

Division No 3

6/4

Alamosa, Colorado
November 27, 1962

Mr. J. E. Whitten, State Engineer
Room 232, State Services Building
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

Herewith is presented my annual report as Irrigation Division Engineer in Division No. 3 for 1962. This report includes the summarized and tabulated reports of the water commissioners in this division, of water diverted to ditches, of reservoir storage, and acres irrigated.

The year 1962 was one of better than average so far as irrigation was concerned. The forecast for the run off from the winter's snow pack indicated a good year and it materialized in most of the water districts, except districts 24, 25 and 27 which were short. The run off continued 2 to 3 weeks longer than usual, and this reduced the time pumping was required for supplemental water to mature the row crops. The spring run off was late, and during the period there were no long periods of hot weather and hence none of the streams ran to flood levels. However, the reservoirs were able to store some water and three of the larger reservoirs filled to capacity, namely, the Rio Grande Reservoir in District No. 20, and the Smith in District No. 35, and Cove Lake in District No. 22.

The total acre feet diverted to ditches, which includes reservoir water, were 1,352,711 which was 126% of the previous 10-year average and 126% of the amount diverted in 1961 which was 1,063,317 acre feet. The total acres irrigated in this

division was 553,111 compared to 523,553 in 1961. Water was diverted 306 days. The following table shows the amounts of water diverted to ditches in each of the various Water Districts in this Division and the percentage each bears to the amount diverted in 1961 and to the previous 10-year average.

District	Acre feet diverted in 1962	Percentage of 1961 diversions	Percentage of previous 10 year average
20	761884	125	137
21	116178	145	141
22	266729	108	112
24	54973	93	107
25	38685	84	102
26	45625	182	116
27	6785	96	77
35	56882	119	111

In many instances reservoirs again proved their worth this year. Out of a total available reservoir capacity in the division of approximately 311,000 acre feet, exclusive of the Platora Reservoir and other reservoirs subject to the Tri-State Compact, there were in storage May 1st, and available from later storage 154,542 acre feet. On November 1 there was a carry-over of 27,251 acre feet, again exclusive of compact reservoirs, which have been excluded because water stored in them is not available for use in Colorado because of the present debit status of Colorado.

On November 1, 1961 there were 7400 acre feet in storage in Platora Reservoir of which 4000 acre feet were released to the lower states immediately thereafter. The remaining 3400 acre feet were carried over primarily for recreational purposes and were increased by this year's run off to 16,700 acre feet. This has been reduced to 4000 acre feet by releases, to the

lower states, beginning November 1 and continuing to November 11th.

The amounts of water in storage and delivered by the various reservoirs are shown on the water commissioner's Reservoir Report Sheets and are not shown here in.

The 1962 season has been exceptionally dry. There were very few rains and no general rains over the valley, and there were long, extended periods of no precipitation at all, even in the mountains. Much of the pasture area turned brown. The precipitation in Alamosa from January through October, 1962 was 4.56 inches compared to 9.02 inches in 1961 and an average of 5.57 inches for the same period. There was but little damage to crops from hail this year, especially so in relation to the damage done in 1961. Pumping for supplemental water was carried on but not so extensively as in the years of short run off.

On the whole crops were good, especially so where artesian wells and pumps were used to supply supplemental water. The hay crop, which is the major crop in the north end of the Valley, was put up in good condition this year. Many of the potato growers, who in the past have planted the Red McClure potato, switched this year to the Idaho Russet. Vegetables continue to be a major crop in the Valley, especially so in the Fort Garland area. Lettuce is now being grown in many parts of the Valley and the acreage is increasing.

There was a break in the spillway at the Rio Grande Reservoir during the time the reservoir was spilling. Several sections of the floor of the spillway gave way and tilted so that water came through under the tilted section. No other

serious damage resulted and repairs are being made or may have been completed at this date.

A number of orders have been sent out or given by the water commissioners to ditch owners requiring new headgates and/or measuring weirs. The larger percentage of those have been complied with.

Again, I wish to call attention to the situation at Garcia and the delivery of water to that area through the Acequia Madre ditch. The commissioner in District No. 24 is called down there several times almost every week because the water is not delivered at the State Line through this ditch. The trouble is in New Mexico, and since he has no authority in that State, he can not enforce his orders. It would seem that since this ditch is under control of the Costilla Compact, and also this area, this should come under the duties of the Water Master in New Mexico whose services are paid for by the Compact States.

Again few problems arose in regard to administering the water decrees, and the few that did come up were minor in nature and easily disposed of, due to a very large extent to the excellent services of the various commissioners, who are to be commended for their services, and especially Special Deputy State Engineer Glen Brees, who is doing a fine job in District No. 20.

Respectfully submitted

Roy B. Heilman
Roy B. Heilman
Irrigation Division Engineer

SUMMARY 1962
 WATER COMMISSIONERS DITCH REPORTS
 IRRIGATION DIVISION #3

Water District	Number ditches reporting	First day water carried	Last day water carried	Number days	Number acre feet carried by all	Total acres irrigated
20	214	11-1-61	10-31-62	306	761884	341630
21	83	3-20-62	10-31	206	116178	47109
22	95	3-21	10-31	253	271729	93823
24	61	4-1	10-31	214	54973	21654
25	72	3-21	9-30	194	38655	10102
26	75	4-1	10-31	214	45625	17490
27	34	4-26	9-18	146	6785	3088
35	72	4-1	10-31	193	56882	18215
Total	706	11-1-61	10-31-62	306	1352711	553111

TRANS-MOUNTAIN DIVERSIONS

1962

Name of Diversion	Acre Feet Imported	Acre Feet Delivered to Ditches	Acre Feet Delivered to Reservoirs
Fuchs Ditch ✓ @ Weminuche Pass ✓	1,010	879	0
Piedra Pass Ditch ✓ @ Piedra Pass ✓	102	49	0
Raber-Lohr Ditch ✓ @ Weminuche Pass ✓	2,719	2,005	71
Squaw Pass Ditch ✓ @ Squaw Pass ✓	145	114	0
Taber Ditch ✓ @ Spring Creek Pass ✓	831	0	0
Treasure Pass Ditch @ Wolf Creek Pass	427	362	0
Total	5,234	3,409	71

1962 RESERVOIR STORAGE REPORT - DIVISION NO. 3

AMOUNTS IN STORAGE IN ACRE FEET

	Rio Grande	Santa Maria	Continental	Sanchez	Terrace
12-1-61 1962	5000	1884	2900	11399	5935
1-1-62	7619	2567	3900	11614	6696
2-1-62	1/30 9331	1/30 3050	4200	11907	1/30 7069
3-1-62	11200	3600	5400	12200	2/27 7659
4-1-62	12800	4176	6200	12355	8155
5-1-62	27302	10847	6683	16234	13035
6-1-62	48872	19017	9742	15212	12881
7-1-62	47653	21527	9808	10369	11855
8-1-62	23368	12244	5578	6055	8849
9-1-62	4665	3676	0	2869	4009
10-1-62	4665	2818	0	2754	9/28 2915
11-1-62	4665	2818	0	3262	2636

	Mt. Home	Smith	Cove Lake	La Jara	San Luis or Beaver Park	Platora
12-1-61 1962	6038	3362	0	0	0	3400
1-1-62	6379	3514	No Report	No Report	0	3400
2-1-62	6847	3714	No Report	No Report	0	3400
3-1-62	7165	4869	No Report	No Report	0	3400
4-1-62	7572	5336	384		0	3400
5-1-62	9656	5336	6480	5/6 4315		7500
6-1-62	10468	4869	6480	6/3 6300	752	13600
7-1-62	8798	2738	4897	7/23 5348	1773	16700
8-1-62	5696	1501	2590	8/9 5020	513	16700
9-1-62	3097	1516	1635	9/3 4552	0	16700
10-1-62	2578	1456	1060	10/4 4025	0	16700
11-1-62	2367	1441	732	10/21 3830	0	16700

DIVISION NO. 3

COMPARISON FOR PAST 10 YEAR PERIOD

	No. of Acres Irrigated	Acre Feet of Water Delivered to Ditches
1952	615338	1626360
1953	581441	880377
1954	421406	772333
1955	446690	818004
1956	434445	752738
1957	570796	1655405
1958	572179	1181355
1959	454444	759246
1960	534595	1153248
1961	523553	1063317
1962	553111 ✓	1352711