Nevada Executive Branch Agencies
Colorado River Commission of Nevada

Administrative History
The State of Nevada expressed official interest in the development of the Colorado River as early as 18

In 1883 a similar resolution called for federal funding for improving navigability between Fort Yuma, Cali

In the early twentieth century, interest in river development increased considerably. The emphasis shifte

To look after Nevada's interests in and rights to the waters of the Colorado, Governor Emmet D. Boyle, i

At its first meeting, on November 9, 1920, the Commission drew up a brief report on the benefits for Nev

Early in the legislative session of 1921 a Senate concurrent resolution noted that "the proposed irrigation

The resolution became moot later in the session when the Legislature adopted a measure that was almo

Other acts passed in 1921 declared the Nevada portions of the Colorado and Virgin Rivers to be navigal

Meanwhile, officials of the states in the basin were discussing among themselves the possibilities of inte

In 1922 Congress began considering the first Swing-Johnson (or Boulder Canyon) bill. The bill proposec

As authorized by the federal law of 1921, representatives of the seven states, met in Santa Fe, New Me

The compact divided the Colorado Basin into upper and lower regions. The Lower Basin embraced the r

A joint resolution of the Legislature of Nevada, January 27, 1923, gave the state's approval to the compa

The Colorado River Compact stated that it would become effective once the legislatures of all seven sta

Congress passed the fourth Swing-Johnson bill (the Boulder Canyon Project Act) in 1928, and Presiden

The act provided for an advisory board for the Secretary of the Interior, to be composed of one delegate

In 1935, as Boulder Dam neared completion, the Legislature revamped the Commission. The new act ch

The statute also gave the Commission responsibility for administering the distribution of Nevada's share

The Committee of Sixteen, consisting of two representatives from each of the seven states of the Colora

A Nevada Legislative measure of 1947 authorized the Commission to conduct a survey in order "to colle

In the first years of its existence the Commission's principal place of business was Carson City. Increasi

The Commission became "in effect a Nevada Power Authority, without such official title" when the Legis

The other two lower-basin signatory states of the Colorado River Compact became embroiled in a suit, Arizona v. California, regard

Perhaps in anticipation of the increased litigation, the Legislature, in 1951, designated the Attorney Gen

Legislation of 1957 and 1959 empowered the Commission, in the name of the state, to acquire the feder

A 1963 statute created the Colorado River Commission Research and Development Fund (redesignated

In 1968 staff of the Commission began participating in the search for a solution for the Las Vegas Wash-

Legislation of the 1960s through the 1990s brought several structural and personnel changes for the Co

In 1973 the Commission became a part of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with

The Commission's membership was increased to seven in 1993, four of whom were gubernatorial appoi

The Commission became involved with wider environmental concerns in 1996, when it joined with the B

In addition to Hoover Dam, the Colorado River Commission receives hydropower and energy from Park

Currently, the Commission states that its mission is "to acquire, manage and protect all of Nevada's wat

Photo credits:

Top: Nevada members of the Colorado River Commission, 1938. Seated from L-R: Nevada Senator Ke

Bottom: The members of the Colorado River Commission, 1938, in the office of Nevada Governor Richa

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Records

General Records Inclusive dates: 1920-1992. 5 cu. ft.

These files appertain to many of the activities of the Colorado River Commission of Nevada (CRCN), fro

The correspondence is with, among others: power companies, water districts, federal agencies, the Colo

Major topics dealt with in the records are hydroelectric power, irrigation, hydro-chemical production, floo

Nevada state agencies represented in the files are: the State Planning Board, State Engineer, Departme

Federal agencies with which the CRCN has been involved include the Bureau of Reclamation, Federal P

Among the major private and public entities receiving water or power from the CRCN are the Southern C

Non-governmental or quasi-governmental organizations with which the CRCN has been associated inclu

The legal materials largely pertain to Nevada's activities as a rôle in the U.S. Supreme Court case Arizona v. California (1963)

The microfilmed materials are of operation and maintenance files, contract files, old contract correspond

Because the governor was for many years a member of the Commission, and the Office of the Attorney

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Related Records in the National Archives

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Record Group 48. Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. Records of the Office of the So

Related Records in the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library

Delph E. Carpenter Papers, 1922-1945 (3 linear feet). Carpenter, a Colorado lawyer, was an important r

Herbert Hoover Papers. Commerce Period, 1921-1928. Colorado River Commission, 1921-1954 (33 line