



093532
UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

093532

RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

MAY 2 1974

Mr. Warren Fairchild
Director, Water Resources Council

Dear Mr. Fairchild:

We have completed our review of the coordination between the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture in planning for irrigation projects.

In a draft of a proposed report to the Congress, we suggested that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have their respective agencies jointly establish (1) uniform policies and procedures for determining irrigation benefits in planning for multi-purpose water resource projects, and (2) a coordination process for comprehensive planning of irrigation projects. Also, we suggested that the Water Resource Council encourage and assist the Departments in establishing a coordination process and review the jointly established policies and procedures for making irrigation benefit determinations for conformance with the Council's Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources.

Your comments on the draft of our proposed report expressed general agreement with our suggestions and pointed out that compliance with the Principles and Standards will achieve the suggested coordination. Also, you stated that it was incumbent upon the agencies to provide the Council with their implementing procedures for review for consistency with the established Principles and Standards and that when all agency procedures are available, comparisons for consistency would be made. Further, you stated that both Agriculture and Interior have agreed as to the conceptual basis for determining certain irrigation benefits and that minor procedural differences can be adjusted if they are not in conflict with the Principles and Standards.

We believe that the actions being taken by the Departments and the Council should bring about improvements in the coordination process and in achieving uniformity in computing irrigation benefits. Further, our

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE


093532

713203

planned report on need for improvement in benefit-cost determinations for Federal water resource projects, which was also commented on by you, deals more comprehensively with the subject of benefit determinations. We therefore do not plan any further reporting on our coordination review at this time.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to us during our review.

Sincerely yours,


Harold Pichney
Assistant Director

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE