

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM  
FY 2014 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 33 canal check structures, 87 acre-foot regulating reservoir, pumping plant(s), upper/lower canal interconnect pipeline, replacement of open channel laterals with pressurized pipelines 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 storage water (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 planning, permitting, O&M contract execution and NEPA compliance was completed in FY 2013. Project construction was initiated in FY 2013. Construction of all 33 canal check structures was completed during the winter of 2013-2014. These facilities were operated throughout the 2014 irrigation season. Construction completion is estimated to occur in FY 2016 or 2017 depending upon Federal appropriations.

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 2014 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings: Construction of the 33 canal check structures was completed prior to the 2014 irrigation season and subsequently operate throughout the season. Technical assistance was provided to the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District in the operation and minor modification of these facilities. Design, specification and permitting work for the

regulating reservoir was completed. An FY 2014 construction contract award was scheduled for this feature; however, a construction contract was not awarded due to issues encountered in the contracting process. The revised schedule calls for a construction contract award in July 2015 with construction completion prior to the 2016 irrigation season. Planning and permitting activities for the final phases of the project are proceeding including identification of lateral systems that will be replaced with pressurized pipelines.

- VIII. Additional noteworthy observations: Diversion records from the Division 5 Office of the State Engineer have not yet been obtained for the 2013 or 2014 irrigation seasons. When these records are obtained, Reclamation will conduct an analysis of this data to determine if savings for the 2014 irrigation season occurred. This data is anticipated to reflect a reduction in the amount of water diverted for irrigation use due to the operation of the canal check structures.
- IX. Recommendations: None
- X. Project Status: Construction will be completed in FY 2016 or 2017 depending upon Federal appropriations. This is a 1 year slip from the previously reported schedule due to the inability to award a construction contract for the regulating reservoir in FY 2014. However, project benefits are anticipated beginning with the 2014 irrigation season following completion of the 33 canal structures.
- XI. FY 2014 Budget Status
- A. Funds Provided: \$1,967,213
  - B. Funds Expended: \$1,967,213
  - C. Difference: \$0 (See Section X, Project Status, above)
  - D. Percent of the FY 2014 work completed, and projected costs to complete: NA
  - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: \$0
- XII. Status of Data Submission (Where applicable): NA
- XIII. Signed: Brent Uilenberg November 18, 2014  
Principal Investigator Date  
(Just put name and date here, since you will be submitting the report electronically)

APPENDIX: NA