

OCT 3 1966

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER TERM, 1966

NO. 29, Original

STATE OF TEXAS AND
STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiffs

v.

THE STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendant

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT
AND COMPLAINT**

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Come The State of Texas and The State of New Mexico, by their respective Attorneys General, and move this Court for leave to file the Complaint submitted herewith. The States of Texas and New Mexico seek to bring this suit under the authority of Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION

The Rio Grande is an interstate stream flowing in or through Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The rights of these states in the River are defined by the Rio Grande Compact of 1938, an agreement binding on all three states and duly approved by Congress. The lands in Texas and in New Mexico in the valley of the Rio Grande above Fort Quitman, Texas, are semi-arid and lie within that portion of the semi-arid region of the United States in which irrigation is indispensable for the successful cultivation of land and the production of crops thereon. The waters of the Rio Grande are used for the irrigation of lands and for other purposes in each of the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, and are fully appropriated above Fort Quitman, Texas.

For several years Colorado, to the irreparable injury of plaintiffs and their citizens, has violated the Rio Grande Compact by its failure to deliver water at the Colorado-New Mexico state line in accordance with the terms of that agreement. Repeated demands by the plaintiff states have failed to persuade Colorado to reduce its debt to them or meet its annual commitments under the Compact. Therefore, the States of New Mexico and Texas bring this action to require the State of Colorado to deliver water in the Rio Grande at the Colorado-New Mexico state line as provided by the Compact, and otherwise to comply with the terms of said Compact. Unless the relief prayed for is granted, the plaintiff states will be deprived in the future, as in the past several years, of the benefits of the Compact and the waters to which their citizens are entitled.

The original jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under Article III, Section 2, Clause 2, of the United States Constitution. Under the decisions of this Court in *Nebraska v. Wyoming*, 325 U.S. 589, 616 and *Hinderlider v. LaPlata Co.*, 304 U.S. 92, the present case is a proper one for the exercise of this jurisdiction.

It is believed that the rights of the States of New Mexico and Texas to the waters of the Rio Grande can be protected only by a decree of this Court granting the relief prayed for in the Complaint.

It is respectfully submitted that the Motion for Leave to File the Complaint should be granted.

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Defendant

COMPLAINT

The States of Texas and New Mexico by their Attorneys General bring this suit against the defendant, State of Colorado and for their cause of action state:

I.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

II.

The Rio Grande is a river system rising in part in the State of Colorado and in part in the State of New Mexico, and flows through those states into the State of Texas and along the common boundary of Texas and the Republic of Mexico.

III.

In order to equitably apportion the waters of the Rio Grande above Fort Quitman, Texas, the States of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas signed the Rio Grande Compact on the 18th of March, 1938. The Compact was ratified thereafter by the legislatures of the three states and was consented to and approved by the United States of America by Act of Congress. A copy of the Rio Grande Compact is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference is made a part hereof.

IV.

Article III of the Rio Grande Compact imposes upon the State of Colorado an obligation to deliver water in the Rio Grande at the Colorado-New Mexico state line in each calendar year in accordance with the schedules of delivery contained therein.

In every calendar year in the Period 1952 through 1965, except 1958, the State of Colorado has failed, neglected and refused to deliver water at the Colorado-New Mexico state line in accordance with the schedules in Article III, as shown in the following table:

Deliveries
1952-1965

Year	Delivery Obligation	Actual Delivery	Annual Departure From Delivery Obligation
1952	622.4	468.4	Dr. 154.0
1953	140.2	122.1	Dr. 18.1
1954	120.1	59.6	Dr. 60.5
1955	118.6	63.1	Dr. 55.5
1956	133.5	70.6	Dr. 62.9
1957	601.1	444.9	Dr. 156.2
1958	349.4	362.5	Cr. 13.1

1959	109.2	88.4	Dr. 20.8
1960	260.1	201.0	Dr. 59.1
1961	223.9	169.2	Dr. 54.7
1962	403.1	316.2	Dr. 86.9
1963	94.5	72.6	Dr. 21.9
1964	133.9	57.6	Dr. 76.3
1965	630.2	500.6	Dr. 129.6

Dr. — Debit

Cr. — Credit

All quantities in thousands of acre-feet

V.

Article VI of the Rio Grande Compact provides that no accrued debit of the State of Colorado shall exceed 100,000 acre-feet of water, except by reason of hold-over storage of water in reservoirs constructed after 1937 in the drainage basin of the Rio Grande above the Lobatos gaging station. The State of Colorado has continuously violated Article VI in that throughout the period 1953 through 1965 the accrued debit of the State of Colorado has exceeded said limitation, and such accrued debit at December 31, 1965 was 939,900 acre-feet of water, as shown in the following tabulation:

ACCRUED DEBIT OF COLORADO 1952-1965

Year	Debit Water In Storage At End Of Year	Allowable Debit Per Article VI	Adjustments Required By Compact	Actual Accrued Debit At End Of Year
1952	0.3	100.3	Dr. 0.2	153.3
1953	0.3	100.3	0	171.4
1954	0.3	100.3	0	231.9
1955	0.7	100.7	Cr. 0.2	287.2
1956	3.9	103.9	Cr. 0.2	349.9
1957	32.4	132.4	Dr. 0.1	506.2
1958	35.3	135.3	Cr. 0.7	492.4
1959	6.0	106.0	Cr. 0.2	513.0
1960	6.1	106.1	Cr. 0.4	571.7

1961	5.4	105.4	Cr. 0.3	626.1
1962	4.6	104.6	Cr. 0.6	712.4
1963	3.9	103.9	Dr. 0.1	734.4
1964	3.7	103.7	Dr. 0.1	810.8
1965	17.7	117.7	Cr. 0.5	939.9

Dr. — Debit

Cr. — Credit

All quantities in thousands of acre-feet

VI.

The State of Colorado has established by its past conduct that it will not observe the terms and conditions of the Rio Grande Compact unless forced by this Court to comply. Grave and irreparable injury to the States of Texas and New Mexico and to the citizens of these states who were entitled to receive and use water under the terms and conditions of the Rio Grande Compact has been caused by the acts and conduct of the State of Colorado, its officers, citizens and political subdivisions in failing, neglecting and refusing to deliver the agreed quantities of water in the Rio Grande at the Colorado-New Mexico state line. Grave and irreparable injury will be suffered in the future by the States of Texas and New Mexico and their citizens unless equitable relief is afforded by this Court to prevent the State of Colorado, its officers, citizens and political subdivisions from withholding and using water which they have heretofore contracted and agreed to deliver under the terms and conditions of the Compact.

VII.

The States of Texas and New Mexico respectfully present that the only remedy available to them to enforce the terms and conditions of the Rio Grande Com-

pact against the State of Colorado is through the equitable powers of this Court.

WHEREFORE, the States of Texas and New Mexico respectfully pray that the Court issue its decree commanding the State of Colorado, its officers, agents, citizens and political subdivisions to deliver water in the Rio Grande at the Colorado-New Mexico state line in accordance with the requirements of the Rio Grande Compact, and further, requiring the State of Colorado to eliminate her accrued debit under the Compact and providing for such other and further relief as the Court may deem appropriate; and that the Court provide for the enforcement of its decree by any means deemed appropriate including, but not limited to, the appointment of a water master empowered to control the diversion, storage and use of Rio Grande Basin water within the State of Colorado.

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I, HAWTHORNE PHILLIPS, one of the Attorneys for the Complainants (States of Texas and New Mexico) herein, and a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, hereby certify that on the 30th day of September, 1966, I served copies of the foregoing Motion for Leave to File and Complaint on the Governor of the State of Colorado and the Attorney General of Colorado, by mailing a copy in a duly addressed envelope with first-class postage pre-paid, to each of the following in this cause:

Honorable John A. Love
Governor of Colorado
State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Governor of the State

Honorable Duke W. Dunbar
Attorney General of Colorado
104 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Attorney General of
the State

Hawthorne Phillips
HAWTHORNE PHILLIPS

EXHIBIT "A"

RIO GRANDE COMPACT

The State of Colorado, the State of New Mexico, and the State of Texas, desiring to remove all causes of present and future controversy among these States and between citizens of one of these States and citizens of another State with respect to the use of the waters of the Rio Grande above Fort Quitman, Texas, and being moved by considerations of interstate comity, and for the purpose of effecting an equitable apportionment of such waters, have resolved to conclude a Compact for the attainment of these purposes, and to that end, through their respective Governors, have named as their respective Commissioners:

For the State of Colorado—M. C. Hinderlider

For the State of New Mexico—Thomas M. McClure

For the State of Texas—Frank B. Clayton

who, after negotiations participated in by S. O. Harper, appointed by the President as the representative of the United States of America, have agreed upon the following articles, to-wit:

ARTICLE I.

(a) The State of Colorado, the State of New Mexico, the State of Texas, and the United States of America, are hereinafter designated "Colorado," "New Mexico," "Texas" and the "United States," respectively.

(b) "The Commission" means the agency created by this Compact for the administration thereof.

(c) The term "Rio Grande Basin" means all of the territory drained by the Rio Grande and its tributaries in Colorado, in New Mexico, and in Texas above Fort Quitman, including the Closed Basin in Colorado.

(d) The "Closed Basin" means that part of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado where the streams drain into the San Luis Lakes and adjacent territory, and do not normally contribute to the flow of the Rio Grande.

(e) The term "tributary" means any stream which naturally contributes to the flow of the Rio Grande.

(f) "Transmountain Diversion" is water imported into the drainage basin of the Rio Grande from any stream system outside of the Rio Grande Basin, exclusive of the Closed Basin.

(g) "Annual Debits" are the amounts by which actual deliveries in any calendar year fall below scheduled deliveries.

(h) "Annual Credits" are the amounts by which actual deliveries in any calendar year exceed scheduled deliveries.

(i) "Accrued Debits" are the amounts by which the sum of all annual debits exceeds the sum of all annual credits over any common period of time.

(j) "Accrued Credits" are the amounts by which the sum of all annual credits exceeds the sum of all annual debits over any common period of time.

(k) "Project Storage" is the combined capacity of Elephant Butte Reservoir and all other reservoirs actually available for the storage of usable water below Elephant Butte and above the first diversion to lands of the Rio Grande Project, but not more than a total of 2,638,860 acre feet.

(l) "Usable Water" is all water, exclusive of credit water, which is in project storage and which is available for release in accordance with irrigation demands, including deliveries to Mexico.

(m) "Credit Water" is that amount of water in project storage which is equal to the accrued credit of Colorado, or New Mexico, or both.

(n) "Unfilled Capacity" is the difference between the total physical capacity of project storage and the amount of usable water then in storage.

(o) "Actual Release" is the amount of usable water released in any calendar year from the lowest reservoir comprising project storage.

(p) "Actual Spill" is all water which is actually spilled from Elephant Butte Reservoir, or is released therefrom for flood control, in excess of the current demand on project storage and which does not become usable water by storage in another reservoir; provided, that actual spill of usable water cannot occur until all credit water shall have been spilled.

(q) "Hypothetical Spill" is the time in any year at which usable water would have spilled from project storage if 790,000 acre feet had been released therefrom at rates proportional to the actual release in every year from the starting date to the end of the year in which hypothetical spill occurs; in computing hypothetical spill the initial condition shall be the amount of usable water in project storage at the beginning of the calendar year following the effective date of this Compact, and thereafter the initial condition shall be the amount of usable water in project storage at the beginning of the calendar year following each actual spill.

ARTICLE II.

The Commission shall cause to be maintained and operated a stream gaging station equipped with an

automatic water stage recorder at each of the following points, to-wit:

- (a) On the Rio Grande near Del Norte above the principal points of diversion to the San Luis Valley;
- (b) On the Conejos River near Mogote;
- (c) On the Los Pinos River near Ortiz;
- (d) On the San Antonio River at Ortiz;
- (e) On the Conejos River at its mouths near Los Sauces;
- (f) On the Rio Grande near Lobatos;
- (g) On the Rio Chama below El Vado Reservoir;
- (h) On the Rio Grande at Otowi Bridge near San Ildefonso;
- (i) On the Rio Grande near San Acacia;
- (j) On the Rio Grande at San Marcial;
- (k) On the Rio Grande below Elephant Butte Reservoir;
- (l) On the Rio Grande below Caballo Reservoir.

Similar gaging stations shall be maintained and operated below any other reservoir constructed after 1929, and at such other points as may be necessary for the securing of records required for the carrying out of the Compact; and automatic water stage recorders shall be maintained and operated on each of the reservoirs mentioned, and on all others constructed after 1929.

Such gaging stations shall be equipped, maintained with an appropriate Federal or State Agency, and the equipment, method and frequency of measurement at such stations shall be such as to produce reliable records at all times.

ARTICLE III.

The obligation of Colorado to deliver water in the Rio Grande at the Colorado-New Mexico State Line, measured at or near Lobatos, in each calendar year, shall be ten thousand acre feet less than the sum of those quantities set forth in the two following tabulations of relationship, which correspond to the quantities at the upper index stations:

DISCHARGE OF CONEJOS RIVER

Quantities in thousands of acre feet

Conejos Index Supply (1) Conejos River at Mouths (2)

100	0
150	20
200	45
250	75
300	109
350	147
400	188
450	232
500	278
550	326
600	376
650	426
700	476

Intermediate quantities shall be computed by proportional parts.

(1) Conejos Index Supply is the natural flow of Conejos River at the U. S. G. S. gaging station near Mogote during the calendar year, plus the natural flow of Los Pinos River at the U. S. G. S. gaging station near Ortiz and the natural flow of San Antonio River

at the U. S. G. S. gaging station at Ortiz, both during the months of April to October, inclusive.

(2) Conejos River at Mouths is the combined discharge of branches of this river at the U. S. G. S. gaging stations near Los Sauces during the calendar year.

DISCHARGE OF RIO GRANDE EXCLUSIVE OF CONEJOS RIVER

Quantities in thousands of acre feet

	Rio Grande at Lobatos
Rio Grande at Del Norte (3)	less Conejos at Mouths (4)
200	60
250	65
300	75
350	86
400	98
450	112
500	127
550	144
600	162
650	182
700	204
750	229
800	257
850	292
900	335
950	380
1000	430
1100	540
1200	640
1300	740
1400	840

Intermediate quantities shall be computed by proportional parts.

(3) Rio Grande at Del Norte is the recorded flow of the Rio Grande at the U. S. G. S. gaging station near Del Norte during the calendar year (measured above all principal points of diversion to San Luis Valley) corrected for the operation of reservoirs constructed after 1937.

(4) Rio Grande at Lobatos less Conejos at Mouths is the total flow of the Rio Grande at the U. S. G. S. gaging station near Lobatos, less the discharge of Conejos River at its Mouths, during the calendar year.

The application of these schedules shall be subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth and appropriate adjustments shall be made for (a) any change in location of gaging stations; (b) any new or increased depletion of the runoff above inflow index gaging stations; and (c) any transmountain diversions into the drainage basin of the Rio Grande above Lobatos.

In event any works are constructed after 1937 for the purpose of delivering water into the Rio Grande from the Closed Basin, Colorado shall not be credited with the amount of such water delivered, unless the proportion of sodium ions shall be less than forty-five percent of the total positive ions in that water when the total dissolved solids in such water exceeds three hundred fifty parts per million.

ARTICLE IV.

The obligation of New Mexico to deliver water in the Rio Grande at San Marcial, during each calendar year, exclusive of the months of July, August and September, shall be that quantity set forth in the following tabulation of relationship, which corresponds to the quantity at the upper index station:

DISCHARGE OF RIO GRANDE AT OTOWI BRIDGE AND AT SAN MARCIAL EXCLU- SIVE OF JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Quantities in thousands of acre feet

Otowi Index Supply (5) San Marcial Index Supply (6)

100	0
200	65
300	141
400	219
500	300
600	383
700	469
800	557
900	648
1000	742
1100	839
1200	939
1300	1042
1400	1148
1500	1257
1600	1370
1700	1489
1800	1608
1900	1730
2000	1856
2100	1985
2200	2117
2300	2253

Intermediate quantities shall be computed
by proportional parts.

(5) The Otowi Index Supply is the recorded flow of
the Rio Grande at the U. S. G. S. gaging station at
Otowi Bridge near San Ildefonso (formerly station

near Buckman) during the calendar year, exclusive of the flow during the months of July, August and September, corrected for the operation of reservoirs constructed after 1929 in the drainage basin of the Rio Grande between Lobatos and Otowi Bridge.

(6) San Marcial Index Supply is the recorded flow of the Rio Grande at the gaging station at San Marcial during the calendar year exclusive of the flow during the months of July, August and September.

The application of this schedule shall be subject to the provisions hereinafter set forth and appropriate adjustments shall be made for (a) any change in location of gaging stations; (b) depletion after 1929 in New Mexico at any time of the year of the natural runoff at Otowi Bridge; (c) depletion of the runoff during July, August and September of tributaries between Otowi Bridge and San Marcial, by works constructed after 1937; and (d) any transmountain diversions into the Rio Grande between Lobatos and San Marcial.

Concurrent records shall be kept of the flow of the Rio Grande at San Marcial, near San Acacia, and of the release from Elephant Butte Reservoir, to the end that the records at these three stations may be correlated.

ARTICLE V.

If at any time it should be the unanimous finding and determination of the Commission that because of changed physical conditions, or for any other reason, reliable records are not obtainable or cannot be obtained, at any of the stream gaging stations herein referred to, such stations may, with the unanimous approval of the Commission, be abandoned, and with such

approval another station, or other stations, shall be established and new measurements shall be substituted which, in the unanimous opinion of the Commission, will result in substantially the same results, so far as the rights and obligations to deliver water are concerned, as would have existed if such substitution of stations and measurements had not been so made.

ARTICLE VI.

Commencing with the year following the effective date of this Compact, all credits and debits of Colorado and New Mexico shall be computed for each calendar year; provided, that in a year of actual spill no annual credits nor annual debits shall be computed for that year.

In the case of Colorado, no annual debit nor accrued debit shall exceed 100,000 acre feet, except as either or both may be caused by holdover storage of water in reservoirs constructed after 1937 in the drainage basin of the Rio Grande above Lobatos. Within the physical limitations of storage capacity in such reservoirs, Colorado shall retain water in storage at all times to the extent of its accrued debit.

In the case of New Mexico, the accrued debit shall not exceed 200,000 acre feet at any time, except as such debit may be caused by holdover storage of water in reservoirs constructed after 1929 in the drainage basin of the Rio Grande between Lobatos and San Marcial. Within the physical limitations of storage capacity in such reservoirs, New Mexico shall retain water in storage at all times to the extent of its accrued debit. In computing the magnitude of accrued credits or debits, New Mexico shall not be charged with any greater debit in any one year than the sum of 150,000 acre feet

and all gains in the quantity of water in storage in such year.

The Commission by unanimous action may authorize the release from storage of any amount of water which is then being held in storage by reason of accrued debits of Colorado or New Mexico; provided, that such water shall be replaced at the first opportunity thereafter.

In computing the amount of accrued credits and accrued debits of Colorado or New Mexico, any annual credits in excess of 150,000 acre feet shall be taken as equal to that amount.

In any year in which actual spill occurs, the accrued credits of Colorado, or New Mexico, or both, at the beginning of the year shall be reduced in proportion to their respective credits by the amount of such actual spill; provided, that the amount of actual spill shall be deemed to be increased by the aggregate gain in the amount of water in storage, prior to the time of spill, in reservoirs above San Marcial constructed after 1929; provided, further, that if the Commissioners for the States having accrued credits authorize the release of part, or all, of such credits in advance of spill, the amount so released shall be deemed to constitute actual spill.

In any year in which there is actual spill of usable water, or at the time of hypothetical spill thereof, all accrued debits of Colorado, or New Mexico, or both, at the beginning of the year shall be cancelled.

In any year in which the aggregate of accrued debits of Colorado and New Mexico exceeds the minimum unfilled capacity of project storage, such debits shall

be reduced proportionally to an aggregate amount equal to such minimum unfilled capacity.

To the extent that accrued credits are impounded in reservoirs between San Marcial and Couchesne, and to the extent that accrued debits are impounded in reservoirs above San Marcial, such credits and debits shall be reduced annually to compensate for evaporation losses in the proportion that such credits or debits bore to the total amount of water in such reservoirs during the year.

ARTICLE VII.

Neither Colorado nor New Mexico shall increase the amount of water in storage in reservoirs constructed after 1929 whenever there is less than 400,000 acre feet of usable water in project storage; provided, that if the actual releases of usable water from the beginning of the calendar year following the effective date of this Compact, or from the beginning of the calendar year following actual spill, have aggregated more than an average of 790,000 acre feet per annum, the time at which such minimum stage is reached shall be adjusted to compensate for the difference between the total actual release and releases at such average rate; provided, further, that Colorado or New Mexico, or both, may relinquish accrued credits at any time, and Texas may accept such relinquished water, and in such event the state, or states, so relinquishing shall be entitled to store water in the amount of the water so relinquished.

ARTICLE VIII.

During the month of January of any year the Commissioner for Texas may demand of Colorado and New Mexico, and the Commissioner for New Mexico may

demand of Colorado, the release of water from storage reservoirs constructed after 1929 to the amount of the accrued debits of Colorado and New Mexico, respectively, and such releases shall be made by each at the greatest rate practicable under the conditions then prevailing, and in proportion to the total debit of each, and in amounts, limited by their accrued debits, sufficient to bring the quantity of usable water in project storage to 600,000 acre feet by March first and to maintain this quantity in storage until April thirtieth, to the end that a normal release of 790,000 acre feet may be made from project storage in that year.

ARTICLE IX.

Colorado agrees with New Mexico that in event the United States or the State of New Mexico decides to construct the necessary works for diverting the waters of the San Juan River, or any of its tributaries, into the Rio Grande, Colorado hereby consents to the construction of said works and the diversion of waters from the San Juan River, or the tributaries thereof, into the Rio Grande in New Mexico, provided the present and prospective uses of water in Colorado by other diversions from the San Juan River, or its tributaries, are protected.

ARTICLE X.

In the event water from another drainage basin shall be imported into the Rio Grande Basin by the United States or Colorado or New Mexico, or any of them jointly, the State having the right to the use of such water shall be given proper credit therefor in the application of the schedules.

ARTICLE XI.

New Mexico and Texas agree that upon the effective date of this Compact all controversies between said States relative to the quantity or quality of the water of the Rio Grande are composed and settled; however, nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent recourse by a signatory state to the Supreme Court of the United States for redress should the character or quality of the water, at the point of delivery, be changed hereafter by one signatory state to the injury of another. Nothing herein shall be construed as an admission by any signatory state that the use of water for irrigation causes increase of salinity for which the user is responsible in law.

ARTICLE XII.

To administer the provisions of this Compact there shall be constituted a Commission composed of one representative from each state, to be known as the Rio Grande Compact Commission. The State Engineer of Colorado shall be ex-officio the Rio Grande Compact Commissioner for Colorado. The State Engineer of New Mexico shall be ex-officio the Rio Grande Compact Commissioner for New Mexico. The Rio Grande Compact Commissioner for Texas shall be appointed by the Governor of Texas. The President of the United States shall be requested to designate a representative of United States to sit with such Commission, and such representative of the United States, if so designated by the President, shall act as Chairman of the Commission without vote.

The salaries and personal expenses of the Rio Grande Compact Commissioners for the three States shall be paid by their respective States, and all other expenses

incident to the administration of this Compact, not borne by the United States, shall be borne equally by the three States.

In addition to the powers and duties hereinbefore specifically conferred upon such Commission, and the members thereof, the jurisdiction of such Commission shall extend only to the collection, correlation and presentation of factual data and the maintenance of records having a bearing upon the administration of this Compact, and, by unanimous action, to the making of recommendations to the respective States upon matters connected with the administration of this Compact. In connection therewith, the Commission may employ such engineering and clerical aid as may be reasonably necessary within the limit of funds provided for that purpose by the respective States. Annual reports compiled for each calendar year shall be made by the Commission and transmitted to the Governors of the signatory States on or before March first following the year covered by the report. The Commission may, by unanimous action, adopt rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this Compact to govern their proceedings.

The findings of the Commission shall not be conclusive in any court or tribunal which may be called upon to interpret or enforce this Compact.

ARTICLE XIII.

At the expiration of every five year period after the effective date of this Compact, the Commission may, by unanimous consent, review any provisions hereof which are not substantive in character and which do not affect the basic principles upon which the Com-

pact is founded, and shall meet for the consideration of such questions on the request of any member of the Commission; provided, however, that the provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect until changed and amended within the intent of the Compact by unanimous action of the Commissioners and until any changes in this Compact are ratified by the legislatures of the respective states and consented to by the Congress, in the same manner as this Compact is required to be ratified to become effective.

ARTICLE XIV.

The schedules herein contained and the quantities of water herein allocated shall never be increased nor diminished by reason of any increases or diminution in the delivery or loss of water to Mexico.

ARTICLE XV.

The physical and other conditions characteristic of the Rio Grande and peculiar to the territory drained and served thereby, and to the development thereof, have actuated this Compact and none of the signatory states admits that any provisions herein contained establishes any general principle or precedent applicable to other interstate streams.

ARTICLE XVI.

Nothing in this Compact shall be construed as affecting the obligations of the United States of America to Mexico under existing treaties or to the Indian tribes, or as impairing the rights of the Indian Tribes.

ARTICLE XVII.

This Compact shall become effective when ratified by

the legislatures of each of the signatory states and consented to by the Congress of the United States. Notice of ratification shall be given by the Governor of each state to the Governors of the other states and to the President of the United States, and the President of the United States is requested to give notice to the Governors of each of the signatory states of the consent of the Congress of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Commissioners have signed this Compact in quadruplicate original, one of which shall be deposited in the archives of the Department of State of the United States of America and shall be deemed the authoritative original, and of which a duly certified copy shall be forwarded to the Governor of each of the signatory States.

Done at the City of Santa Fe, in the State of New Mexico, on the 18th day of March, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-eight.

M. C. Hinderlider
Thomas M. McClure
Frank B. Clayton

APPROVED:
S. O. Harper

