

Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) Workshop/USGS National Water Use Data Collaboration



September 16-19, 2019

Tony Willardson, Executive Director

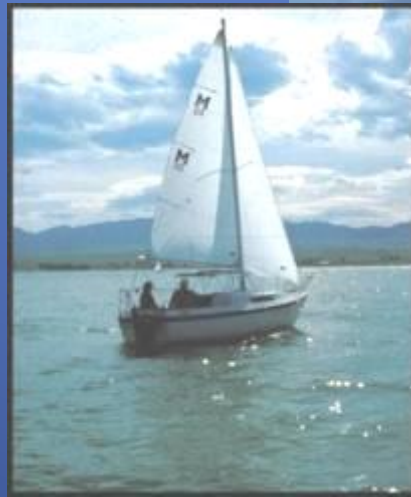
WESTERN STATES
WATER COUNCIL



Western States Water Council

- Advisory body to 18 western Governors on water issues
- Provides states collective voice
- Fosters state/state and federal/state collaboration
- Works with the Western Governors' Association (WGA)
- Western Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)

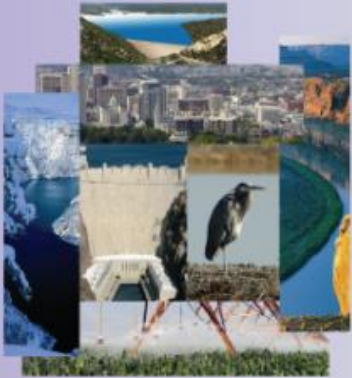
The future growth and prosperity of the western states depend upon the availability of adequate quantities of water of suitable quality.



There is a need for an accurate and unbiased appraisal of present and future water supplies and demands for each area of the West and for the orderly and optimum development of water resources in the western states.

Western Governors' Conference 1965

Water Needs and Strategies
for a Sustainable Future



Western Governors' Association • June 2006

2006 WSWC-WGA Water Report

To encourage sustainable growth policies and plans, states should identify the water demands and impacts associated with future growth.

Additionally, states should develop integrated growth and water resource scenarios so that the consequences of various growth scenarios can be evaluated for both the near and long term.

Many effective programs are underway to measure aspects of our water resources. However, simply stated, quantitative knowledge of U.S. water supply is currently inadequate.

A Strategy for Federal Science and Technology to Support
Water Availability and Quality in the United States
September 2007

A robust process for measuring the quantity and quality of the Nation's water resources requires a systems approach.

Surface water, groundwater, rainfall, and snow-pack all represent quantities of water to be assessed and managed – from the perspectives of quantity, quality, timing, and location.

WSWC Positions #418 & #428

A high priority for the allocation and appropriation of sufficient funds for vital water data programs, which benefit so many, yet have been or are being allowed to erode to the point that it threatens the quantity and quality of basic data provided to a myriad, growing and diffuse number of decisionmakers and stakeholders, with significantly adverse consequences. (WSWC Position #428, October 26, 2018; and #418, March 14, 2018)



Policy Resolution 2018-8

- Collect, maintain & enhance use of basic data
- Support critical federal programs that provide important basic water supply information – snow, precipitation, streamflow, groundwater, evapotranspiration, etc.
- Recognize the essential role of federal partnerships and need for coordination on water data.
- Recognize potential water impacts of extreme weather events
- Communicate & share best management practices



Western Governors believe states should identify and promote innovative ways to allow water transfers from agricultural to other uses (including urban, energy and environmental) while avoiding or mitigating damages to agricultural economies and communities.

Resolution #11-7

Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West (Oct 19, 2018)

- Address Underfunded Infrastructure Needs including MR&R
- Improving Forecasts of Water Availability (Supply & Demand)
- Improving Use of Technology to Increase Water Reliability
- Streamlining Western Water Infrastructure Regulatory Processes and Removing Unnecessary Burdens



Western States Federal Agency Support Team

A Declaration of Cooperation

*Working Together for the Sustainable and
Efficient Use of Western Water Resources*

We, as representatives of our respective Federal agencies, do hereby declare our intent to cooperate as members of a Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WESTFAST) partnership. We will work together whenever and wherever possible throughout the 17 Western States to promote and educate the public on the benefits of sustainable and efficient use of water resources.

We declare that WESTFAST supports a continued commitment on the part of Federal, and State organizations; working with local, Tribal, and other stakeholders; to improve the effectiveness of collaboration to seek watershed solutions to water issues in the Western States. This effort emphasizes proactive, voluntary, participatory and incentive-based approaches to water resource management and conservation assistance programs throughout the Western States.

We hereby declare that we as WESTFAST partners will collaborate with the Western States Water Council to guide the development of an appropriate action plan for this partnership.

We hereby declare to support, in concept, the establishment of a Federal liaison position to work with the WESTFAST members and the Western States Water Council in developing a collaborative work plan to carry forward joint water resource initiatives. Contributory cost-sharing such a position will be based on authorized and available funds.

Army Corps of Engineers
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Environmental Protection
Agency
National Oceanic & Atmospheric
Administration
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Department of Energy
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
U.S. Dept. of Defense
National Park Service



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