The Ventura River Project in California is designed to furnish a supplemental supply of irrigation water to approximately 12,200 irrigable acres of land. The project, authorized in 1956, furnishes domestic and industrial water to approximately 8,000 acres in urban and suburban areas within the Ojai and Santa Barbara Municipal Water Districts.

**WATER SUPPLY**

The Ventura River and its tributaries are the main source of water for the Ventura River Project. It has a drainage area of 230 square miles, 2% of which are within Ventura County and the remainder in Santa Barbara County. The highest elevation within the drainage area is 6,000 feet above sea level, and some parts are below 1,000 feet. Small summer flows are maintained by springs along the large tributaries. No significant accumulation of snow occurs in the watershed, and consequently the winter runoff occurs almost immediately after precipitation. Seasonal runoff has a range of 3% to a maximum of less than 10% of the mean to a maximum in excess of 400 per cent. The maximum runoff of record in Casitas and Robles Dam occurred in 1941 when a total of 3,000,000 cubic yards of water was recorded. A minimum total runoff of 1,900 acre-feet was recorded in 1951.

**FEATURES OF THE PROJECT PLAN**

**CASTAS DAM** on Coyote Creek is located about two miles above the junction of Coyote Creek and the Ventura River. The reservoir, which is comprised of an earthen embankment and concrete spillway, has a storage capacity of 581,000 acre-feet. The reservoir is filled to a height of 353 feet above the dam and supplies water for irrigation and municipal purposes. The dam is a core-filled structure, consisting of a total of 3,000,000 cubic yards of material, with a height of 334 feet above streambed and a crest length of 2,000 feet.

**ROBLES DIVERSION DAM** on the Ventura River is located about 1.5 miles downstream from the confluence of Matilija Creek and North Fork Matilija Creek. The dam has a height of 24 feet above foundation with a crest of 50 feet. The reservoir is constructed with a timber cutoff wall and a rolled earth core. Its function is to divert water into the highway of the Robles-Casitas Conduit.

**CASTAS-CASITAS CANAL** with a total length of approximately 3.5 miles and a capacity of 500 cubic feet per second conveys water from Robles Diversion Dam to Lake Casitas. It includes 4.26 miles of concrete conduit, 3.1 miles of reinforced concrete pipe, and 0.21 miles of rectangular drop culverts.

**MAIN CONDUIT** is a pressure-pipe system with a wall thickness of 12 inches of 10-foot reinforced concrete pipe and 2.2 miles of rectangular drop culverts. The main conduit begins at Castas Dam with a pressure of 121 psi. After crossing the Ventura River it branches to serve the lower area, including the Ojai and the Ventura River, and travels westward through concrete-lined channels to the Ventura River at the mouth of the river near east of Lake Casitas. The main conduit for the most part is a relatively deep embankment reinforced with concrete and steel. The main conduit is operated for the dual purpose of preventing algal growth in the pipeline because its capacity is approximately 15,000 acre-feet of water for agricultural, municipal and industrial uses.

**CHARACTER OF SOIL**

Most of the soils of the project area are alluvial deposits on the flood plains and fans of the river and the adjacent low-lying alluvium. They are composed of Cretaceous and tertiary sediments. The general types of soil include till, sands, gravels, and clays. The soils are generally well drained and range in depth from 1 to 3 feet. The principal products of the project area are onions, lemons, avocados, walnuts, deciduous fruits, pears, grapes, and melons.

**PRINCIPAL MARKETS**

The market area for the project is the Los Angeles Basin, where the rapidly expanding population of Los Angeles County and the southern part of Ventura County are ready outlets for all farm products. Railroads, highways, and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach serve the state as well as outside and foreign markets.

Address all inquiries regarding additional information concerned this project to:

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGION 2**

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**Sacramento, California 95825**

**GPO 70-00527**