TITLE 25 - INDIANS
CHAPTER 11—IRRIGATION OF ALLOTTED LANDS

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§ 381. Irrigation lands; regulation of use of water

In cases where the use of water for irrigation is necessary to render the lands within any Indian reservation available for agricultural purposes, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary to secure a just and equal distribution thereof among the Indians residing upon any such reservations; and no other appropriation or grant of water by any riparian proprietor shall be authorized or permitted to the damage of any other riparian proprietor.

(Feb. 8, 1887, ch. 119, § 7, 24 Stat. 390.)

§ 382. Irrigation projects under Reclamation Act

In carrying out any irrigation project which may be undertaken under the provisions of the Act of June seventeenth, nineteen hundred and two (Thirty-second Statutes, page three hundred and eighty-eight), known as “The Reclamation Act,” and which may make possible, and provide for in connection with the reclamation of other lands, the irrigation of all or any part of the irrigable lands heretofore included in allotments made to Indians under section 334 of this title, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make such arrangement and agreement in reference thereto as said Secretary deems for the best interest of the Indians: Provided, That no lien or charge for construction, operation, or maintenance shall thereby be created against any such lands.

(Mar. 3, 1909, ch. 263, 35 Stat. 798.)

Section, act Aug. 4, 1910, ch. 140, § 1, 36 Stat. 270, provided that no new irrigation project on any Indian reservation, allotments, or lands, could be undertaken until it had been estimated for and a maximum limit of cost ascertained from surveys, plans, and reports submitted by chief irrigation engineer in Indian Service and approved by Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Secretary of the Interior, that such limit of cost could in no case be exceeded without express authorization of Congress, and that no project to cost in the aggregate to exceed $35,000 could be undertaken on any Indian reservation or allotment, without specific authority of Congress.

§ 384. Employment of superintendents of irrigation

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, may employ superintendents of irrigation who shall be skilled irrigation engineers, not to exceed seven in number.

(Apr. 4, 1910, ch. 140, § 1, 36 Stat. 271.)

§ 385. Maintenance charges; reimbursement of construction costs; apportionment of cost

For lands irrigable under any irrigation system or reclamation project the Secretary of the Interior may fix maintenance charges which shall be paid as he may direct, such payments to be available for use in maintaining the project or system for which collected: Provided further, That all moneys expended under this provision shall be reimbursable where the Indians have adequate funds to repay the Government, such reimbursements to be made under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe: Provided further, That the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to apportion the cost of any irrigation project constructed for Indians and made reimbursable out of tribal funds of said Indians in accordance with the benefits received by each individual Indian so far as practicable from said irrigation project, said cost to be apportioned against such individual Indian under such rules, regulations, and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe.
§ 385a. Irrigation projects; deposit of assessments as trust fund; disposition of fund

Effective August 7, 1946, collections made from water users on each Indian irrigation project on account of assessments levied to meet the cost of operating and maintaining such project shall be deposited into the Treasury for credit to a trust-fund account pursuant to section 1321 of title 31, and shall be available for expenditure in carrying out the purposes for which collected.

(Aug. 7, 1946, ch. 802, § 1, 60 Stat. 895.)

§ 385b. Amounts creditable to fund

There shall be credited to each trust-fund account established under section 385a of this title the excess, if any, of

1. the unexpended balance of any repealed special fund appropriation to which operation and maintenance collections were credited prior to July 1, 1935, and
2. the amount of receipts covered into the Treasury pursuant to section 4 of the Permanent Appropriation Repeal Act, 1934 (48 Stat. 1227), over expenditures from appropriations provided for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation project from which such unexpended balance or receipts were derived, and the amount so credited shall be subject to expenditure as prescribed in section 385a of this title.

(Aug. 7, 1946, ch. 802, § 2, 60 Stat. 895.)
§ 385c. Appropriation and disposition of power revenues

Revenues collected after August 7, 1946, from power operations on each Indian irrigation project and deposited into the Treasury for credit to miscellaneous receipts pursuant to section 4 of the Permanent Appropriation Repeal Act, 1934 (48 Stat. 1227), or pursuant to other provisions of law, are authorized to be appropriated annually, in specific or in indefinite amounts, equal to the collections so credited, for the following purposes in connection with the respective projects from which such revenues are derived:

1. Payment of the expenses of operating and maintaining the power system;
2. Creation and maintenance of reserve funds to be available for making repairs and replacements to, defraying emergency expenses for, and insuring continuous operation of the power system, the fund for each project to be maintained at such level, within limits set by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as may from time to time be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior;
3. Amortization, in accordance with the repayment provisions of the applicable statutes or contracts, of construction costs allocated to be returned from power revenues; and
4. Payment of other expenses and obligations chargeable to power revenues to the extent required or permitted by law.


References in Text

Section 4 of the Permanent Appropriation Repeal Act, 1934, referred to in text, is section 4 of act June 26, 1934, ch. 756, 48 Stat. 1227, which was classified to section 725c of former Title 31, and was omitted from the Code in the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97–258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

Codification

Section was formerly classified to section 725s–2 of Title 31 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 31, Money and Finance, by Pub. L. 97–258, § 1, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 877.

Transfer of Functions


§ 386. Reimbursement of construction charges

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to require the owners of irrigable land under any irrigation system constructed for the benefit of Indians and to which water for irrigation purposes can be delivered to begin partial reimbursement of the construction charges, where reimbursement is required by law, at such times and in such amounts as he may deem best; all payments hereunder to be credited on a per acre basis in favor of the land in behalf of which such payments shall have been made and to be deducted from the total per acre charge assessable against said land.

(Feb. 14, 1920, ch. 75, § 1, 41 Stat. 409.)
§ 386a. Adjustment of reimbursable debts; construction charges

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to adjust or eliminate reimbursable charges of the Government of the United States existing as debts against individual Indians or tribes of Indians in such a way as shall be equitable and just in consideration of all the circumstances under which such charges were made: Provided, That the collection of all construction costs against any Indian-owned lands within any Government irrigation project is hereby deferred, and no assessments shall be made on behalf of such charges against such lands until the Indian title thereto shall have been extinguished, and any construction assessments heretofore levied against such lands in accordance with the provisions of section 386 of this title, and uncollected, are hereby canceled: Provided further, That the Secretary shall report such adjustments and eliminations to the Congress not later than sixty calendar days following the end of the fiscal year in which they are made: Provided further, That any proceedings hereunder shall not be effective until approved by Congress unless Congress shall have failed to act favorably or unfavorably thereon by concurrent resolution within ninety calendar days after the filing of said report, in which case they shall become effective at the termination of the said ninety calendar days: Provided further, That the Secretary shall adjust or eliminate charges, defer collection of construction costs, and make no assessment on behalf of such charges for beneficiaries that hold leases on Hawaiian home lands, to the same extent as is permitted for individual Indians or tribes of Indians under this section.


Amendments

1995—Pub. L. 104–42 inserted before period at end “: Provided further, That the Secretary shall adjust or eliminate charges, defer collection of construction costs, and make no assessment on behalf of such charges for beneficiaries that hold leases on Hawaiian home lands, to the same extent as is permitted for individual Indians or tribes of Indians under this section”.

1982—Pub. L. 97–375, § 208(a)(1), substituted “That the Secretary shall report such adjustments and eliminations to the Congress not later than sixty calendar days following the end of the fiscal year in which they are made” for “That a report shall be made to Congress annually, on the first Monday in December, showing adjustments so made during the preceding fiscal year” in second proviso.

Pub. L. 97–375, § 208(a)(2), substituted “ninety calendar days” for “sixty legislative days” wherever appearing.

§ 387. Omitted

Codification

Section, which related to basis of apportionment of costs of irrigation projects was from the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1946, July 3, 1945, ch. 262, 59 Stat. 328, and was not repeated in the Interior Department Appropriation Act of 1947, act July 1, 1946, ch. 529, 60 Stat. 348. Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

June 28, 1944, ch. 298, 58 Stat. 474.
July 12, 1943, ch. 219, 57 Stat. 461.
June 18, 1940, ch. 395, 54 Stat. 419.
§ 388. Claims for damages; settlement by agreement

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to pay out of funds available for the Indian irrigation projects for damages caused to owners of lands or other private property of any kind by reason of the operations of the United States, its officers or employees, in the survey, construction, operation, or maintenance of irrigation works of such projects and which may be compromised by agreement between the claimant and the Secretary of the Interior or such officers as he may designate: Provided, That the total of any such claims authorized to be settled as herein contemplated shall not exceed 5 per centum of the funds available for the project under which such claims arise during any one fiscal year.

(Feb. 20, 1929, ch. 279, 45 Stat. 1252.)

§ 389. Investigation and adjustment of irrigation charges on lands within projects on Indian reservations

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to cause an investigation to be made to determine whether the owners of non-Indian lands under Indian irrigation projects and under projects where the United States has purchased water rights for Indians are unable to pay irrigation charges, including construction, maintenance, and operating charges, because of inability to operate such lands profitably by reason of lack of fertility of the soil, inadequacy of water supply, defects of irrigation works, or for any other causes. Where the Secretary finds that said landowners are unable to make payment due to the existence of such causes, he may adjust, defer, or cancel such charges, in whole or in part, as the facts and conditions warrant. In adjusting or deferring any such charges the Secretary may enter into contracts with said land owners for the payment of past due charges, but such contracts shall not extend the payment of such charges over a period in excess of ten years.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 692, § 1, 49 Stat. 1803.)

Flathead Indian Irrigation Project

Fort Peck Indian Irrigation Project
In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior canceling delinquent irrigation operation and maintenance charges of $461.40 and accrued interest thereon for certain lands adjacent to but outside the Fort Peck Indian irrigation project, $206,902.21 against lands within the Fort Peck project, and $118,266.64 of unassessed construction costs allocable against both Indian and non-Indian owned lands in the Fraiser-Wolf Point unit of the Fort Peck project, was approved by Pub. L. 90–143, Nov. 16, 1967, 81 Stat. 465.

Klamath Indian Irrigation Project
In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior canceling $401,440.55 of reimbursable irrigation costs and any accrued interest thereon chargeable to lands in the Klamath Indian irrigation project, was approved by Pub. L. 88–456, Aug. 20, 1964, 78 Stat. 554.

Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District
Action of the Secretary of the Interior taken on May 19, 1942, pursuant to authority contained in sections 389 to 389e of this title with respect to lands within the Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District was confirmed by Congress in act Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 816, 56 Stat. 1082.

Uintah Indian Irrigation Project
Pub. L. 91–403, §§ 1–5, Sept. 18, 1970, 84 Stat. 843, 844, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation for tribal funds that were used to construct, operate, and maintain the Uintah Indian irrigation project, Utah.

Action of Secretary of the Interior taken pursuant to authority contained in sections 389 to 389e of this title with respect to lands within the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project was confirmed by Congress in act May 28, 1941, ch. 142, 55 Stat. 209.

Wapato Indian Irrigation Project
In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior dated Sept. 12, 1962, canceling $4,494.58 of delinquent irrigation charges, providing for the deferred payment of $10,356.03, and providing for the removal of 78.12 acres of assessable land from the Wapato Indian irrigation project, was approved by Pub. L. 88–159, Oct. 28, 1963, 77 Stat. 278.

In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior canceling $35,700.72 of delinquent irrigation charges, providing for the deferred payment of $13,851.98, and providing for the removal of two hundred thirty-two and fifty-six one hundredths acres of assessable land from the Wapato Indian irrigation project, was approved by Pub. L. 86–281, Sept. 16, 1959, 73 Stat. 564.

Action by the Secretary of the Interior taken Sept. 9, 1942, pursuant to authority contained in sections 389 to 389e of this title with respect to lands within the Wapato Indian irrigation project was confirmed in act Dec. 24, 1942, ch. 815, 56 Stat. 1081.

Wind River Indian Irrigation Project
In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior, canceling delinquent operation and maintenance irrigation charges of $1,134.99 and accrued interest thereon, against lands on the Wind River Indian irrigation project, and a contract for the deferred payment of delinquent charges in the amount of $2,331.59, was approved by Pub. L. 88–116, Sept. 6, 1963, 77 Stat. 151.

In accordance with sections 389 to 389e of this title, the order of the Secretary of the Interior, canceling delinquent irrigation charges of $36,439.70 and accrued interest therein, and providing for a deferred payment of $8,706.27, as shown in schedules A, B, and C of such order, was approved by Pub. L. 87–516, July 2, 1962, 76 Stat. 128, provided that the cancellation under schedule B not become effective until the landowners agree to pay the balance of such delinquent charges amounting to $1,556.40.

§ 389a. Declaring lands to be temporarily nonirrigable
Where the Secretary finds that any such lands cannot be cultivated profitably due to a present lack of water supply, proper drainage facilities, or need of additional construction work, he shall declare such lands temporarily nonirrigable for periods not to exceed five years and no charges shall be assessed against such lands during such periods.
§ 389b. Elimination to permanently nonirrigable lands
Where the Secretary finds that any such lands are permanently nonirrigable he may, with the consent of the landowner, eliminate such lands from the project.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 692, § 2, 49 Stat. 1804.)

§ 389c. Cancellation of charges in absence of lien or contract for payment
Where irrigation assessments against any such lands remained unpaid at the time the Indian title to such lands became extinguished and no lien existed and attached to such lands for the payment of charges so assessed and no contract for the payment of such charges was entered into, the Secretary shall cancel all such charges.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 692, § 3, 49 Stat. 1804.)

§ 389d. Rules and regulations
The Secretary shall have power to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 389 to 389e of this title.

(June 22, 1936, ch. 692, § 4, 49 Stat. 1804.)

§ 389e. Actions taken to be included in report to Congress
The Secretary shall include in the report to Congress required pursuant to section 389a of this title, a description of actions taken under the provisions of sections 389 to 389e of this title during the preceding fiscal year. No proceedings under such sections shall become effective until approved by the Congress.

Footnotes
1 So in original. Probably should refer to section 386a.


Amendments
1980—Pub. L. 96–470 substituted provision requiring the Secretary to include in the report to Congress required pursuant to section 389a of this title a description of the actions taken under sections 389 to 389e of this title during the preceding fiscal year for provision requiring the Secretary to make reports to Congress on the first Monday of each regular session, and from time to time thereafter, showing actions taken under sections 389 to 389e of this title during the preceding fiscal year.

Approval of Secretary’s Action
The action of the Secretary of the Interior in deferring the collection of certain irrigation charges against lands under the Blackfeet Indian irrigation project in Montana was approved by Joint Res. Apr. 11, 1940, ch. 78, 54 Stat. 105.
§ 390. Concessions on reservoir sites and other lands in Indian irrigation projects; leases for agricultural, grazing, and other purposes

The Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized, in his discretion, to grant concessions on reservoir sites, reserves for canals or flowage areas, and other lands under his jurisdiction which have been withdrawn or otherwise acquired in connection with the San Carlos, Fort Hall, Flathead, and Duck Valley or Western Shoshone irrigation projects for the benefit in whole or in part of Indians, and to lease such lands for agricultural, grazing, or other purposes: Provided, That no lands so leased shall be eligible for benefit payments under the crop control program, or the soil conservation act: Provided further, That such concessions may be granted or lands leased by the Secretary of the Interior under such rules, regulations, and laws as govern his administration of the public domain as far as applicable, for such considerations, monetary or otherwise, and for such periods of time as he may deem proper, the term of no concession to exceed a period of ten years: Provided further, That the funds derived from such concessions or leases, except funds so derived from Indian tribal property withdrawn for irrigation purposes and for which the tribe has not been compensated, shall be available for expenditure in accordance with the existing laws in the operation and maintenance of the irrigation projects with which they are connected. Any funds derived from reserves for which the tribe has not been compensated shall be deposited to the credit of the proper tribe: Provided further, That where tribal lands of any Indian tribe organized under section 476 of this title, have been withdrawn or reserved for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned, such lands may be leased or concessions may be granted thereon only by the proper tribal authorities, upon such conditions and subject to such limitations as may be set forth in the constitution and bylaws or charter of the respective tribes: Provided further, That concessions for recreation and fish and wildlife purposes on San Carlos Lake may be granted only by the governing body of the San Carlos Apache Tribe upon such conditions and subject to such limitations as may be set forth in the constitution and bylaws of such Tribe.


Amendments

1992—Pub. L. 102–575 inserted before period at end “: Provided further, That concessions for recreation and fish and wildlife purposes on San Carlos Lake may be granted only by the governing body of the San Carlos Apache Tribe upon such conditions and subject to such limitations as may be set forth in the constitution and bylaws of such Tribe”.

Effective and Termination Dates of 1992 Amendment


“(a) Effective Date of Authorization.—The authorization contained in section 3708 (b) of this title [106 Stat. 4748] shall become effective as of the date the Secretary causes to be published in the Federal Register a statement of findings [The statement was published in the Federal Register on Dec. 28, 1999, 64 F.R. 72674.] that—

“(1) the Secretary has fulfilled the requirements of sections 3704 and 3706 [106 Stat. 4742, 4745];

“(2) the Roosevelt Water Conservation District subcontract for agricultural water service from CAP has been revised and executed as provided in section 3705 (b) [106 Stat. 4744];

“(3) the funds authorized by section 3707 (c) [106 Stat. 4748] have been appropriated and deposited into the Fund;

“(4) the contract referred to in section 3707 (a)(2) [106 Stat. 4747] has been amended;

“(5) the State of Arizona has appropriated and deposited into the Fund $3,000,000 as required by the Agreement;
“(6) the stipulations attached to the Agreement as Exhibits ‘D’ and ‘E’ have been approved; and

“(7) the Agreement has been modified, to the extent it is in conflict with this title [amending this section and section 1524 of Title 43, Public Lands, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1524 of Title 43], and has been executed by the Secretary.

“(b) Conditions.—(1) If the actions described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of subsection (a) of this section have not occurred by March 31, 1999, subsections (c) and (d) of section 3704 [106 Stat. 4743], subsections (a) and (b) of section 3705 [106 Stat. 4744], section 3706 [106 Stat. 4745], subsections (a)(2), (c), (d), and (f) of section 3707 [106 Stat. 4747], subsections (b) and (c) of section 3708 [106 Stat. 4748], and subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), and (l) of section 3710 of this title [106 Stat. 4750, subsec. (e) amends this section], together with any contracts entered into pursuant to any such section or subsection, shall not be effective on and after the date of enactment of this title [Oct. 30, 1992], and any funds appropriated pursuant to section 3707 (c) [106 Stat. 4748], and remaining unobligated and unexpended on the date of the enactment of this title, shall immediately revert to the Treasury, as general revenues, and any funds appropriated by the State of Arizona pursuant to the Agreement, and remaining unobligated and unexpended on the date of the enactment of this title, shall immediately revert to the State of Arizona.

“(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, if the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of section 3705 of this title have been otherwise accomplished pursuant to provisions of the Act of October 20, 1988 [Pub. L. 100–512, 102 Stat. 2549], the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be construed as affecting such subsections.

“(c) Extension for River System General Adjudication.—If, at any time prior to March 31, 1999, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Indian Affairs of the United States Senate or the Committee on Resources in the United States House of Representatives that the Settlement Agreement, as executed by the Secretary, has been submitted to the Superior Court of the State of Arizona in and for Maricopa County for consideration and approval as part of the General Adjudication of the Gila River System and Source, the [sic] March 31, 1999, referred to in subsection (b)(1) shall be deemed to be changed to December 31, 1999. [The Secretary notified the Committees on Mar. 30, 1999.]


“(1) In general.—The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending section 3711 of Pub. L. 102–575, set out above] shall take effect as of December 31, 1995.

“(2) Lapsed provisions of law and contracts.—The provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of section 3704 [106 Stat. 4743], subsections (a) and (b) of section 3705 [106 Stat. 4744], section 3706 [106 Stat. 4745], subsections (a)(2), (c), (d), and (f) of section 3707 [106 Stat. 4747], subsections (b) and (c) of section 3708 [106 Stat. 4748], and subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (j), and (l) of section 3710 of such Act [106 Stat. 4750, subsec. (e) amends this section], together with each contract entered into pursuant to any such section or subsection (with the consent of the non-Federal parties thereto), shall be effective on and after the date of enactment of this Act [Jan. 6, 1996], subject to the December 31, 1996, deadline specified in such section 3711 (b)(1), as amended by subsection (a) of this section [section 3711(b)(1) of Pub. L. 102–575, set out above].”]