

“RECLAMATION: IN VIEW”

Episode 1 – 8/3/2010

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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:

AS PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION’S EFFORT TO CREATE JOBS AND STRENGTHEN THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HAS A MAJOR ROLE IN FUNDING PROJECTS THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT. THE TOTAL AMOUNT INVESTED ACROSS 17 WESTERN STATES IS NEARLY ONE-BILLION-DOLLARS IN FUNDING – AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THE AGENCY’S ANNUAL BUDGET.

RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER MIKE CONNOR SAYS EMPLOYEES HAVE DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB IN TURNING THE FEDERAL DOLLARS INTO JOBS ON THE GROUND THAT WILL HAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES.

COMMISSIONER CONNOR: (CUT 1 – [PART 1])

“I think Reclamation did a great job in allocating that money for, not only those specific purposes, but also to address a lot of the needs that we have across the West. And so, there's been a range of projects that have been taken care of from rural water projects -- great progress has been made. \$200 million was allocated to that effort.

Water reuse projects, water conservation activities -- \$135 million was allocated to that initially. And then a range of infrastructure projects, traditional water supply projects, environmental enhancement projects -- there was a good amount allocated to that. So it's -- it's filled a lot of needs. And it's filling a lot of needs as we kind of move forward in the process. And we're making great strides.”

ANNOUNCER:

THE COMMISSIONER SAYS THE WORK OF TRANSLATING THESE RESOURCES INTO REAL PROJECTS HAS BEEN A TEAM EFFORT.

COMMISSIONER CONNOR: (CUT 1 – [PART2])

“It's taken a lot teamwork across Reclamation, regions helping other regions, our Denver operation helping everybody else move through and improve those contracts from a policy perspective, from a financial perspective.

But where we are right now at this point in time through all those fits and starts and those challenges is we're in a great spot. And we've obligated something in the neighborhood of 75 to 80 percent of that funding that we've also been fortunate in coming under bid in a lot of the projects that we expected. And so, we're going to reallocate some of that money to other projects here very shortly.

And so, we're making great progress.”

ANNOUNCER:

COMMISSIONER CONNOR SAYS THE WORK BY RECLAMATION EMPLOYEES HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY’S STAKEHOLDERS. IN OUR NEXT REPORT, A LOOK AT THE POTENTIAL FOR ADDITIONAL WORK UNDER THE RECOVERY ACT. 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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