

Full Use of All Available Water in 15 Years Seen

Department Engineer Outlines Growing Needs of L.A. at Resources Hearing

The city of Los Angeles will be using to capacity all the available water it receives from the Owens River Aqueduct, the Colorado River and local sources within 15 years, an official of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power declared yesterday.

Samuel B. Nelson, chief engineer of water works and assistant manager, told a hearing conducted jointly by the State Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board that the water demand of the 2,250,000-population area served by the department amounted to 395,000,000 gallons a day during the 1955-56 fiscal year.

Sources Listed

"Of this total consumption, the maximum available supply, or 69%, was obtained from the Los Angeles-Owens River Aqueduct and 24% from the Los Angeles River and local wells," he said. "The remaining use, or 7%, was obtained from the Colorado River, purchased from the Metropolitan Water District."

The hearing, which convened in Founders Hall on the SC campus, was another in a series of meetings designed to gain additional "thinking" on State Water Resources Board Bulletin 3, which was issued in preliminary form last May and will be submitted to the Legislature in January.

Envision Big Spending

Under the master California Water Plan, State water experts envision an expenditure of more than 1 billion for a system of aqueducts and reservoirs in Southern California. The over-all plan, however, is expected to cost between 11 and 13 billion dollars, with the Feather River Project earmarked as the first unit.

Nelson told the hearing he believes the general water plan is "well conceived" but suggested that the final report should not include such



WATER EXPERT — S. B. Nelson, water and power official, predicts full use of water supply in 15 years.

Times photo

Turn to Page 28, Column 1

PWS-0074-0001

WATER

Continued from First Page

matters as controversial legal or legislative items, use of ground water basins and the "integration of units."

'Hinges on Origin'

Joseph Jensen, chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Water District, agreed that proper development of the State's water resources hinged on a solution of the "counties of origin" and "watershed protection" problems.

"Before construction by the State of any specific water development project is commenced the rights to the water to be supplied therefrom . . . should be established," he declared.

In this connection, E. H. Spoor, executive director of the Mountain County Water Resources Association, referred to Southern California as a desert, but indicated that any attempt to take advantage of the State's northern counties would be met with resistance.

Prepared to Fight

"If it becomes necessary, we'll fight until hell freezes over," he said.

The meeting, which was presided over by Max Bookman, Southern California district engineer, State Department of Water Resources, and Arnold Frew, King City, vice-chairman of the State Water Board, heard representatives of the Barstow area, Antelope Valley, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and San Diego.

Former U.S. Rep. Phil D. Swing of San Diego attended the meeting as a member of the board.

PWS-0074-0002