



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release JUNE 7, 1961

SECRETARY UDALL NAMES GROUP TO AID INTERIOR DEPARTMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF LAND USE PLAN FOR LOWER COLORADO RIVER

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced formation of an advisory committee to work with the Department in developing a land-use plan for the Lower Colorado River.

Udall said also that he has asked Governors Brown of California, Sawyer of Nevada and Fannin of Arizona or their designees to be members of the advisory group.

At the same time, he announced appointment of five interested persons along the river to serve on the committee. These include:

State Senator Harold C. Giss of Yuma, Arizona
LeRoy Kamrar of Blythe, Calif.
William Claypool, Jr., of Needles, Calif.
Mayor G. L. Gaston of Parker, Ariz.
Ross Dana, Sr., of Victorville, Calif.

The advisory group fits into the Department's plan for settlement of the long-standing problem of use of Federal land along the river from Davis Dam south to the United States-Mexico boundary. Involved are several hundred "squatters" using this land for agricultural, residential and recreational purposes.

Udall said that the "on-the-ground knowledge" of the citizens who have agreed to serve on the advisory committee "will help the Department and State planning agencies determine the best possible uses of the lands."

X X X