. Wilkinson, was appointed to the position of Division Engineer.

The decision was made to move Dean Thompson, the State Engineer's representative working with the Colorado-Big Thompson project operation, into the Division office and close his Loveland office. Office space in the 8th and 8th Office Building, Greeley, Colorado, was leased and the office opened in Room 208 of that address in mid-July. Mr. Thompson, as could well be expected, continued to perform his duties very competently as well as providing valuable assistance in establishing and maintaining the operation of the new office.

Mr. Robert Jessee, Mr. Mattern's assistant, also spent some time in Greeley, rendering some excellent advice and direction in the office operation, records and procedures. Mr. Jessee left the first of September to accept the post of Assistant Division Engineer at Pueblo in Division No. 2. The comparable position in Division 1 has not been filled as yet, although Civil Service is now processing applications.

On August 20 the office staff was increased by the employment of a clerk typist, Mrs. Dorothy Wankelman. Although Mrs. Wankelman had little experience in this type of work, she has displayed a most conmendable willingness and aptitude. The division staff feels very fortunate in her selection.

Ted Bell, Deputy Water Commissioner of District No. 4, has been working in the Greeley office since the end of the irrigation season at such times as his efforts are not required on the stream. His able assistance in the office is much appreciated and he will be employed full time.

Two water commissioners have been appointed during the past year. Jack Neutze was promoted from deputy to a water commissioner of District No. 3 in July and served diligently in that capacity for the balance of the season.

Richard Drexel was appointed commissioner in District 7 upon the retirement of Milton Copeland, near the first of the year, and has also displayed conscientious ability in his work.

Both Mr. Neutze and Mr. Drexel had previous experience as deputy water commissioners which proved to be valuable in the discharge of their new duties.

Four vacancies in the ranks of the deputy water commissioners were filled. Quinto Brunelli in District No. 1, Ronald Thaemert in District No. 3, Lawrence Young in District No. 5 and Landon Schweer in District No. 23.

No further vacancies in the water commissioners and deputies are anticipated at this time.

With all the division activity and local as well as outstate hydrographic assignments, the lack of work in the foreseeable future does not seem to be a problem. The assignment of an assistant division engineer and at least one hydrographer to this office would be very desirable.

A division personnel list is included elsewhere in this report.

# DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES <br> DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES <br> W. G. WILKINSON P.E. <br> IRRIGATION DIVISION ENGINEER ROOM 208 Bth AND BTh OFFICE BLDG. GREELEY, COLORADO 80631 <br> OFFICE: 352.9712 HOME: 484.3917 <br> Division 1 Personnel 

| Water District | Name | Location | position |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Samples, Robert D. Brunelli, Quinto | - Snyder Weldona | Comm. Deputy |
| 2 | Meehl, paul E. Heit, Antone C. | Brighton | Corm Deputy |
| 3 | Neutze, Jr., John W. Thaemert, Ronald L. | Ft. Collins | Comm. Deputy |
| 4 | Blewitt, Lloyd G. Bell, Theodore S . | Loveland " | Comm. Ceputy |
| 5 | Palmer, Donald Q. Young, Lawrence A. | Lyons <br> Iongmont | Comm. Deputy |
| 6 | Platt, Thomas L. Ward, Ernest L. | Boulder <br> $\because$ | Comm. Deputy |
| 7 | Drexel, Richard L. | Arvada | Comm. |
| 8 | Van Gorden, Ralph $\mathbf{L}$. | Littleton | Comm. |
| 23 | Wenz, Arthur . Schweer, Landon | Bailey <br> Fairplay | Comm. Deputy |
| 48 | Gleason, William S. Wangnild, William E. | Jelm, Wyo. | Comm. Deputy |
| 49-65 | Fisher, Theodore | Wray | Corm. |
| 64 | Littler, Robert D. | Sterling | Comm. |

The greatest problem facing the water administration officials in this area is that of implementing the provisions of Senate Bill 81 and more especially that of integrating well and surface water supplies.

The Court's direction, should it be upheld by the Supreme court, to charge pumping against surface decrees may work very effectively in the lower part of the division in overcoming the problem of river calls from that area. However, it will at the same time complicate the administration in some of the tributary areas. Local practice, location of wells, return flow patterns and other variables add to the problem. In anticipation of the necessity of a closer surveillance of well operations the water officials will be checking on well locations, ownership and registration as time permits. Within administrative operation some greater uniformity of reporting is desirable. However, here again complete uniformity is impossible due to the variance of conditions. A redesign of field books and some report forms is anticipated.

A total of 288,491 acre feet of water was imported into the Division through transmountain diversions. This total includes 170,724 acre feet through the Colorado-Big Thompson system, the disposition of which is accounted for in the report of Dean Thompson.

In addition to the above importations 20,157 acre feet of Laramie River Basin water in District 48 were diverted into District No. 3 for use in the Cache la Poudre Basin.


|  | $0$ |  | following i rough Novembe 48, No. 49, | s a statement r 1, 1969, tabu No. 65, as the | of water in ulated by ere is very | storage i districts. $y$ little st | Irrigat It does orage in <br> cre Feet | ion Divisio not include each of the | No. 1, f the Laram se distric | . <br> November <br> River Basi | $\begin{aligned} & 1969 \\ & \text { District } \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| istrict | $\begin{aligned} & 1968 \\ & \text { November 1st } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1968 \\ & \text { December 1st } \end{aligned}$ | $1969$ <br> January lst | February lst | March lst | April lst | May lst | June lst | July 1st | August lst | September 1st | October lst | $\begin{aligned} & 1969 \\ & \text { Nov. 1st } \end{aligned}$ |
| 1 | 37369 | 68037 | 85968 | 109256 | 126291 | 124166 | 152176 | 166393 | 164084 | 112460 | 60639 | 44929 | 93360 |
| 2 | 34403 | 52079 | 61096 | 74069 | 82627 | 94553 | 99807 | 106537 | 107860 | 84887 | 47802 | 41875 | 76669 |
| 3 | 161524 | 166527 | 178394 | 194331 | 207797 | 225625 | 237742 | 283591 | 327387 | 252664 | 169127 | 143746 | 167424 |
| 4 | 113119 | 128607 | 139760 | 149757 | 161547 | 164520 | 166681 | 197066 | 207502 | 174389 | 131913 | 111810 | 125937 |
| 5 | 18426 | 16505 | 16575 | 16855 | 17291 | 17532 | 18294 | 48335 | 53041 | 42934 | 38293 | 34812 | 53914 |
| 6 | 68318 | 71934 | 71874 | 72673 | 72680 | 71018 | 66253 | 102323 | 103758 | 96678 | 81065 | 77252 | 84625 |
| 7 | 11048 | 10681 | 10681 | 9567 | 9251 | 7832 | 52886 | 16128 | 17312 | 16077 | 13528 | 13645 | 57850 |
| 8 | 33240 | 33089 | 34097 | 33221 | 32338 | 34090 | 35758 | 38369 | 39098 | 37998 | 38255 | 36109 | 37424 |
| 9 | 4748 | 5320 | 5853 | 6489 | 6464 | 6448 | 7359 | 9794 | 9918 | 6680 | 5984 | 5555 | 6565 |
| 3 \& Cheeseman |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| - Total | 153076 | 152726 | 153118 | 153886 | 154419 | 156139 | 164603 | 188036 | 196905 | 196194 | 191193 | 183642 | 196316 |
| 64 | 43610 | 57274 | 66044 | 80434 | 91664 | 112418 | 91565 | 126173 | 123947 | 88502 | 43565 | 27080 | 42437 |
| onthly <br> otals | 678881 | 762779 | 823460 | 900538 | 775369 | $1014341$ | $1092885$ | $1282745$ | $1350812$ | $1109463$ | $821364$ | $720455$ | $942522$ |






䍃
W4

## I ON NOISIAIC

LDIUUSIA KONUAZGSNOD YGHUM OCVAOIOD NAHHITON
IOHCOEA NOSdWOHL DIG-OCZEOTOD


2261 y 19


SMOTIA WUTHUS

| - $00 z^{\prime} 988$ \$ | a77etc yanos xөmot |
| :---: | :---: |
| -001'88Es | -77eta yqnos otppth |
|  | 277atd yznos xodal |




 Guote 6utpoots erenos posneo ffo-mht butztnsex oun sodots urozsee oyf xeau pue

-TTXXV UT \&OL O7 \%G uoxy





I ON NOISIAIC.

HoGCOEA NOSAWOHL SIE-OAVHOTOD

－70az axoe \＄9s＇6Z



 putM pue yeoro yst 1 seqsy oxer onoge xontt jo uns oyp uo poseq oxen suotqeqnduod

nWIUSA NOITVAECO

| ＇tet＇z | －668＇702 | －891＇zoz | sTeqou |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $812+$ | －$\overline{\varepsilon t^{\prime} 9} 9$ | ＇ $586{ }^{\prime} 9$ | s7noturnid |
| － $89+$ | －LE8＇IS | －هLL＇ts | uosduroviu big |
| 286＋ | －289＇88 | －0012\％ 2 | axpnod el əyoes |
| －081＋ | －EIS＇6 | ＇$\varepsilon \varepsilon \varepsilon{ }^{\prime} \sigma$ | uoscuroul eth7r |
| 617＋ | －900＇cz | $186{ }^{\prime} 22$ | utexa＊ 75 |
| 692 ＋ | －816\％ 0 | $670^{\prime} 01$ | xəptnog |
| Arantiol rapun | อxov uI | गロロサ पI | $\overline{\text { ureeax }}$ |
| to teno | －xastrad | рәләрхо | 6 |



$928^{6} \mathrm{GL} \quad 69$ T non e6exo7S y7007esxoH
-088 26

eaxt uoxf Motafno

- $2 \mathrm{LB} 8^{\prime} \mathrm{SLT}$

ह्गु 07 MotJuI
Way HLOOUASMOH
-TTL $L$
sson quexeddy
2TD $\quad 6961$ T AON 0yer reqxeD ut obexo7s
*80s'7s

| TZ6 T |
| :---: |
| -888 ${ }^{\prime} 0$ |
| - $960^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{L}$ |
| ' ETS*6 |
| - OR8' 601 |
| -08E'T6 |

scoes pexnseak
suokI D teueo BTddns uyexA 75
teues RIdans utexA 75 xอATA UOSCHOUL ETZ7TI

TOATE पoscurour 6Tg teues xepeo it पesure
eaxt moxy Motzano

- $769^{\circ} 90 \varepsilon$

$00{ }^{2} L$
uTe9 7uexeddy
T9L'L82

> 88
> - 88 -
> TZDTS
> 200
> 276'SEC
$701 x 7574$ xeqen गxed seqsम sxtontesex ut e6exozs SOZTS Jeen uosduoyil bTg
seast Jo K7to

eaty uoxz MOTf7nO
192082


सFav rava Sxisc<br>SSOI CNE NIED 工万HCOAC

" $809^{1}$ T ssor Teqow

| $\frac{L L L}{}{ }^{\prime} E L$ | $\frac{08 \varepsilon^{\prime} S L}{}$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| $-00 Z^{\prime} L$ | $999^{\prime} L$ |
|  |  |
|  |  |

utep - eəxษ xәрtnoc SSOT - Eex甘 प700ұәsxOH ssoi - eaxy aneI xezxes


SHOITEWMAS
$\angle L Z^{\prime} 9$
uтe: zuəxeddy
-898 ' 8
69 T AON əbexo7s səy xəptnog
-872 81
${ }_{-\varepsilon \neq 9^{\prime} \varepsilon}^{28 \nabla^{\prime}}$ -8TE'01

Teue, Ktadns teptnog suotsxantp 70exta teued xopeoal xoptnog suofisxoatp 70әxta *x joptnog of Ktadns -x xoptnog
eexy moxil Motjano
$.620^{\prime} \mathrm{tz}$

89 'T AON -sew teptnog suoxi e teuej ropəoă xәpinog

## toout6ur, sooxnosey ләдеM 7ueqsissw

peq7tuiqns KITnfzoodsoष


"7sənber Ku 7e 7snbny uT


- леәス







