

Irrigation

PHOENIX AREA OFFICE  
Post Office Box 7007  
Phoenix, Arizona

5.4

July 5, 1950

Mr. Allan G. Harper, Area Director  
Window Rock Area Office  
Window Rock, Arizona

Attention: Mr. H. L. Schriener

Dear Mr. Harper:

About three weeks ago Mr. Sumner requested that we get from the local office of the Bureau of Reclamation such information as they have available on their proposed Black Creek Project.

Mr. Vaud Larson, Assistant Planning Engineer, was kind enough to loan us his copy of the Reclamation report entitled "Little Colorado River Basin Report - Appendices - 1944". Appendix "D" for the Puerco River includes a description of the proposed Black Creek Project. We have copied Appendix "D" in its entirety and are enclosing two copies for your use.

We have made slight additions to the maps showing Plans I, II, III and IV which accompanied the report. The maps which we are sending to you include part of the watershed which does not appear on the Bureau of Reclamation maps.

We have also written the Geological Survey at Tucson for copies of recent discharge records on Black Creek. District Engineer Gardner under letter of June 13 transmitted to this office, with copy to your office, discharge records on Black Creek near Houck for the period October 1943 to February 1945 inclusive.

A check of precipitation records for Fort Defiance indicates that precipitation for the water year 1944 was 12.70 inches, which is 96 per cent of the average, 13.19" for the period 1852 to 1946 at Fort Defiance. (See the report on water supply for the Navajo Tribal Sawmill by Irrigation Division, Los Angeles Office, in July 1946, for precipitation records.) Based on this record, the 6050 A.F. runoff of Black Creek for water year 1944 might be considered as approximately the average to be expected.

While at Boulder City recently Mr. Larson found a map tracing in the Regional Planning office files which shows land classification and possible canal locations in the Chambers Area, on a scale of 1000

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feet to one inch. Thinking that this map might be of assistance to you, Mr. Larson had prints made of it. The prints are being sent under separate cover.

For your consideration, the Bureau of Reclamation is going to require a considerable area of Navajo Indian land for the proposed Coconino Reservoir on the Little Colorado River. A suggestion has been made that an exchange of lands might be worked out whereby potential farm land along the Rio Puerco might be secured for the Indians to use under irrigation from Black Creek. Possibly you would like to have your land division investigate this possibility.

Very truly yours,

C. H. SOUTHWORTH  
Area Irrigation Engineer

RHR:mp

cc Mr. Sumner

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