

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON

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May 14, 1925.

A-7571 (Reconsideration)

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have your letter of May 2, 1925, making report as requested by decisions of this office dated March 3, 1925, and April 6, 1925, that the transfer and allocation of funds from the appropriations for the Federal Power Commission to the appropriations for the Geological Survey for the maintenance of gauging stations was not for the purpose of supplementing appropriations for the Geological Survey for services required to be performed for the Federal Power Commission free of charge. Your report is as follows:

The annual allotments for work in Arizona from the appropriation U.S. Geological Survey (Gaging Streams) for the past five years have been as follows:

1920	\$5,000
1921	3,000
1922	3,500
1923	3,500
1924	3,300

Under these allotments and similar necessarily small

allotments in other States the regular work of the Geological Survey has been carried on. But the great interest displayed by several organizations in the development of the Colorado River resulted in three special gaging stations being established by several organizations - Federal, State and Municipal - under the general supervision of the Geological Survey, stations which would not have been established or maintained except for the special interest of the cooperating parties, and which have been established and maintained under the supervision of the Geological Survey solely for economy and coordination of effort. The organizations involved are U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and Imperial Irrigation District, Federal Power Commission, U. S. Weather Bureau, State of Arizona, State of California, City of Los Angeles, Palo Verde Irrigation District and the Southern California Edison Company (Federal Power applicant for permit). The cost of installation of these three stations amounted to over \$30,000 and the annual cost of operation and maintenance is about \$20,000.

"The Federal Power Commission has need for data in connection with applications for power development privileges filed with that Commission - records, papers, and information which would not be in possession of any Governmental agency, - and the procurement of which would necessitate the expenditure of large sums of money by the Commission from funds appropriated for such purposes.

"It may be seen therefore that the stations would not under other circumstances have been maintained by the Geological Survey and that the expenditure represents only in part what the Federal Power Commission would have been obliged to expend independently to procure data necessary for carrying on its authorized work.

"With the submission of this additional information it is requested that the unobligated balance be not retransferred to the appropriation of the Federal Power Commission but remain available for expenditures by the Geological Survey, except for the maintenance of motor-propelled passenger-carrying vehicles against which you have ruled."

In view of this explanation, showing the cooperative features involved in the construction and operation of the gauging stations, and that but for the cooperative arrangement the Geological Survey would not have constructed and maintained these gauging stations, there appears no legal objection to the allocation of Federal Power Commission funds to pay for its proper share of the expenses incident to the maintenance of the stations from which it derives a corresponding benefit. Your report will be accepted as sufficient to justify allocations heretofore made and the unexpended balance of such allocated funds need not be returned to the appropriations for the Federal Power Commission.

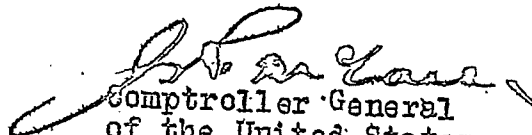
You report also that only the amount of \$19,775.59 has been charged for the operation and maintenance of motor-propelled, passenger-carrying vehicles under the appropriation heading, "Geological Survey, 1924," in support of the request that there be charged to that appropriation the amount of \$115.42 disallowed in the accounts of the disbursing officer of the Interior Department representing payments for that purpose unlawfully charged to the appropriation "Federal Power

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Commission (Transfer to Interior - Geological Survey,
Act of May 21, 1920) 1924." As the additional amount,
\$115.42, will not cause the limit of \$30,000 authorized
for the fiscal year 1924 to be exceeded, the charge is
authorized as requested.

Respectfully,


Comptroller General
of the United States.