

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2012 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM  
PROJECT NUMBER: C-34

I. Project Title: Orchard Mesa Canal Automation Project

II. Bureau of Reclamation Agreement Number(s): **NA**

Project/Grant Period: Start date (Mo/Day/Yr):  
End date: (Mo/Day/Yr):  
Reporting period end date:  
Is this the final report? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

III. Principal Investigator(s): Brent R. Uilenberg  
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IV. Abstract: The project consists of constructing a canal automation system composed of canal check structures, 100 acre-foot regulating reservoir, pumping plant(s), regulating reservoir/canal interconnect, upper/lower canal interconnect and integrated SCADA system. The objective of the canal automation system is to reduce the volume of water diverted from the Colorado River for irrigation use by the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District and to redirect this water to generate more hydroelectric energy thereby indirectly improving flows in the Colorado River. Very conservative estimates indicate that 17,000 acre-feet of water can be redirected to improve instream flows in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. This water will more than offset the volume of water storage (10,825 acre-feet) that will no longer be available for instream flow enhancement from Ruedi Reservoir after 2011.

V. Study Schedule: Preliminary project planning was initiated in the early 1990's using Reclamation's General Investigation Program. Project preconstruction permitting, contracting and preparation of final designs continued in FY 2012. Project construction will be initiated in FY 2013 and will be complete in FY 2015 or 2016 depending upon Federal appropriations and the ability to execute a contract with the CWCB.

VI. Relationship to RIPRAP: Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem I.A.5.m.(1) Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) Canal Automation

VII. Accomplishment of FY 2012 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: O&M funding commitments for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District (OMID) Canal Automation Project was secured from the CRWCD, CWCB, OMID and

Upper Colorado Recovery Program. Contracts committing these sources of O&M funding were developed. The contract with the CRWCD has been executed. The contract to provide Upper Colorado Recovery Program funding is ready for execution pending completion of NEPA compliance. Negotiations with the CWCB are ongoing. The regulating reservoir property was purchased from the CRWCD for \$902,000 in FY 2011. Design and permitting work is proceeding. California Polytechnic University has completed a re-evaluation of the Project which will significantly reduce construction costs by eliminating the need to construct the Duck Pond Pumping Plant and Mutual Mesa pipeline extension. The draft report has been submitted to OMID for review and approval. Construction was not initiated in FY 2012 primarily due to an inability to execute the CWCB contract. An FY 2013 construction start is anticipated pending execution of the CWCB contract and completion of the NEPA process.

VIII. Recommendations: Maintain schedule as outlined above. The critical path item is execution of the CWCB/OMID contract.

IX. Project Status: Initiation of construction has been delayed by 1 year due to an inability to execute the CWCB/OMID contract. Construction can be completed in FY 2015 or 2016 depending upon Federal appropriations and contract execution.

X. FY 2012 Budget Status

A. Funds Provided: \$2,323,000

B. Funds Expended: \$0

C. Difference: \$2,323,000

D. Percent of the FY 2012 work completed, and projected costs to complete: 100% to the extent possible without execution of O&M contract

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None

XI. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): NA

XII. Signed: Brent R. Uilenberg                      November 14, 2012  
Principal Investigator                      Date

APPENDIX: None