

STATEMENT OF REED R. MURRAY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACT OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
ON THE 2011 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST

April 14, 2010

My name is Reed Murray. I serve as the Program Director of the Central Utah Project Completion Act Office under the Assistant Secretary - Water and Science in the Department of the Interior. I am pleased to provide the following information about the President's fiscal year 2011 budget for implementation of the Central Utah Project Completion Act.

The Central Utah Project Completion Act, Titles II - VI of P.L. 102-575, provides for completion of the Central Utah Project (CUP) by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The Act also authorizes funding for fish, wildlife, and recreation mitigation and conservation; establishes an account in the Treasury for deposit of these funds and other contributions; establishes the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission to coordinate mitigation and conservation activities; and provides for the Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement.

The Act provides that the Secretary may not delegate his responsibilities under the Act to the Bureau of Reclamation. As a result, the Department has established an office in Provo, Utah, with a Program Director to provide oversight, review and liaison with the District, the Mitigation Commission, and the Ute Indian Tribe, and to assist in administering the responsibilities of the Secretary under the Act.

The 2011 request for the Central Utah Project Completion Account provides \$43.0 million for use by the District, the Mitigation Commission, and the Department to implement Titles II - IV of the Act, which is \$1.0 million more than 2010. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2021. The project, as of March 2010, is 69 percent complete.

The request for the District includes \$37.6 million to fund the designs, specifications, land acquisition, and construction of the Utah Lake System (\$30.8 million); to implement water conservation measures (\$5.9 million); and to implement groundwater conjunctive use projects (\$1.0 million).

The request includes \$2.5 million for the Mitigation Commission to implement the fish, wildlife, and recreation mitigation and conservation projects authorized in Title III (\$2.2 million) and to complete mitigation measures committed to in pre-1992 Bureau of Reclamation planning documents (\$271,000).

The request also includes \$2.9 million for the Program Office for operation and maintenance costs associated with instream flows and fish hatchery facilities (\$1.2) and for program administration (\$1.7 million).

Finally, please note there is a proposed change in the format to the appropriations language in the justification to make clearer the total amount of the appropriation and to be more consistent with traditional appropriations language format.

In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to testify before the Committee and would be happy to respond to any questions.