

Statement of Reed R. Murray
Program Director, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office
Department of the Interior
Before the House Appropriations Subcommittee
On Energy and Water Development
On the FY 2012 President's Budget Request

March 10, 2011

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pastor and members of the subcommittee, my name is Reed Murray. I serve as the Program Director of the Central Utah Project Completion Act Office under the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the Department of the Interior. I am pleased to provide the following information about the President's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request for implementation of the Central Utah Project Completion Act.

The Central Utah Project Completion Act, Titles II - VI of P.L. 102-575, provides for completion of the Central Utah Project (CUP) by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. The Act also authorizes funding for fish, wildlife, and recreation mitigation and conservation; establishes an account in the Treasury for deposit of these funds and other contributions; establishes the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission to coordinate mitigation and conservation activities; and provides for the Ute Indian Rights Settlement.

The Act provides that the Secretary may not delegate his responsibilities under the Act to the Bureau of Reclamation. As a result, the Department has established an office in Provo, Utah, with a Program Director to provide oversight, review and liaison with the District, the Mitigation Commission, and the Ute Indian Tribe, and to assist in administering the responsibilities of the Secretary under the Act.

The 2012 request for the Central Utah Project Completion Account provides \$33.0 million for use by the District, the Mitigation Commission, and the Department to implement Titles II - IV of the Act, which is \$9.0 million less than the 2010 Enacted. The decrease in funding for the 2012 budget is due in part to accelerated funding of \$50.0 million provided in 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and, in part, to the Administration's effort to reduce the deficit.

The request for the District includes \$28.5 million to fund the designs, specifications, land acquisition, and construction of the Utah Lake System (\$18.5 million) and to implement water conservation measures (\$10 million).

The request includes \$2.0 million for the Mitigation Commission to implement the fish, wildlife, and recreation mitigation and conservation projects authorized in Title III (\$1.8 million) and to complete mitigation measures committed to in pre-1992 Bureau of Reclamation planning documents (\$200,000), all of which are necessary to allow CUP operations.

Finally, the request includes \$2.5 million for the Program Office for endangered species recovery and operation and maintenance costs associated with instream flows and fish hatchery facilities (\$954,000) and for program administration (\$1.6 million).

This concludes my statement. I appreciate the Subcommittee's past support and this opportunity to testify before the Subcommittee and would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.