

June 19, 1941

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Herbert B. Maw
Governor of Utah
B u i l d i n g

FROM: T. H. Humpherys
State Engineer

It appears from press dispatches that you are to be in Washington, D. C. Since there is a matter relating the Price River-Gooseberry project which needs attention there, I felt that you should be advised if you are not already. I am, therefore, writing you relating it.

Price River-Gooseberry Project

Great quantities of water from the Price river have been wasting into the Colorado river over a period of years - water which should be impounded in reservoirs to supply much needed supplemental water for irrigation in the Sanpete and Price River valleys. The necessity for such storage has been recognized and attempts made to make it an accomplished fact.

First, the Mammoth dam, located on Fish creek, a tributary of Price river, about five miles east of Fairview, was built. It failed, however, in 1917, resulting in the destruction of a section of the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in the vicinity of Price and Helper and did other damage, the total of which amounted to approximately \$1,000,000. Later the Scofield dam was built on Fish creek. It partially failed in 1928. It has been used since for partial storage, but has remained a menace to life and property, particularly the main line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway formerly destroyed by the failure of the Mammoth dam, also a menace to the towns and peoples of Price and Helper and other towns and peoples in that vicinity.

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation was interested in the development of a Price River project and reported on one in 1933, involving the building of the Gooseberry reservoir and a tunnel to supply 10,000 ac. ft. of supplemental water to Sanpete lands. The cost, however, was too great and the project was temporarily abandoned. The investigations were again taken up, however, by the Bureau in co-operation with the Utah Water Storage Commission in 1935, resulting in a report of September 1940 on what was called by the Bureau the "Price River-Gooseberry Project," involving the building of the Gooseberry or Mammoth reservoirs, also rebuilding the Scofield reservoir. The Gooseberry or Mammoth reservoirs would supply water to the Sanpete lands. The Scofield reservoir would supply water to the Price River valley. The total cost involved for the entire project

June 16, 1947

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City

From: E. L. Hartshorn
State Engineer

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There is a report of this project in the Governor's office which was sent by the Bureau of Reclamation.

It has occurred to me that by conferring with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Secretary of the Interior while you are in Washington, the machinery could be set in motion to secure the President's approval as required, especially in view of the fact that one trunk railway line into this valley is endangered in a time of near war.

The water users of both the Sanpete and Price River valleys stand ready to execute repayment contracts. Sites have been selected for C. C. construction camps; otherwise, we are only marking time and cannot move further until the President will have approved the project. Unless the project is approved soon no construction can be undertaken this year; moreover the Case-Wheeler funds may be otherwise allotted.

There are moneys now available, however, under the Case-Wheeler Act which can be used on such projects, in which the Government pays approximately one-half the cost, leaving the balance to be paid by benefiting water users in 40 equal annual payments without interest. The project has been declared feasible under this Act and recommended by the Bureau for construction, also accepted by the water users. To this date, however, the President of the United States has not accepted the project and earmarked the funds as required under the Act, in spite of the fact, as we understand, the Bureau of Reclamation has recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that such be done.

MEMORANDUM
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