

Guaranteed floods

Few county taxpayers realize they are being asked to finance a Rio Salado flood plain real estate scheme this November which statistically assures flooding its inhabitants. In April 1985, Brian Reich, an Arizonan with 30 years' experience in flood hydrology, warned then-Gov. Bruce Babbitt and his "Plan 6" dam-building committee of the risks of building dams such as Cliff to "protect" river bottom real estate development.

Rio Salado would insert commercial development, and homes for 36,000 people, down into thousands of acres of reclaimed and not-so-reclaimed river bottom land.

Reich showed that homes and businesses closest to the river would have a 39 percent chance of disaster during a 50-year occupancy. This means odds for disaster of greater than one in three. The higher, middle portions of the riverbed reclaimed by Cliff Dam would have a 10 to 22 percent flooding risk, Reich showed. Even those structures in the highest, driest part of that reclaimed land would have a 5 percent chance of inundation.

Babbitt and his committee ignored Reich, although Stewart Udall vigorously protested Cliff Dam. Perhaps Udall, as former interior secretary and chief government dam-builder, knew something about Mother Nature's way of ultimately reclaiming what is hers.

Besides Rio Salado's being periodically flooded, Reich warned of the risk from building an earthen dam like Cliff upstream of a metropolis. The proposed Cliff Dam would be one of the highest earthen dams ever to be built. It would have similar dimensions to the bureau's ill-fated earthen Teton Dam. That "state-of-the-art" dirt dam burst the first year the bureau filled it in 1976!

Clemens Titzck
Phoenix

AUDUBON ACTION ALERT

National Audubon Society National Capital Office For the 24-hour tape, dial (202) 547-9017

May 1987

LETTERS NEEDED NOW TO STOP ARIZONA'S CLIFF DAM

Right now in Washington your lawmakers are considering a budget proposal which would give the Bureau of Reclamation millions of extra dollars to speed up construction on the Central Arizona Project (CAP). Under the President's budget request, the Central Arizona Project is slated to receive \$276 million this year -- that's \$70 million more than last year. The project is not only economically wasteful, it's environmentally destructive. Your member of Congress is on the subcommittee which will make decisions about this project soon. Please write or call today.

The Project: Habitat and Wildlife Under the Gun

The main component of the Central Arizona Project is a series of dams. Two new dams, Cliff and New Waddell would be built. The existing Theodore Roosevelt Dam would be raised. Although each of these would involve some environmental impact, construction of Cliff Dam would leave incredible destruction in its wake.

Cliff Dam is a \$385 million dam proposed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation. It is to be built on the Verde River at a site within the Tonto National Forest, about 40 miles northeast of Phoenix.

If built, Cliff Dam will inundate up to 8,700 acres of the national forest, destroying six miles of the Verde River and its desert streamside habitat on which bald eagles and other wildlife depend.

Cliff will destroy nesting and foraging habitat used by two nesting pairs of bald eagles. Only 24 adult pairs of these desert-nesting bald eagles are known to exist, with almost all of these nesting in Arizona. Most of these depend on habitat along the Salt and Verde Rivers for survival.

Yet Cliff Dam, along with the rest of the Central Arizona Project, will receive accelerated funding if the Interior Department's budget is approved.

CAP Doesn't Add Up

The Department of the Interior, the parent agency of the Bureau of Reclamation, has been severely criticized for the way in which it has determined its water project priorities. The Secretary of the Interior, Donald Hodel, announced earlier this year that he was dramatically increasing funding for water projects that are underway (including the Central Arizona Project) and cutting the money for other projects, even projects that are less environmentally damaging. The Central Arizona Project, already plagued by financial mismanagement, is going to get more money than ever!

The Inspector General of the Interior Department -- the internal watchdog of the agency -- reports the Central Arizona Project is riddled with problems. The Inspector General found arithmetic errors on the Central Arizona Project books amounting to tens of millions of

May 87
dollars, along with unsound business practices. It even questioned the legal authority of the agency to proceed with the project. But the Secretary of the Interior has chosen to ignore such troubling findings and will ask for even more money for this boondoggle.

That's why it's so important that your representative or senator who is a member of the House or Senate Appropriations Subcommittee (see the list at the end of this Alert) hear that you don't want your tax dollars going down the drain for the Central Arizona Project and especially for Cliff Dam. The environmental consequences of this project are forever!

What YOU Can Do

Please write or call your representative or senators and ask him/her to reduce funding for the CAP. You may want to include the following points in your letter:

- construction of the proposed Cliff Dam would drown thousands of acres of valuable wildlife habitat, including nesting and foraging areas for bald eagles;
- the Central Arizona project is an outrageous waste of tax dollars;
- the Secretary of the Interior should not be funding this project at the expense of less environmentally destructive programs.

PLEASE WRITE OR CALL TODAY! The Central Arizona Project will waste not only our money, but a beautiful place. The Appropriations subcommittees will be considering this issue in mid May.

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Capitol Switchboard number is: 202/224-3121

Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee: John Stennis (D-MS), J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA), James McClure (R-ID), Pete Domenici (R-NM), Mark Hatfield (R-OR), Quentin Burdick (D-ND), Arlen Specter (R-PA), Jim Sasser (D-TN), Ernest Hollings (D-SC), Jake Garn (R-UT), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), Thad Cochran (R-MS).

House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee: Tom Beville (D-AL-04), Lindy Boggs (D-LA-02), Bill Chappell (D-FL-04), Vic Fazio (D-CA-04), Wes Watkins (D-OK-03), Bill Boner (D-TN-05), John Myers (R-IN-07), Virginia Smith (R-NE-03), Carl Pursell (R-MI-02).

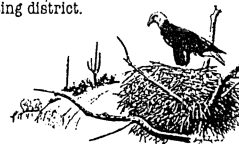
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Phoenix Gazette

**AFTERNOON
FINAL**

Wednesday
June 17, 1987

35¢

GREEN STREAK

End seems near for Cliff Dam

By Sean Griffin
The Phoenix Gazette

WASHINGTON — Arizona's congressional delegation, faced with mounting opposition in Congress, appears ready to pull the plug on controversial Cliff Dam.

The proposed dam, intended to be built between Bartlett and Horseshoe dams on the Verde River east of Phoenix, anchored the \$1.1 billion Plan 6 component of the Central Arizona Project.

A coalition of environmental groups declared war on the dam in 1986, filing a lawsuit that challenged the federal Bureau of Reclamation's compliance with environmental law when it approved Plan 6.

water project figures for 1988, Coughlin agreed to withhold his amendment for a few days to see if environmentalists and the Arizona delegation could reach accord.

Coughlin said he would introduce his amendment when the appropriations bill comes to the floor — perhaps as early as next week — if negotiations fail.

The latest assault surfaced Friday when Rep. Larry Coughlin, R-Pa., sent colleagues a letter urging support for his amendment to delete the dam from the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Coughlin offered a similar amendment in 1986, but lost in a 20-7 committee vote.

This time, however, Coughlin vowed to wage a challenge to all of Plan 6 on the House floor if the Appropriations Committee failed to back his amendment.

Several members of the delegation, including House Interior Committee chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., doubt they could win a floor fight on the issue.

"We have not had a real test on a major water

Kolbe told the committee he anticipated a compromise "that will resolve a whole range of issues dealing with several provisions of Central Arizona Project Plan 6."

The committee approved \$230 million for CAP construction in fiscal 1988, including \$73.9 million for non-Indian water distribution systems. The total is \$28 million more than Congress approved last year, but \$37 million less than President Reagan's budget request. The

project in two or three years," said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., a newcomer to the Appropriations Committee.

Kolbe predicted Cliff Dam's demise.

He said the political landscape has changed since the last water battle because of Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction requirements and because there are many of new members of Congress.

"I don't think there's any question about it," Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., said when asked if Cliff Dam would be sacrificed in a deal.

"I'd just as soon fight it out, but there's a doubt in some peoples' minds that we could win on the floor."

Stump said a deal might be struck if environmentalists could be persuaded to drop further opposition to

administration sought to give priority to large projects nearing completion, including the CAP, but lost much of its water project support by proposing to mothball scores of projects.

Much of the money diverted from the CAP will be used to resurrect the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. The administration requested only \$2.5 million for that project, effectively putting it on hold. The committee today took a major step toward reviving the North Dakota project by approving \$35 million.

Plan 6 and to accept enlargement of Horseshoe Dam upstream from the Cliff Dam site.

Enlargement of Horseshoe could help keep intact a complex cost-sharing agreement that binds local beneficiaries of Plan 6 — including Phoenix, other Valley communities and utility districts — to pay about one-third of Plan 6's costs in advance.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he wasn't convinced Cliff Dam would be lost.

"It's too soon to tell, but in the next few hours we could arrive at an agreement. Whatever, we certainly plan to protect the interests of the state," McCain said.

Today, as the Appropriations Committee settled on

See ■ Cliff, A-4

Deal would kill Cliff Dam

By MARK FLATTEN
Progress Staff Writer

An agreement to eliminate Cliff Dam from the Plan 6 flood-control, dam-safety and water-storage project may be announced in Washington, D.C., today, the Maricopa County head of the National Audubon Society said.

Elimination of the proposed dam on the Verde River will not hamper flood control or mean the loss of any water for Valley cities, said Dr. Robert Witzeman, conservation chairman of the Maricopa Audubon Society.

A tentative agreement, reached between Arizona's congressional delegation and environmental groups, would allow all necessary dam improvements and deliver the same amount of water to cities as construction of the controversial dam, Witzeman said.

However, Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., contacted in Washington, said today it is not accurate to say the agreement would provide the same level of dam safety, flood control and water supp-

ly of Cliff Dam.

"We're talking about other ways of finding flood control with the elimination of Cliff Dam, but you can't wave the magic wand and say it's replaced that flood control (function of Cliff Dam)."

Kyl said a news conference is planned this afternoon in Washington. "We have the basic principles of an agreement worked out. There's no final agreement. We're still trying to figure out if we can make it work," he said.

Mayor Herb Drinkwater said today that the \$1.7 billion Plan 6, an adjunct of the Central Arizona Project, would have little benefit for Scottsdale without Cliff Dam, which would be on the Verde River near Horseshoe Lake.

Drinkwater, after talking to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., this morning, said of Cliff Dam, "From what I can find out, it's not dead yet, it's just badly injured."

Witzeman said the tentative agreement was reached Wednesday after a series of closed-door

meetings between Arizona's congressional delegation and representatives of the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the Friends of the Earth.

It would delete Cliff Dam from Plan 6, said Witzeman, who was involved in negotiations through the society's national office.

In return, environmentalists would drop a federal lawsuit aimed at blocking Plan 6.

Plan 6 would increase the storage capacities of dams on the Salt and Verde rivers and fund construction of New Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River at Lake Pleasant.

Part of the agreement, which should be completed today, would allow flood-control and dam-safety projects and identify a source of water to replace the water that would be stored behind Cliff Dam, Witzeman said.

He declined to name the alternative source of water, but said it had been identified in private meetings.

"The winners here are going to be the people of Arizona and their environment," said Witzeman. "Flood-control and dam-safety needs will be met and the water-storage needs would be met if the agreement goes forward. People won't be getting anything less than they had with Cliff."

The \$316 million Cliff Dam was headed for stiff opposition in House floor debates because of its cost and charges it would destroy nesting areas of bald eagles on the Verde River.

It was designed in 1981 after environmental concerns killed the planned Orme Dam, which was to have been built at the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers.

Drinkwater said he is concerned that deletion of Cliff Dam would leave the city with no benefits from Plan 6 while it is being asked to pay part of the cost.

Scottsdale is committed to spending about \$4.5 million toward improvements to the dam system that will increase storage capacities.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1987

Lawmakers OK demise of Cliff Dam

Arizona delegation yields to opponents

By ANNE Q. HOY
Republication Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Arizona's congressional delegation, in a stunning bow to environmentalists Thursday, declared the controversial Cliff Dam dead after three days of closed-door meetings.

In exchange, they obtained a pledge from dam opponents not to attack any other part of the Central Arizona Project's Plan 6, a flood-control and water-storage project.

The delegation sacrificed the \$316 million Cliff Dam in the face of almost certain defeat of the dam on the House floor and a threat of losing all of the \$1.1 billion Plan 6. It is the second CAP dam to be eliminated in the recent years.

Cliff Dam, which was to have been built on the Verde River east of Phoenix, was designed to protect central Arizona cities from floods and to store water for them.

An angry Phoenix Mayor Terry Goddard said the delegation's agreement lacked vital specifics about how Phoenix would have replaced 30,000 acre-feet of water a year that Cliff would have provided.

"They have capitulated," Goddard said. "We spent 12 years getting the last specific program. I think we have taken a massive step backward."

Goddard said abandoning Cliff scratches a delicate cost-sharing agreement reached between Arizona and federal officials in 1986 after a year of tough negotiations. Local officials had agreed to put up funds to speed completion of Plan 6.

Goddard held out little hope that another agreement can be negotiated unless a plan is worked out for central Arizona cities to recover the water Cliff would have provided.

However, Arizona's congressmen remained optimistic that the pact could be reshaped to keep the project on schedule, to be completed in the late 1990s.

Members of the delegation said water for Phoenix and other central Arizona cities could be provided from Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River and from CAP water that no one has claimed.

At the heart of what was billed as a gentlemen's agreement was a pledge by the delegation not to pursue any future funding for Cliff Dam or any other dam on the Verde River.

In exchange, a national coalition of environmental groups pledged to drop a lawsuit pending in federal court in Phoenix challenging Cliff Dam, to call a cease-fire on all remaining parts of Plan 6, and to support repairs to unsafe dams on the Salt and Verde rivers.

Environmentalists opposed Cliff because, they said, it would destroy the nests of the endangered bald eagle.

Democratic Rep. Morris Udall said the delegation agreed to scrap Cliff because of mounting political opposition to the dam and the possibility of losing all of Plan 6 in a House-floor fight. He was referring to a lack of support in a fiscally strapped Congress and a heightened awareness of environmentally unsound projects.

"We are agreed that for now Arizona gives up the idea of building Cliff Dam," Udall said, adding that the days of Western coalitions to win large water projects are gone.

"We just do not have the clout we had before."

At the press conference, members of Arizona's congressional delegation lifted the shroud of secrecy surrounding the three days of meetings and unveiled a seven-point agreement reached with an environmental coalition. The coalition included the National Audubon Society, the Friends of the Earth, the National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club.

GOP Rep. Bob Stump said the agreement was "100 percent" better than earlier drafts.

But Stump said he believes the delegation moved too fast and did not seek enough input from Arizona cities and major water users, a sentiment that was echoed in Arizona.

Democratic Sen. Dennis DeConcini said the delegation will work with Interior Department Secretary Donald Hodel to secure water for Phoenix and other central Arizona cities.

"We are not going to sell out anybody. . . . We are only ensuring the continuation of CAP without major environmental disruption," DeConcini said.

Cliff Dam has been under attack since 1981 when it was picked as an alternative to Orme Dam. In addition to environmental opposition, a series of General Accounting Office

reports have questioned the way the dam was funded.

The agreement was a clear win for environmentalists who reverse the 10-mile stretch of the Verde River that the dam would have inundated.

"The Verde River sells itself," said Edward Osann, director of the water resources at the National Wildlife Federation. He said environmentalists had been prepared to drum up support in Congress to kill both Cliff Dam and the remaining parts of Plan 6.

"It was clear that we were going to be back again and again," said Elizabeth Raisbeck, vice president for government relations for the National Audubon Society. "The Arizona delegation has spared the local water-development interest from years of litigation."

Propelling the rapid demise and almost-crisis atmosphere during at least eight delegation meetings this week was an amendment to kill Cliff Dam by Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, R-Pa.

Coughlin withheld the amendment at a House Appropriations Committee meeting Wednesday on the fiscal-1988 money bill that funds the CAP. But he vowed to resurrect it if the delegation failed to kill Cliff.

Perhaps one of the biggest concessions on the part of environmentalists was to agree to allow the delegation to state in a House-floor amendment that Plan 6 without Cliff Dam would be the authorized alternative to Orme Dam. There has been a longstanding controversy over whether Plan 6 is the legal alternative to Orme.

Also included in the "Statement of Principles of the Arizona Cliff Dam Settlement" were agreements:

- That environmentalists will not oppose funding for the construction of remaining parts of Plan 6, including New Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River and modifications to Stewart and Roosevelt dams on the Salt River. This provision holds as long as Cliff or any other Verde River water-storage dam planned by the federal government or private parties are not a part of CAP.

- That the Arizona delegation agrees, once the lawsuit is dropped, "not to pursue any future funding of Cliff Dam or similar water storage conservation features on Verde River."

- That environmentalists agree to support funding for the completion of dam-safety repairs to Horsehoe and Bartlett on the Verde and modified Roosevelt and Stewart dams.

- That additional flood control may be needed on the Verde River. The Army Corps of Engineers will be directed to study what changes to the two Verde River dams would be required to protect Valley from floods.

- That the delegation will work with Interior "to ensure that the Valley cities will secure water supplies necessary to replace the water yield" that Cliff would have provided.

Interior Secretary Hodel expressed his continuing support for CAP and pledged "to work with the Arizona delegation as best he can to try and accommodate the agreement," said David Prosperi, Hodel's spokesman.

Tom Clark, of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, said the group wanted time to look at the details.

"I am not sure the deal was a good one for both sides, but I am not ready to make my final decision," he said.

Plan 6, when adopted in 1984, included construction of Cliff Dam on the Verde, the enlargement of Roosevelt Dam and repair of Stewart Mountain Dam on the Salt River, and construction of New Waddell on the Agua Fria.

Congress bursts Cliff Dam plan

Tempe Daily News Tribune/Chandler Arizonan Tribune, Friday, June 19, 1987

By Dave Downey

Tribune writer

and Dinah Wisenberg
States News Service

Environmentalists win battle

Rio Salado still alive / A6

Cliff Dam is dead.

Arizona's congressional delegation announced an agreement Thursday to scuttle the controversial flood control and water storage project in exchange for environmentalists' promise to drop a suit threatening the entire Plan 6.

Environmentalists also agreed to stop fighting funding for the rest of Plan 6 and the Central Arizona Project.

The \$3.32 billion CAP's main feature is a 330-mile canal system completed as far as

the Valley and expected to reach Tucson by 1991.

Plan 6, estimated to cost \$1.1 billion, is the CAP's final leg. The plan includes a new Cliff Dam on the Verde River, a raised Theodore Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River and a rebuilt Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River. About \$1.6 billion has been spent on the CAP.

The agreement drew praise from environmentalists, who claim Cliff would destroy key foraging areas used by two pairs of endangered bald eagles, while city officials in the Valley labeled it a disaster that could jeopardize Arizona's future.

The loss of Cliff also was mourned by Arizona's congressional delegation, state water officials and the Salt River Project. "It's about time," said Scottsdale environmentalist Carolina Butler. "It's the classic lunatic project. That's all it ever

was. It should have been dropped a long time ago."

But Mesa water resources manager Karl Kohlhoff said everybody in the state loses. "What is water to Arizona? It's everything. It's the future," he said.

Congress authorized the CAP in 1968 with Orme Dam at the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers or a "suitable" alternative. Orme was killed in 1976 after environmentalists said it threatened other bald eagles and Indians objected because it would flood the Fort McDowell reservation.

Plan 6, a compromise, was selected in 1981.

Please see Cliff Dam / A6

After learning late last week that Rep. Lawrence Coughlin, R-Pa., was mapping strategy to slash the \$1.2 million fiscal 1988 appropriation for Cliff, Arizona's senators and representatives huddled 13 times Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to save Plan 6.

Threatened by the conservation coalition's mounting support in the House to kill all Plan 6 funding, "the delegation, with some misgivings, decided to give up on Cliff Dam," Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., told a press conference Thursday.

"We're flexible enough to say we can put this thing together without Cliff Dam."

Udall called the agreement a historic turning point in the CAP's three-decade history.

"This is the legislative home run that brings the Central Arizona Project home," said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz. "It was the best that we could come up with at this time."

But Republican Rep. Bob Stump said, "I sit here with my colleagues with the greatest reluctance. I have some concern that we may have moved too fast."

Unclear is what will happen to the pact Arizona officials made with the U.S. interior secretary in April 1986 for \$349 million in advance Plan 6 payments. Arizona already has paid \$21.4 million.

Sens. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., and John McCain, R-Ariz., said the agreement would not nullify the federal-state cost-sharing arrangement.

Although Arizona isn't obliged to pay the federal government back until the CAP is completed, Arizona officials agreed to pay some in advance in exchange for Interior's promise to speed completion of Plan 6.

"The cities did the cost-sharing agreement as a way to acquire some water," said Roger Manning, executive director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association.

"Without Cliff, that water isn't there. We certainly aren't going to put up money to buy nothing," Manning said. "So, I think the whole

cost-sharing agreement is in jeopardy.

"Cliff Dam was not just an item that was isolated unto itself. You pull that thread, and the question is, 'How far do we unravel?'"

Mitch Snow, Interior Department spokesman in Washington, said it also is unclear if Plan 6 can be built, legally, without Cliff, and if other studies or environmental assessments would be required.

"That's one of several technical issues we'll have to look at that are far from resolved at this point," Snow said.

Maricopa Audubon Society president Herb Fibel stopped short of proclaiming the agreement a major victory for environmentalists. "All I can say is we are cautiously optimistic. We thought at the time that Orme Dam was scrapped that that was a huge victory. But what was proposed in its place was 10 times as bad."

"Water projects are the oil or the lubrication that keeps Congress functioning," Fibel said. "They are the fabric of the trading in Congress. With that kind of a background, water projects never seem to be dead."

Salt River Project General Manager Jack Pfister said SRP, which would have operated Cliff, was "deeply disappointed."

"But the delegation had determined that all of Plan 6 could be in jeopardy by the further funding of Cliff," he said. "And, once they made

that determination, we believed the settlement made sense."

"But it has significant consequences for the metropolitan Phoenix area. Those consequences are that it reduces the flood control that will be done on the Verde River, and there's a loss of approximately 20,000 acre-feet of water. The metropolitan Phoenix cities will have to find an alternate supply."

Udall said: "The delegation has pledged, and we hereby pledge again ... to get back the water for Phoenix and other cities that they would have gotten if Cliff Dam had been built."

Phoenix Mayor Terry Goddard applauded the delegation for recognizing flood control still is needed and asking the Army Corps of Engineers to study what can be done in Cliff's absence.

But Pfister said no other project can control flooding as well. He noted Cliff would have cut the peak flow of a 100-year flood from 215,000 cubic feet per second to 55,000 cfs.

Major floods in 1979-80 crippled the Valley, ripping out all but two bridges over the Salt. Those left standing — Tempe's Mill Avenue bridge and Phoenix's Central Avenue — backed up with traffic for hours daily for several months.

Kohlhoff said Mesa had rights to 15 percent of Cliff's water, meaning the city would have received about

3,000 acre-feet a year. An acre-foot is what a family of five uses in a year.

Kohlhoff added that, without Cliff, the Valley loses a chance to increase the average annual yield of 800,000 acre-feet from the Salt and Verde rivers by 30 percent with cloud seeding along the Mogollon Rim.

"You can do so much when you have the storage capacity," said Bill Wheeler, director of the Central Arizona Project Association. "You can do so little for yourself when you don't have it."

"If the feds don't live up to their end of the bargain, we should build it ourselves," Kohlhoff said. He said Plan 6 virtually is useless to cities without Cliff.

Tempe senior management assistant Bill Pederson added, "It certainly doesn't help this area in its quest for additional water supplies to serve the future population."

"Only about 15 percent of the Salt River Project storage is on the Verde," Pederson said. "The other 85 percent is on the Salt River. Additional storage space is certainly needed to capture excess waters that flow down the Verde River in certain years, to say nothing of the additional flood protection."

"It is not as critical for Tempe as it is for the other cities," he said. "Our boundaries aren't expanding. Our water rights in the Salt and

Verde rivers are sufficient to meet our ultimate needs."

Karen O'Regan, Chandler water resources adviser, said Chandler lost a chance at 1,462 acre-feet a year, or enough for 7,000 people.

Phoenix, which was counting on Cliff for much of its future water needs, stands to lose the most water, said Goddard's assistant, Pat Manion.

"We're very, very disappointed," Manion said.

Support for Cliff began to unravel last winter. Fearing environmental groups had a strong case, federal, state and local officials met secretly in Las Vegas, Nev., in January to discuss whether to give up the dam to save Plan 6.

"At the close, the Arizonans decided they would have the congressional delegation fight to restore the money. That was a cop-out. The Democratic-controlled Senate will not vote the money," a Bureau of Reclamation source said after the meeting.

"Plan 6 is coming apart," the source said. "Plan 6 exists only because one link is chained to another. If one link breaks, the entire plan is in very deep trouble."

When Congress approved the CAP in 1968, it estimated the total project cost at \$832,180.

Ben Winton and W. Terry Smith contributed to this story.

Arizona delegation, ecologists near pact to abandon Cliff Dam

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Arizona's congressional delegation reportedly is nearing an agreement with environmentalists on the terms of abandoning the \$316 million Cliff Dam planned for the Verde River east of Phoenix.

"We are continuing to talk. Back to the next round," Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., said after the final meeting yesterday. "We are very close. But it all hangs together. If you do not have agreement on the whole thing, you don't have any agreement."

Elizabeth Raisbeck, who is vice president of government relations for the National Audubon Society and is a key player in the talks, said the talks are aimed at "reaching an agreement to get rid of Cliff Dam . . . but they are not finalized yet, and I am frankly very nervous about speculating about it."

Edward Osann, director of National Wildlife Federation water-resources programs, said, "I have felt for a long time that Cliff Dam is not going to be built. I am as sure about that as anything."

Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., agreed later, saying, "I think from a practical standpoint, everyone assumes we are not going to get Cliff."

Members hope to have an agreement before the House takes up a fiscal 1988 appropriations bill for

federal energy and water projects, as early as next week. The money bill, approved by the Appropriations Committee yesterday, includes \$237.1 million for the Central Arizona Project. Of that, \$1.2 million is for Cliff Dam. If members agree to kill Cliff Dam, they will bring their plan to the House floor next week.

Cliff Dam, a key element of the CAP's flood-control and water-storage feature known as Plan 6, has been under attack since 1981. That is when it was selected as the alternative to Orme Dam, which would have been built at the confluence of the Salt and Verde rivers. Orme Dam would have flooded most of Fort McDowell Indian Reservation, east of Phoenix.

Cliff Dam has been attacked because it would endanger the habitat of several pairs of bald eagles, which are protected by the federal government.

In addition to environmental opposition, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, twice has said the Bureau of Reclamation, which is building the CAP, cannot legally use money Congress authorized to repair unsafe dams in Arizona to build Cliff. These funds had been earmarked by local and Interior officials to help pay for Cliff.

However, the abandonment of Cliff Dam would kill a cost-sharing agreement for Plan 6, approved by Interior Secretary Donald Hodel in 1986.

Lawmakers may pull Cliff Dam proposal

Move could save other Plan 6 projects

By Dave Downey
Tribune writer

Afraid that Central Arizona Project opponents now have enough guns to blow the proposed Cliff Dam out of the water, Arizona's congressional delegation may try to salvage two related dam projects by abandoning Cliff, sources said Wednesday.

The embattled \$390 million dam, which environmental groups have challenged in court since September 1985, is under attack in Congress by Rep. Larry Coughlin, R-Pa.

Coughlin failed last year to delete Cliff Dam from a water appropriations bill, but he is attempting to do it again this year and has plenty of support, said Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz.

"There's a consensus among some people that we don't have a chance

of winning on the floor," Stump said.

He said Arizona's House delegation has met several times in the last few days to consider dropping Cliff Dam to salvage the rest of Plan 6, the CAP's final leg. Plan 6 includes building Cliff Dam on the Verde River, raising the level of Roosevelt Dam on the Salt River and rebuilding Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River.

Bob Witzeman of the Maricopa Audubon Society said environmental groups likely will drop their suit if Cliff is shelved.

CAP General Manager Tom Clark said the situation is serious this time.

"This is not the first effort, but I think it's perceived that this is the most opportune time that he (Coughlin) has had," Clark said. "Our

Another concern is the local cost-sharing agreement, in which Valley cities and utility districts agreed to pay some of Plan 6's costs in advance. Federal laws don't require state water users to chip in until the project is finished.

"The cities did the cost-sharing agreement as a way to acquire some water," Manning said. "Without Cliff, that water isn't there. We certainly aren't going to put up money to buy nothing. So I think the whole cost-sharing agreement is in jeopardy."

Manning said he also worries the Reagan administration's attitude could sour against the CAP as a whole.

"Cliff Dam was not just an item that was isolated unto itself,"

Manning said. "You pull that thread and the question is, 'How far do we unravel?'"

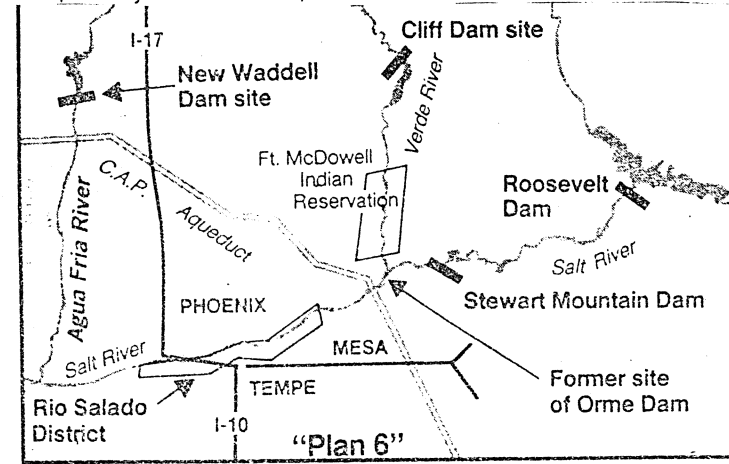
Bill Wheeler, executive director of the lobbying group Central Arizona Project Association, said, "I'm sick at heart about the whole darn thing."

"A Plan 6 without Cliff Dam is Plan 9," he said, "and Plan 9 was discarded offhand because it lacked so much in the way of benefits. It loses 30,000 acre-feet a year of water supply for the cities of the Valley."

The Valley also loses an opportunity to cut by more than half the size of the most severe floods expected to hit metropolitan Phoenix, he said.

"Instead of spending \$390 million to build the dam, why, we have to

Tempe Daily News Tribune/Chandler Arizonan Tribune, Thursday, June 18, 1987



delegation is reacting very seriously."

But Clark said he doesn't think the rest of the CAP is in jeopardy. He predicted the CAP canal system still will be completed to Tucson by 1991 and the other Plan 6 dam features will be built.

"Cliff is more vulnerable than any element of Plan 6, and that's obviously because of its environmental sensitivity that the other features don't have," he said.

The environmental groups say it would destroy key foraging areas for two pairs of nesting bald eagles.

Roger Manning, executive director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, is less confident the rest of Plan 6 will survive.

Manning said a key issue is whether Plan 6 still can be built, legally, without Cliff.

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spend \$307 million to fix Horseshoe and Bartlett (dams) to make them safe," Wheeler said. "And we still plan for a record \$275.8 million don't get the flood protection or the conservation storage. So it's really a very, very bad deal economically."

Clark said CAP can operate without Plan 6, but its capacity to deliver up to 2.1 million acre-feet a year would be reduced by 200,000 acre-feet, and average annual deliveries would drop 5 to 10 percent.

Wheeler added, "We miss the opportunity to do cloud seeding on the Verde watershed to increase the water supply. You can do so much when you have the storage capacity. You can do so little for yourself when you don't have it."

Meanwhile, the House Appropria-

tions Committee Wednesday voted to reject a Reagan administration appropriation for the CAP in fiscal 1988. The panel slashed the requested amount by 14 percent, but Wheeler said the remaining \$237.1 million is enough to keep construction on schedule.

Outlook for Cliff Dam is gloomy

State delegation near accord to kill project

By ANNE Q. HOY and MARY A.M. GINDHART
The Arizona Republic

WASHINGTON — Opposition in Congress to the Cliff Dam and the possibility of a bruising House fight left Arizona's congressional delegation Wednesday on the verge of scratching the dam from plans that have taken nearly a decade to work out.

The delegation, which huddled in at least six closed-door meetings amid extraordinary secrecy Tuesday and Wednesday, failed Wednesday to reach agreement with envi-

ronmentalists on the terms of abandoning the \$316 million dam, planned for the Verde River east of Phoenix.

But members reportedly are close to agreement, the prospect of which is being hailed by environmentalists and opposed by Arizona cities and large water users who fear it will scuttle a cost-sharing agreement reached in 1986 after more than a year of tough talks.

"We are continuing to talk. Back to the next round," said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., after emerging from the final meeting Wednesday. "We are very close. . . . But it all hangs together. If you do not have agreement on the whole thing, you don't have any agreement."

Leaders of environmental groups in Phoenix declined comment, saying they had been warned by their cohorts in Washington not to speak to reporters on the negotiations or the deal could be blown apart.

Elizabeth Raisbeck, vice president of government relations for the National Audubon Society and a key player in the talks, said the talks are aimed at "reaching an agreement to get rid of Cliff Dam . . . but they are not finalized yet, and I am frankly very nervous about speculating about it."

Edward Osann, director of the water-resources programs at the National Wildlife Federation and a player in the talks, said, "I have felt for a long time that Cliff Dam is

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not going to be built. I am as sure about that as anything."

Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., agreed Friday that he would offer an amendment before the House Appropriations Committee to slash all funding for Cliff Dam.

Coughlin, who last year lost a similar move, vowed this year to take his battle to the full House. On Wednesday, Coughlin told the House Appropriations Committee that he would not offer his amendment because he did not want to jeopardize "negotiations now under way to eliminate the need for the dam."

But Coughlin said he will propose the amendment on the House floor next week if the Arizona delegation fails to reach agreement with the environmentalists.

The dim prospect of winning a floor fight over Cliff Dam at a time when Congress is fiscally strapped propelled the delegation to negotiate with environmentalists, who are challenging the dam in U.S. District Court in Phoenix.

Although participants declined only if each piece of Plan 6 remained intact. For example, the Phoenix offered to help with funding in exchange for water that would be stored behind the dam. "If they abandon Cliff, the water supply, which was the key element for the cities, is gone. To pay \$33 million for virtually nothing is a tough decision to make," Britton said.

William Chase, water adviser for Phoenix, said Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale, Chandler and Glendale are opposed to abandoning Cliff Dam.

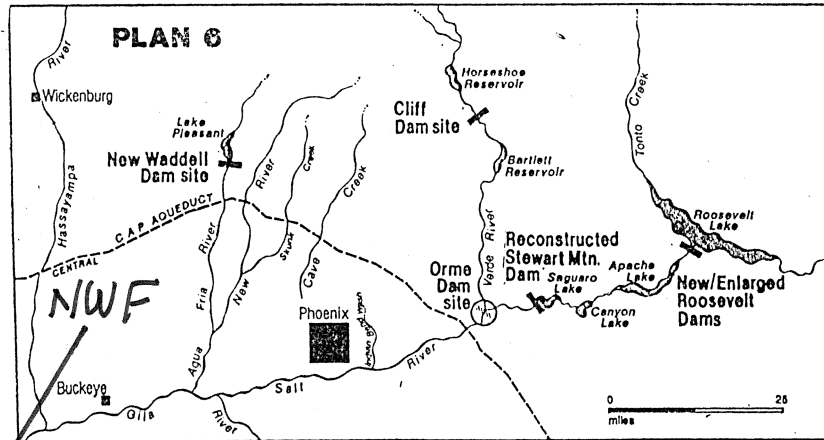
Bill Wheeler, executive director for the Central Arizona Project Association, said that the \$3 billion Rio Salado Project would be threatened without Cliff Dam, which would capture floodwaters upstream of that local development project along the river.

However, John DeWitt, spokesman for the Citizens for Rio Salado Committee, said that Cliff would not affect Rio Salado plans.

George Britton, water- and environmental-resources manager for Phoenix, said the parties to the local funding agreement agreed

to drop the lawsuit and refrain from any further legal challenges or opposition to the CAP. The environmentalists are seeking commitments that if the lawsuit is dropped, the delegation will not later try to resurrect Cliff Dam. The abandonment of Cliff Dam would kill a cost-sharing agreement for Plan 6, approved by Interior Secretary Donald Hodel in 1986. Under the pact, Arizona water users agreed to contribute \$371 million in exchange for federal commitments to accelerate Plan 6, which also includes work on two existing dams and the building of still another besides Cliff — all in the Phoenix area.

George Britton, water- and environmental-resources manager for Phoenix, said the parties to the local funding agreement agreed



The Cliff Dam is a key element of the Central Arizona Project's flood-control plan.

Liz Raisbeck, Ed Osann and others in D.C. did some very heavy lifting. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. If anyone ever says they don't like birdwatchers, hunters, fishermen, or hikers tell them to get lost.

Agreement lays Cliff Dam to rest

By Sean Griffin
The Phoenix Gazette

WASHINGTON — Cliff Dam finally has collapsed under the weight of controversy, sweeping away a decade of political effort and jeopardizing a \$271 million local cost-sharing agreement between the federal government and Valley communities and utilities.

Arizona's congressional delegation and representatives of a coalition of 11 environmental groups opposed to the dam agreed late Thursday to settle their three-year battle over the \$385 million Verde River dam.

The main provisions of the seven-point agreement called on the delegation to

abandon all thoughts of building a storage dam on the Verde River. In exchange, the Coalition to Stop Cliff Dam agreed to drop its lawsuit challenging the legality of Plan 6.

Other provisions require the coalition to support safety repairs at Horseshoe and Bartlett dams on the Verde River. The repairs would have been unnecessary had the \$385 million, mile-wide earth dam been built.

The parties also agreed to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct flood-control studies of the Verde River.

The 1968 measure authorizing the CAP called for the construction of a regulatory storage dam at the confluence of the Salt and

prepared to press the matter for as long as it takes."

At a news conference late Thursday, some members of Arizona's congressional delegation tried to put the best face on the dam's demise, describing it as a victory for Arizona water interests.

"I liken it to the home run that's hit with the bases loaded in the ninth inning of the seventh game of the world series," said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., sticking to the analogy, said, "I think we were only two runs behind and probably this is only really a triple in the minds of some, but it was enough to win the game."

Other members of the delegation, some of whom joined the agreement reluctantly, were less effusive.

"It's probably the best we could hope to come up with at this time," Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., said.

Freshman Rep. Jay Rhodes, R-Ariz., said: "The Central Arizona Project will work without Cliff Dam. There are those who may say it will not work well without Cliff Dam and that may well be true. But it will do what it was designed to do, which is to bring water from the Colorado River to central Arizona.

House Interior Committee chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., said, "We've had to swallow a lot of things we

Verde rivers. When Indians and environmental interests killed Orme Dam a decade ago, Arizona water interests substituted Plan 6 for Orme.

The new framework included New Waddell Dam on the Agua Fria River, Cliff Dam and major modifications to increase the impoundment capacity of Theodore Roosevelt and Stewart Mountain dams on the Salt River.

The Reagan administration endorsed Plan 6 in 1984, days after the discovery of nesting eagles in an area that would be inundated by Cliff Dam's reservoir. The National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation and

didn't like." But he expressed confidence that a major impediment to completing the \$3.6 billion CAP had been removed.

Udall said the delegation remained committed to finding additional water supplies for Phoenix and other Valley communities and for the Fort McDowell and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian reservations.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he had spoken Thursday with former Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and said Goldwater agreed with the delegation's decision.

McCain said the agreement was necessary because "Plan 6, including New Waddell, the cost-sharing requirement, even the reauthorization of the Central Arizona Project itself was at stake here. By coming to this agreement we will preserve Plan 6 and be able to see the Central Arizona Project completed in our lifetimes."

Arizona's delegation met 13 times during the week trying to reach accord among themselves and with coalition representatives.

Their efforts were triggered by a threat from Rep. Larry Coughlin, R-Pa., to fight Plan 6 on the floor of the House when the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is debated next week.

other groups targeted Cliff Dam as a major threat to an endangered species.

Environmentalists claimed a major victory in their three-year effort to erode support for Cliff Dam.

The dam, opposed by the coalition chiefly because it would endanger bald eagle nesting sites and habitat, "was an albatross around the neck of Plan 6," said Liz Raisbeck, a National Audubon Society lobbyist involved in the flurry of negotiations this week.

National Wildlife Federation representative Ed Osann said, "I've always been confident Cliff would not be built. We were

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