Water Users Get Easier Fee Schedule

Measure Provides Mild Relief On Repayments

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19 —Under authority of the Robinson bill, passed by congress earlier in the session, the secretary of the interior Tuesday announced execution of an amendatory repayment contract with the Strawberry Valley Water Users' association, under which they are granted mild relief on repayments.

The department explains that the new Strawberry contract adjusts the repayment period for the obligations of the individual water users who are members of the water users' associations, and of the association itself, to 40 years from the date of the first annual installment. Where obligations would be paid out in a few more installments, however, the extension will be limited to twice the number of remaining years.

Under its old contracts the association, in addition to its own construction cost obligations to the United States, was also obligated as guarantor of the many contracts for construction costs between the individual members of the association and the United States.

Some of the individual contracts called for the repayment of construction costs in 20 annual installments, others in 30. The new contract provides for the substitution of an annual charge on a share basis for the direct costs of legal and administrative services rendered the Strawberry valley project. Formerly the association paid an annual flat overhead charge.

The aggregate unaccrued balance of construction charges still owed to the government by the association and its members is $1,715,458.

President Okehs Strawberry Offer

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30. — (AP)—President Roosevelt has signed into law a bill authorizing the Secretary of Interior to accept from the Strawberry Water Users' Association of Payson, Utah, $400 annually in settlement of overhead charges attributable to the Strawberry Valley project.

Utah Water Pact Passes House

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure authorizing the secretary of interior to accept $400 as an annual equitable overhead charge in connection with a repayment contract between the United States and the Strawberry Water Users' association of Payson, Utah, has been passed by the house and sent to the president.

The house substituted a senate bill for the house measure introduced by Representative J. W. Robinson (D), Utah. The measures were identical.

The contract specified that the charge should amount to one-tenth of 1 per cent of the government's net investment on January 1 preceding each annual payment. The adjustment was approved by the interior department because the government's investment was not reduced as fast as anticipated.