



STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

State Capitol
Little Rock 72201

Mike Huckabee
Governor

March 6, 2001

Colonel Daniel W. Krueger
Commander, Memphis District Corps of Engineers
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894

Dear Colonel Krueger:

The Water Resources Task Force has submitted recommendations to me concerning the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project, and many other water related issues. I am writing to let you know my position on the project.

The Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project involves several resources critical to the future of Arkansas including the alluvial and Sparta aquifers in the area, the Grand Prairie's heritage and tremendous agricultural production, and the White River. The Corps' engineering review provided the opportunity to re-examine these resources in light of current conditions. I have carefully considered the report of the task force. The engineering review of water sources met the intent of the compromise to allow the project to move forward.

I concur that the White River is the appropriate source of water for the project, that the project's effects must be monitored, and that measures should be taken if the impacts are greater than expected. I am pleased that one alternative has been identified that, if there are indeed impacts to the White River during waterfowl season, the use of the river could be supplemented or eliminated during this time. This would be accomplished by a modification of the Bayou Meto project, which would allow use of Arkansas River water as a supplement source through interconnection of the projects. I concur that project construction should proceed as authorized.

Since both the Sparta and alluvial aquifers continue to decline, I urge the Corps to proceed as rapidly as possible with continued construction of the on-farm features for the project as well as construction of the delivery system. We must act now to preserve the aquifers, to maintain irrigated agriculture, and to increase the waterfowl habitat in the Grand Prairie.

I am proud that Arkansas can work through the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with the local citizens represented by the White River Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District, and with the Federal Government to accomplish this important project. I look forward to a continued excellent working relationship with you on the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project and other projects in Arkansas. Please contact Mr. Randy Young on this or any other matters in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Huckabee".

Mike Huckabee

MH:dc:ps