

*cc Duane Jensen*

Memorandum

To: Bill Bredar/Karl Henrichsen

From: J.P. Horst

Subject: Grand Junction

Date: October 19, 1977

I met with Mr. Laren D. Morrill of the Water Conservation Board on October 18 to discuss the implications of the "Colorado River Salinity Standards" concerning a land application system for Grand Junction/Mesa County.

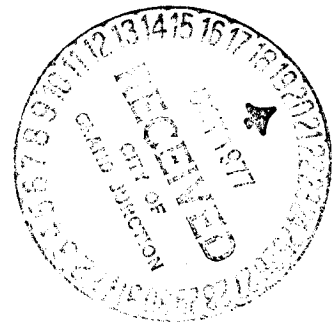
Mr. Morrill said that salinity control measures will be initiated in the Grand Valley at the Federal level by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (B of R) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to meet the established salinity standards. As a matter of background, an agreement was executed in March of 1975, between the B of R and the SCS to implement the salinity control measures called for under Title II of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974.

The seven Colorado River Basin states comprise the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum whose views on salinity control differ widely between the Upper and Lower Basin states, according to Mr. Morrill. California requested that the B of R and SCS contract with individual farmers and irrigation companies in Colorado stipulating that no new land should be put under irrigation. Mr. Morrill said Colorado felt that position was "too strong" and decided to revise the request to say that the agricultural communities will not irrigate any new land that has not had a previous history of irrigation. Mr. Morrill estimated that only about 2,000 acres of private land in the Grand Valley fall into this category.

Salinity control measures such as improving irrigation management practices, canal lining, and erosion control structures could be funded 100% as follows:

<u>Percent Funded</u>	<u>Source</u>
75%	Bureau of Reclamation
10%	Upper Basin Fund
15%	Lower Basin Fund.

This funding is applicable to both Federal and non-Federal projects and measures to maintain the flow-weighted average annual salinity level in the Lower Colorado River.



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The Water Conservation Board will be working with the B of R and SCS to prepare contracts for the Colorado farmers and irrigation companies by the summer of 1978. Following execution of these contracts, salinity control measures such as canal lining could be started in the fall of 1978. These activities are expected to be administered by the Grand Junction office of the B of R. The B of R will work with the irrigation companies which supply the laterals to the farmers and the SCS will work with the farmers.

With respect to implementing a land application system in the Grand Valley, Mr. Morrill is doubtful that will happen from a salinity point of view. This is even more unlikely on the Bureau of Land Management site selected by Ed Carpenter.

Mr. Morrill said he will send us his comments in a letter for our record. He also informed me that Evan Dildine requested his appearance at the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission meeting when Grand Junction is on the agenda.

JPH:ttn