

Written Statement of Calvin V. Crandall

President of the Board

Strawberry Water Users Association

Subcommittee on Water and Power

Hearing on H.R. 461- South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act

June 23, 2011

Mr. Chairman, our own Congressman Chaffetz and Members of the Subcommittee; my name is Calvin V. Crandall and I am President of the Strawberry Water Users Association (Association), which is the sponsor of the first U.S. Bureau of Reclamation project built in Utah, which was authorized by Congress in 1905. On behalf of the Association, we want to thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony in support of H.R. 461, the South Utah Valley Electric Conveyance Act.

We are supportive of passage of H.R. 461 as it was introduced in the 112th Congress. The bill provides clarification to a deal that occurred 25 years ago wherein the Association conveyed its interest, if any, in the Strawberry Valley Project (SVP) power distribution system, rated at a voltage of 12.5 kilovolts, which was constructed with SVP revenues.

In 1986, the Association and South Utah Valley Electric Service District (SESD) negotiated in good faith to transfer the SVP power distribution system constructed by the Association since October 9, 1940, on non-federal property and owned by the Association to SESD. Language for the “Agreement to Purchase Distribution System and the Sale of Power”, dated April 7, 1986 was coordinated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Recently questions have arisen regarding a short section of the SVP power distribution line that was and still is an “underbuild” on the SVP 46 kV transmission line on federal lands associated with the SVP. Questions have also arisen as to sections of the power distribution system using federal easements granted by private landowners to “the United States and its successors in charge of the project” by early 1900 “Water Right Applications” associated with those landowners receiving SVP water. Questions have also arisen as to power distribution substation structures on federal land associated with SVP hydro-generation facilities currently operated by the Association.

With the passage of H.R. 461, it will clarify the ownership interests of SESD in the transferred power distribution system and preserve the interests of the United States in the federally owned lands and easements. This is vital for SESD in dealing with financing issues and the operation of

providing electricity to its customers in South Utah County. This truly is a win win for everyone involved. We appreciate very much your leadership in this endeavor.

We would also like to express public appreciation to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for their assistance back in 1986 and their thoughtfulness and leadership, presently, on this issue.

We very much appreciate your leadership in holding this hearing and that of Congressman Chaffetz on this important issue and look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.