WATER: CALIFORNIA
GENERAL REGULATIONS, SEPTEMBER 28, 1931

United States Department of the Interior,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, September 28, 1931.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

CONTRACTS FOR THE STORAGE OF WATER IN BOULDER CANYON RESERVOIR, BOULDER CANYON PROJECT, AND THE DELIVERY THEREOF

1. No person shall have or be entitled to have the use for any purpose of the water stored in Boulder Canyon Reservoir except by contract made in pursuance of these regulations. All contracts for delivery of water shall be subject to all the terms and provisions of the Colorado River Compact and of the Boulder Canyon Project Act.

2. The right is reserved to amend or extend these regulations from time to time consistently with said compact and the laws of Congress, as the public need may require.

3. Storage water in Boulder Canyon Reservoir will be delivered upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may fix from time to time by regulations and contracts thereunder. Water so contracted for may be delivered at such points on the river as may be agreed upon for irrigation and domestic uses.

4. Contracts respecting water for irrigation and domestic uses shall be for permanent service, and shall conform to Paragraph a of Section 4 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act.

5. No charge shall be made for water or for the use, storage or delivery of water for irrigation or for water for potable purposes in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Charges otherwise shall be fixed by regulation from time to time. Where water is permitted by the Secretary to be taken from the Colorado River from the reservoir above the Hoover Dam, the utilization of the power plant will be impaired to that extent, and the right is reserved to make a higher charge for water taken above the dam, than if delivery is made below the dam.

6. Subject to the provisions of Article 7 of these regulations, deliveries of water to users in California shall be in accordance with the following recommendation of the State Division of Water Resources:
The waters of the Colorado River available for use within the State of California under the Colorado River Compact and the Boulder Canyon Project Act shall be apportioned to the respective interests below named and in amounts and with priorities therein named and set forth, as follows:

"Section 1. A first priority to Palo Verde Irrigation District for beneficial use exclusively upon lands in said District as it now exists and upon lands between said District and the Colorado River, aggregating (within and without said District) a gross area of 104,500 acres, such waters as may be required by said lands.

"Sec. 2. A second priority to Yuma Project of United States Bureau of Reclamation for beneficial use upon not exceeding a gross area of 25,000 acres of land located in said project in California, such waters as may be required by said lands.

"Sec. 3. A third priority (a) to Imperial Irrigation District and other lands under or that will be served from the All-American Canal in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and (b) to Palo Verde Irrigation District for use exclusively on 16,000 acres in that area known as the 'Lower Palo Verde Mesa', adjacent to Palo Verde Irrigation District, for beneficial consumptive use, 3,850,000 acre-feet of water per annum less the beneficial consumptive use under the priorities designated in Sections 1 and 2 above. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority. The total beneficial consumptive use under priorities stated in Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this article shall not exceed 3,850,000 acre-feet of water per annum.

"Sec. 4. A fourth priority to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles, for beneficial consumptive use, by themselves and/or others, on the Coastal Plain of Southern California, 550,000 acre-feet of water per annum.

"Sec. 5. A fifth priority (a) to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles, for beneficial consumptive use, by themselves and/or others, on the Coastal Plain of Southern California, 550,000 acre-feet of water per annum and (b) to the City of San Diego and/or County of San Diego, for beneficial consumptive use, 112,000 acre-feet of water per annum. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority.

"Sec. 6. A sixth priority (a) to Imperial Irrigation District and other lands under or that will be served from the All-American Canal in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, and (b) to Palo Verde Irrigation District for use exclusively on 16,000 acres in that area known as the Lower Palo Verde Mesa, adjacent to Palo Verde Irrigation District, for beneficial consumptive use, 300,000 acre-feet of water per annum. The rights designated (a) and (b) in this section are equal in priority.

"Sec. 7. A seventh priority of all remaining water available for use within California, for agricultural use in the Colorado River Basin in California, as said basin is designated on Map No. 23000 of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

"Sec. 8. So far as the rights of the allottees named above are concerned, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles shall have the exclusive right to withdraw and divert into its aqueduct any water in Boulder Canyon Reservoir accumulated to the individual credit of said District and/or said City (not exceeding at any one time 4,750,000 acre-feet in the aggregate) by reason of reduced diversions by said District and/or said
City; provided, that accumulations shall be subject to such conditions as to accumulation, retention, release and withdrawal as the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time prescribe in his discretion, and his determination thereof shall be final; provided further, that the United States of America reserves the right to make similar arrangements with users in other States without distinction in priority, and to determine the correlative relations between said District and said City and such users resulting therefrom.

"Sec. 9. In addition, so far as the rights of the allottees named above are concerned, the City of San Diego and/or County of San Diego shall have the exclusive right to withdraw and divert into an aqueduct any water in Boulder Canyon Reservoir accumulated to the individual credit of said City and/or said County (not exceeding at any one time 250,000 acre-feet in the aggregate) by reason of reduced diversions by said City and/or said County; provided, that accumulations shall be subject to such conditions as to accumulation, retention, release and withdrawal as the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time prescribe in his discretion, and his determination thereof shall be final; provided further, that the United States of America reserves the right to make similar arrangements with users in other States without distinction in priority, and to determine the correlative relations between the said City and/or said County and such users resulting therefrom.

"Sec. 10. In no event shall the amounts allotted in this agreement to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and/or the City of Los Angeles be increased on account of inclusions of a supply for both said District and said City, and either or both may use said apportionments as may be agreed by and between said District and said City.

"Sec. 11. In no event shall the amounts allotted in this agreement to the City of San Diego and/or to the County of San Diego be increased on account of inclusion of a supply for both said City and said County, and either or both may use said apportionments as may be agreed by and between said City and said County.

"Sec. 12. The priorities hereinbefore set forth shall be in no wise affected by the relative dates of water contracts executed by the Secretary of the Interior with the various parties."

7. The Secretary reserves the right to contract with any of the allottees above named in accordance with the above stated recommendation, or, in the event that such recommendation as to Palo Verde Irrigation District is superseded by an agreement between all the above allottees or by a final judicial determination, to contract with the Palo Verde Irrigation District in accordance with such agreement or determination; Provided, that priorities numbered fourth and fifth in said recommendation shall not thereby be disturbed.

(Signed) Ray Lyman Wilbur,
Secretary of the Interior.

September 28, 1931.