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9001-36-D

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Assistant Director of Irrigation
520 Eighth & Figueroa Building
Los Angeles 14, California

June 30, 1943

Mr. C. H. Southworth
Director of Irrigation
Office of Indian Affairs
24-2 Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Southworth:

Transmitted herewith, by express, are two sets of the forms covering Report on Plans and Estimates for Construction Projects in this District, including Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma, as of June 30, 1943.

These were prepared in response to your instructions of January 11 and February 5 regarding postwar data, January 2 regarding CCC-ID works, also verbal instructions of December 22, 1942, as to compiling supplemental historical data.

After careful consideration it was concluded that in order to submit the postwar data, record of CCC-ID cooperative irrigation and water development work and supplemental historical data in the most usable form without so much repetition, all these features should be combined into one record. This has been done and all the information available on these subjects will be found under the individual project headings or in the summaries.

As the compilation progressed it became apparent that there was a great deal of misinformation in regard to many or most of the projects and it has been necessary to study each one very carefully and to do a good deal of research work in an effort to obtain a reasonable degree of accuracy. Furthermore, much desirable information was lacking and although several weeks were spent in the field by Mr. Keesee and myself it was still impossible to furnish all the data called for. This is especially true in regard to the details of proposed irrigation work, for which, on most of the projects, no surveys, plans or accurate estimates have been made.

There are 281 irrigation units covered in the report and it was not possible to completely analyze each one fully. In most cases where estimated costs are stated they are only rough estimates based upon comparison with similar work by those most familiar with the projects, but they are shown to give some idea of the extent of the work. The subjugation items particularly are subject to much doubt as to acreage, cost or necessity.

As to the CCC-ID cooperative work on irrigation projects, it was possible in many cases to give the nature and cost, but in others no information could be found. This also applies to E.C.W., S.C.S., A.A.A. and Rehabilitation work.

Practically all of the CCC-ID personnel is gone and the records have been stored in such condition that it is impossible to obtain much information from them. Certain summaries of CCC-ID work to date were found, mostly those contained in the proposed programs for 1943, and from which the data concerning water development, including impounding dams and stock-water ponds, were taken and inserted on the applicable Water Supply or Summary sheets. Although some of this information is inconsistent and very incomplete, it does give some idea of the work done. Thus far we have failed to get information on water supply, including CCC-ID developments on the Gila River, Maricopa, Salt River, Fort McDowell, ~~Moscalero~~ or Pueblo reservations.

Inspection and compilation of data on individual impounding dams and reservoirs have seemed impracticable owing to the fact that on the various reservations, except those above mentioned, there are about 2,112 such features, and visits to even the larger ones would require many months. However, there is considerable similarity in their construction and, from reports, most of them are in pretty good condition. Few, if any, are dangerous from the standpoint of loss of life or property in case of failure. It is probable that little repair or maintenance work can or will be done unless and until such time as a revived program of CCC or similar work is undertaken, but without doubt a considerable number could be saved by doing a small amount of work as the need develops, instead of permitting them to go on to complete destruction.

The irrigation data have been compiled on the back of the individual project sheets with a view to supplementing the previous 1939 histories, at the same time presenting sufficient information to give a rather good idea of the existing works without repeating the past history. With these data sheets it should be possible to select some of the most important projects and prepare more detailed plans and estimates of the work to be done, although in most cases further field studies will be necessary, as indicated by the items for surveys and plans.

I regret that the report is so far from a complete or even a satisfactory one.

Two sets are being forwarded to you, one set retained for our file and one set broken up and distributed to the superintendents, with copy of this letter, as shown on the attached sheet.

Your sets are enclosed in folders, grouped according to State, Agency and Unit Numbers.

Very truly yours,

Herbert V. Clotts

Herbert V. Clotts,
Assistant Director of Irrigation.

Encl.

P.S. It will be appreciated if errors found by anyone who reads these reports will be reported to me so that appropriate corrections may be made.