

AIR & WATER

The Bypass Project improves air quality at Hoover Dam by allowing through-traffic to cross Black Canyon quickly.

Large numbers of vehicles no longer slowly crawl down and up the steep canyon walls to cross over Hoover Dam. The old route caused cars and trucks to burn great amounts of fuel and to pollute the air. They made more exhaust fumes while stuck in traffic jams on the dam.

The Bypass Project removes vehicles carrying hazardous materials from atop the dam and reduces the chance of spills. Water drains off the River Bridge into basins at its ends. It does not flow directly into the river.

PLANTS & WILDLIFE

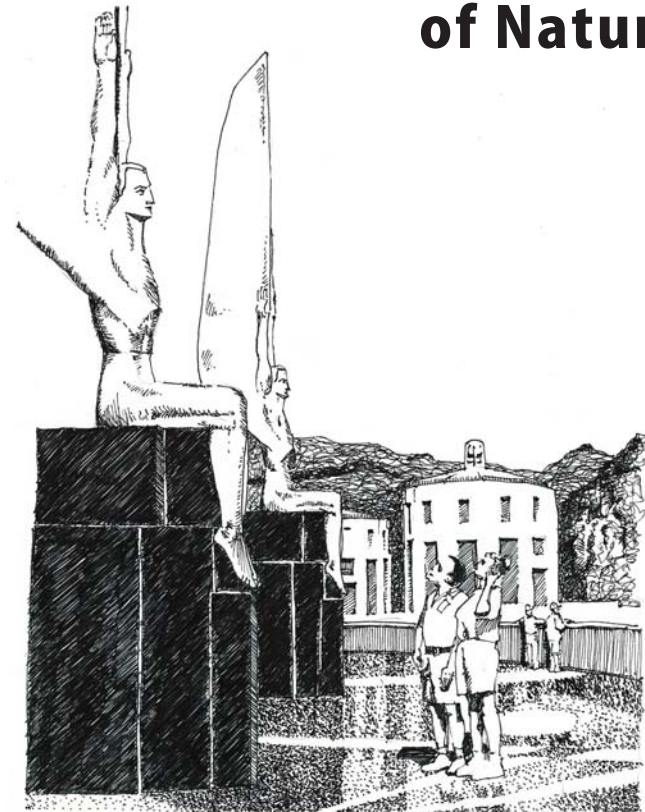
The contractors protected or moved native plants before starting to build.

They collected many plants and stored them in a nursery. Later, they replanted vegetation on the site. Environmentalists also harvested seeds of some plants to spread and sprout after contractors finished site work.

The engineers designed road underpasses as wildlife crossings.

The new approach highways would have blocked the routes desert bighorn sheep follow for feeding and breeding. High fences along the highways guide wildlife to the underpasses. These features greatly reduce the chance for vehicles to strike the sheep.

PROTECT THE PLACE of Nature & History



HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Bypass Project respects the important resources of the Hoover Dam National Historic Landmark.

The River Bridge and roadways blend with Hoover Dam and its setting. The engineers moved the highway route to avoid tearing down the historic Reclamation warehouse. Construction could not avoid relocating or removing some historic features such as the Arizona-Nevada Switchyard and towers. The historians recorded those structures in historical narratives and detailed photographs. They also documented Native American traditional cultural properties.