

**“RECLAMATION: IN VIEW”**

Episode 2 – 8/13/2010

OPEN:

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*“Reclamation: In View – a regular update from Washington – featuring Commissioner Mike Connor. A presentation of the Bureau of Reclamation – Managing Water in the West (music out).”*

ANNOUNCER:

**WITH NEARLY ONE-BILLION-DOLLARS IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDING, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ARE WORKING HARD TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY, CREATE JOBS, AND BRING MUCH-NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO A 17-STATE REGION.**

**WHILE RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER MIKE CONNOR SAYS MUCH OF THE WORK IS UNDERWAY, THERE IS ROOM TO FUND ADDITIONAL PROJECTS – A SIDE-BENEFIT OF THE BIDS FOR MANY PROJECTS COMING IN FAR BELOW THE ORIGINALLY-BUDGETED AMOUNT. THE COMMISSIONER WAS ASKED IF NEW PROJECTS ARE SIMPLY THOSE WHICH ARE MOVING UP A PREVIOUSLY-ESTABLISHED PRIORITY LIST.**

COMMISSIONER CONNOR: (CUT 2 – :52)

*“No, we're kind of in a dynamic process here. And so, there have been projects that have become shovel-ready since the initial allocation. I'll give you a perfect example is the Intertie Project in California, which is allowing some flexibility of moving water Reclamation's Delta Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct, which is the -- the key water delivery system for the state of California's Water Project.*

*That was not shovel-ready. We finished our environmental compliance and did a record of decision in December of 2009. And because of the water crisis in California and the urgent need and the flexibility that that project provides, that was one of the first projects that we reallocated funding to.*

*And so, once again I think we struck the right balance of being shovel-ready, trying to get that money out there to fulfill its intended purpose, but also addressing a huge policy need.”*

ANNOUNCER:

**THE QUESTION FREQUENTLY ASKED BY RECLAMATION EMPLOYEES? “WILL THERE BE ANOTHER ROUND OF FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS – A RECOVERY TWO-POINT-OH?”**

COMMISSIONER CONNOR: (CUT 3 – :28)

*“I think at this point in time the economy is certainly showing signs of life. And we're progressing. And at the same time, concerns about the deficit have become -- come to the forefront with respect to both the administration and Congress. And so, I think anything from here on out will be likely to be very targeted in the way of economic stimulus as opposed to a large amount of money being made available for projects, as -- as was done back in 2009.”*

ANNOUNCER:

**COMMISSIONER CONNOR PREVIOUS SERVED AS STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE AND HAS A UNIQUE VIEW OF HOW LEGISLATION IMPACTING RECLAMATION IS CRAFTED.**

**IN OUR NEXT REPORT A LOOK AT HOW RECLAMATION IS INVESTING RECOVERY ACT DOLLARS INTO KEY WATER ISSUES IN THE WEST.**

**FROM THE STUDIOS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR – THIS IS RON TULL.**

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*“From Washington, this has been Reclamation: In View. To suggest future topics, e-mail: COMMENTS-AT-U-S-B-R-DOT-GOV. Reclamation – Managing Water in the West (music out)”*

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