

84

Calendar No. 1784

85TH CONGRESS } SENATE } REPORT
2d Session } } No. 1740

AMENDING THE ACT AUTHORIZING THE WASHOE RECLAMATION PROJECT, NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FOR SUCH PROJECT

JUNE 24, 1958.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Binz, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 4009]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4009), to amend the act authorizing the Washoe reclamation project, Nevada and California, in order to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for such project, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

AMENDMENT

Page 1, line 8, after figure "\$52,000,000", insert "(April 1958 prices)".

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the Washoe reclamation project, Nevada, and California," approved August 1, 1936 (70 Stat. 777), is amended by striking out "\$43,700,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$52,000,000 (April 1958 prices)".

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 4009 is explained in detail in the attached comments of the Department of the Interior dated June 19, 1958. In brief the purpose is—

(1) To increase the authorized appropriations for the Washoe project, Nevada-California, from \$43,700,000 to \$52 million with an



2 WASHOE RECLAMATION PROJECT, NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

amendment recognizing that the latter figure reflects April 1958 prices.

(2) The increase in the authorized appropriations would permit the construction of Prosser Dam and Reservoir at a site on Prosser Creek upstream from sites previously explored.

(3) A 30,000-acre-foot reservoir is contemplated at the new site which would provide for water exchange to permit water releases from Lake Tahoe to improve fisheries resources. Expanded flood protection for the city of Reno would be provided much more effectively by the facility proposed than at the Twin Valley site mentioned in connection with the reports on the original authorization.

(4) The estimated cost of Prosser Dam and Reservoir is \$4,400,000 at 1958 prices, as compared with a reconnaissance estimate of \$1,500,000 for a dam at the proposed Twin Valley site.

The committee is of the opinion that the objective of S. 4009 represents a substantial improvement in the plan for the Washoe project and that the benefits will far outweigh the increased cost of Prosser Dam and Reservoir over any other proposed facility with the same objectives.

The immediate construction of Prosser Creek Dam and Reservoir is urgent for water regulation of releases from Lake Tahoe, for flood control, and the protection of fish and wildlife. The committee, therefore, recommends that an appropriation be made in the public works appropriation bill for fiscal year 1959 for the completion of the necessary preliminary work, preconstruction, and initial construction of the facility.

COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Details of the objectives of S. 4009 are set forth in the following letter from the Department of the Interior, which recommends enactment of the bill with a clarifying amendment:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 19, 1958.

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: This responds to your request for the views of this Department on S. 4009, a bill to amend the act authorizing the Washoe reclamation project, Nevada and California, in order to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for such project. We recommend that the bill be enacted and that it be amended as suggested herein.

The act of August 1, 1956 (70 Stat. 775), which provided authority for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Washoe project, Nevada and California, authorized appropriations for the construction of the project in the sum of \$43,700,000, plus or minus such amounts as may be required by changing prices. S. 4009 would amend that act to authorize appropriations in the sum of \$52 million.

The purposes of the Washoe project are to furnish water for the irrigation of approximately 50,000 acres of land in the Carson and Truckee River Basins, including drainage service to about 31,000

acres of the land therein, and to firm the existing water supplies of lands under the Truckee River storage project and the Newlands project. In addition, the project would control floods, provide hydroelectric power, develop fish and wildlife resources, and serve other beneficial purposes. This would be accomplished by construction of two principal reservoirs at the Stampede and Watasheamu sites, together with other necessary works for the impoundment, diversion, and delivery of water, the generation and transmission of power, and the drainage of lands.

In addition to the project works authorized in section 1 of the act, section 4 authorizes the construction of facilities for the development of the fish and wildlife resources of the project area, including facilities to permit increased minimum water releases from Lake Tahoe and restoration of the Pyramid Lake fishery. The cost of such facilities, including operation and maintenance, is to be nonreimbursable, and the cost to the Federal Government of constructing these facilities not to exceed \$2 million. This amount does not include the cost of measures to mitigate damages to fish and wildlife resources occasioned by the other features authorized for construction by section 1 of the act of August 1, 1956.

Following authorization of the Washoe project, the Bureau of Reclamation initiated advance planning for the purpose of preparing a definite plan for the project. Particular attention was directed to defining a plan for the supplemental reservoir storage to be provided by the facility authorized to provide sustained flows for fisheries in Truckee River. Only reconnaissance information on the possibilities of developing such storage was available at the time of congressional action on the authorizing legislation. This Department's report of March 27, 1956, on H. R. 6028, a copy of which was furnished your committee with our letter dated March 27, 1956, indicated that such storage might be provided at the Twin Valley Reservoir site on the North Fork of Prosser Creek in California, or, as an alternative, at a regulating dam on the Truckee River near Wadsworth, Nev.

Our advance planning now discloses that development of a site on Prosser Creek above its mouth would accomplish this purpose with significant multiple-use advantages over those sites studied earlier. As indicated by our planning report, which was published as House Document No. 181, 84th Congress, construction of a reservoir on Prosser Creek had been considered, during project investigations, for flood-control purposes. The sites previously considered, however, were found to be unacceptable because of geological conditions. Further exploration in October and November 1956 by core drillings at a site on Prosser Creek upstream from those previously explored met with surprisingly favorable results.

Subsequent studies by the Bureau of Reclamation, performed in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Corps of Engineers, show that a 30,000 acre-foot reservoir at this new site can be economically developed to provide the storage capacity of water exchange to permit water releases from Lake Tahoe needed to improve the fisheries resources as required by the authorizing act. In addition, the reservoir would provide an excellent means for expanded flood protection for the Reno area through the use of larger reservoir capacity and by control of a larger drainage area than would be controlled by the 15,000 acre-feet of capacity initially considered in

4 WASHOE RECLAMATION PROJECT, NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA

the reconnaissance studies of the Twin Valley site. It would also better fit into the joint storage and channel improvement plans of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers for flood control on Truckee River.

Construction of Prosser Dam and Reservoir is estimated to cost about \$4,400,000 on the basis of 1958 prices. The reconnaissance estimate for the proposed Twin Valley site was about \$1,500,000 on the basis of 1954 prices, which was the level of costs used in our planning report of September 1954 on the Washoe project and the basis of the authorizing legislation.

On the basis of fishery benefits estimated by the Fish and Wildlife Service, about \$1,300,000 of the estimated construction cost of \$4,400,000 would be allocable to fish and wildlife and would be nonreimbursable, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the act of August 1, 1956. The remainder of the cost would be allocable to the authorized flood-control function of the Washoe project on the basis of the annual flood-control benefits estimated by the Corps of Engineers.

As stated above, the act of August 1, 1956, provides that the sum authorized to be appropriated for construction of the Washoe project may be increased by such amounts as may be required by reason of changes in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost indexes applicable to the types of construction involved therein. Our present studies show that construction of the project works described at the time of authorization at a cost of \$43,700,000, which is representative of July 1954 cost levels, would increase to about \$49 million when indexed to April 1958 price levels because of changes in engineering cost indexes alone. With the increase in the size of storage capacity which would be provided by the construction of Prosser Dam and Reservoir and other minor modifications in the project plan, the total estimated construction cost would increase to about \$52 million on the basis of April 1958 engineering cost indexes. This conforms with the amount of appropriations for construction which S. 4009 would authorize.

In order to avoid any possible question concerning the price level to which the proposed increased appropriation authority is to be related, we recommend that the bill be amended by adding "(April 1958 prices)" after the figure "\$52,000,000" appearing in line 8 of the bill.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

FRED G. AANDAHL,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

STATE WATER RIGHTS BOARD
SACRAMENTO

OCT 30 9 13 AM '58