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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 August 1974

Washington, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza hailed House of Representatives passage Friday of a bill authorizing construction of Choke Canyon Dam on the Frio River as an action promising great benefits to South Texas. The vote was 320 yeas to 8 nays.

The authorization was included in an omnibus measure involving a number of water related projects over the country.

"The bill authorizes \$50 million for the construction of Choke Canyon Dam and Reservoir on the Frio River and provides for adjustment if necessary to meet changing construction costs," Rep de la Garza said. The city of Corpus Christi which will use the waters impounded by the dam for municipal and industrial purposes is obligated to advance \$15 million toward the construction costs which it has already agreed to do.

The Congressman was instrumental in having a field hearing held by the Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in Three Rivers last year. He said the strong local support expressed at this hearing greatly impressed the committee and helped bring about favorable House action on the authorization measure.

"The bill authorizes construction but it is not an appropriations bill," Rep de la Garza pointed out. "This is a necessary first step in the legislative process. We will push forward to obtain funds to begin construction as soon as possible."

The omnibus bill also authorizes \$24,160,000 for the Cibolo Creek project at San Antonio of great interest to the Kenedy area.

Rep de la Garza praised the great work done by Congressman John Young of Corpus Christi and Congressman Chick Kazen of Laredo on this legislation. "It is the joint effort of this kind," Rep de la Garza said, "that insures success of a project. We are fortunate to have representation of this caliber working for us."

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