WPA Ready to Turn Emergency Flood Forces to Rehabilitation.

After employing from 2,500 to 4,000 men on emergency flood work in southern California since the disaster struck in this area last Wednesday, the Works Progress Administration is prepared to handle rehabilitation projects in the stricken communities, Colonel D. H. Connolly, Southern California WPA Administrator, today reported to Corrington Gill, Acting Federal WPA Administrator.

These projects, Mr. Gill explained, would include complete restoration of highways, bridges, outfall sewers, water systems and reconstruction of streets and sidewalks.

"There is no longer any doubt that additional hundreds of people will be thrown into destitution as a result of the flood," Mr. Gill said, "but we are in a position to increase our rolls in southern California and meet this situation promptly. Arrangements have been made to expedite all necessary rehabilitation projects."

Emergency flood operations of WPA got under way without delay in 25 southern California communities, Colonel Connolly reported, as a result of advance preparation for any such crisis required by WPA in all States.

"We have done everything possible to meet the emergency within the scope of the emergency flood project," Robert H. Hinckley, Assistant WPA Administrator in charge of the western region, said after a survey of activities. "Emergency operations have consisted of temporary repair to sewage and water systems, diverting water back into original channels and preventing new breaks, removing dead livestock and clearing passage for emergency traffic on a few of the main lines of communication in communities where an emergency would exist if this were not done."

Flood control work in the Los Angeles area, financed through Federal Emergency Relief funds and supervised by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, stood the test of the flood and undoubtedly prevented the loss from being greater than the damage actually experienced last week, Mr. Gill was advised. The system, when completed, is expected to protect the entire Los Angeles district from any major flood disaster in the future.