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From the Central Arizona Project Association
510 Goodrich Building
Phoenix, Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Arizona today assured Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada of continued friendliness in their mutual battle to prevent California's taking the entire Colorado River.

The assurance came from David F. Brinegar, recently named executive secretary of the Central Arizona Project Association to succeed the late Howard J. Smith.

Brinegar said:

"The Colorado River Basin must be developed for the wise use of all seven of its states. To develop it for one state alone would be wrong, and for one state to frustrate development by dilatory tactics so that its six sister states cannot use their fair share of water is equally wrong.

"Arizona has stood firmly with other states in the past for projects, soundly conceived along standard reclamation patterns so well established throughout the West and including in California's own Central Valley, which would conserve the entire Colorado River Basin for all seven of its states.

"Arizona at present is suing California in the United States Supreme Court to obtain an adjudication of Lower Basin water rights. If Arizona wins this suit, as we expect will be the situation, the decision should serve to protect not only Arizona's rights but the real rights of every state including California."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOENIX, Mar. 00 -- Awareness of the threat California poses to every other state in the Colorado River Basin is snowballing throughout the basin, David F. Brinegar, executive secretary of the Central Arizona Project Association, said today.

Brinegar's comment was based on an article on the editorial page of the Denver Post of March 13, written by Roscoe Fleming, featured columnist of the Post and writer for other publications across the nation.

Fleming charged that the "massive, solid, selfishly cold and efficient grab-it-all policy of the Californians, buttressed by enormous supplies of money" threatens the whole Colorado River Basin outside California."

Brinegar said Mr. Fleming's article added to expressions by Gov. Howard Pyle of Arizona, Gov. Dan Thornton of Colorado, Gov. J. Bracken Lee of Utah, by Gus P. Baekman, manager of the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce, and by the editors of the Wyoming State Tribune at Cheyenne, the Yuma Sun at Yuma, the Arizona Republic and the Phoenix Gazette at Phoenix, the Arizona Daily Star at Tucson, and others "too numerous to mention", all warning of the dangers of California's avarice.

Brinegar quoted Fleming as saying in part: (quoted by permission)

"Well, the Californians have thrown off all pretense of being just 'friends of conservation' x x x

"Only the blind have ever been fooled by the Californians' pretense that they care anything at all about conservation in Colorado, a thousand miles away from them. For California's own history is one long record of unbridled looting of natural resources---including the nation's within its borders---for the private profit of its powerful.

"Everything they've done for 50 years is explained only by the thesis that they confidently expect to get virtually the entire flow of the Colorado River.

"Recent dispatches from Los Angeles say, for example, that the megapolis feels its future is assured, because Southern California is as yet using only about 15 percent of the capacity of the works built to siphon the Colorado River into Southern California though it is using more than one-third of the river's flow.

"Southern Californians are even getting choosy, and say they won't accept Upper Basin water if it is too salty.

"So the role in which they have cast our region, where the river rises, is to serve as the drab cocoon out of which will spring the glorious butterfly of full-fledged Southern California civilization. Of course, a cocoon has no future, save to dry up and blow away."

Brinegar then said Fleming called California "the menace to everyone else in the West."

"The power of California," Brinegar concluded, "can be offset if all the other states in the Colorado River Basin unite. In fact, unity of the Colorado River Basin outside of California might lead to unity of the 16 Western reclamation states other than California, and the roadblock in Congress to Federal reclamation starts might be removed."