



Western States Water

Addressing Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future

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ADMINISTRATION

Corps/Missouri River Basin

On May 5, the Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) released Missouri River Mainstem reservoir data for April and the anticipated impact of drier-than-normal forecast conditions for the summer from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The press release noted that April runoff in the upper Missouri River Basin was 51% of average (at 1.5 million acre-feet), and the total 2022 forecast is for 69% of average (at 17.8 million acre-feet). John Remus, Chief of the Corps' Missouri River Basin Water Management Division, said: "Despite recent snow and rainfall events, 84% of the upper Basin continues to experience abnormally dry conditions. Current drought conditions, dry soils, and below-normal mountain snowpack, resulted in the below-average 2022 calendar year runoff forecast." <https://www.nwd.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases>

EPA/WIFIA

On May 3, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$281M Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to Johnson County, Kansas, for the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. The facility dates back to the 1940s, and the existing treatment technology is not capable of meeting future water quality standards. The press release said: "The improvements project will modernize the wastewater treatment plant by implementing biological nutrient removal upgrades and adding auxiliary treatment facilities to treat peak wet weather flows and biosolids processing. This project will help Johnson County comply with a consent decree from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges. Upon completion of the project, the wastewater treatment facility will be able to treat 15 million gallons per day [mgd] during average daily flows and 52 [mgd] during peak flows. Additionally, the system will provide an additional 87 [mgd] of wet weather auxiliary capacity, which will allow Johnson County to meet future demand."

On May 6, EPA announced a \$22M WIFIA loan to the City of Englewood, Colorado, to support the One Water Modernization Program, to upgrade aging wastewater infrastructure at the South Platte Renew

plant. The press release said: "With this loan, Englewood will upgrade its wastewater treatment and conveyance systems by replacing outdated electrical and control systems and making treatment and process improvements to address aging infrastructure. Included in these upgrades are chemical and ultraviolet treatment improvements, which will help to assure that discharges comply with state limits for nitrates. Englewood will also establish a wastewater pilot and research center to test new technologies and treatment equipment. In addition to environmental improvements, these projects will help protect and bolster the system's resilience to climate change and extreme weather events."

On May 9, EPA announced two loans totaling \$65M in Oregon to support a regional Cascade Groundwater Development Program. The press release said: "The WIFIA loans will provide approximately \$30M for Rockwood Water People's Utility District and \$34M for the City of Gresham, respectively, to finance the expansion of their existing groundwater infrastructure and develop an independent regional groundwater system. By increasing groundwater treatment capacity, Rockwood and Gresham will mitigate rapid water quality changes caused by extreme weather while providing significant long-term cost benefits to residents by reducing reliance on imported surface water. The project will also increase resiliency against earthquakes by implementing alerts and seismically hardened construction techniques."

With these new loans, EPA noted that it has issued a total of 80 WIFIA loans across the nation, providing \$14B in credit assistance to help finance \$30B in water infrastructure upgrades, saving ratepayers over \$5B, and creating 90,000 jobs. www.epa.gov/newsreleases

Reclamation/Infrastructure

On May 9, the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced an investment of \$240.4M for infrastructure repairs on canal linings, dam spillways, and water pipeline replacements. The press release said: "The projects selected for funding today are found in all the major river basins and regions where Reclamation operates. Among the 46 projects selected for funding are large projects to conduct canal repairs in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming, dam spillway

repairs in Kansas, pipeline repairs in Utah and investments in a pumping plant in Montana. Projects in Colorado, Oregon and Washington are also being funded.... Reclamation concluded the initial application period for these funds on January 31, 2022. The second application period for extraordinary maintenance funding is planned for October 2022.”

Acting Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner David Palumbo said: “The Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with states and local water districts receiving municipal water and irrigation water from federally-owned projects, is responsible for much of the water infrastructure in the West. These water systems work because of this federal to non-federal partnership, and this funding will help to complete necessary extraordinary maintenance keeping projects viable and partnerships strong.” <https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/>

CONGRESS/WATER RESOURCES **Appropriations/NOAA/S2S**

In April, the WSWC sent letters to Western Senators and Representatives, supporting a FY2023 \$15M increase in NOAA’s Weather Research Program to begin a western pilot project for improving sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) precipitation forecasting. WSWC staff followed up with several virtual and in person meetings and calls with Congressional staff.

A letter of support to the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, and Science, was signed by numerous water management agencies and organizations including: the Association of California Water Agencies; Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies; Bay Planning Coalition; California Special Districts Association; California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum; Central Utah Water Conservancy District; Colorado River Authority of Utah; Family Farm Alliance; Friant Water Authority; Interstate Council on Water Policy; Klamath Water Users Association; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; National Association of Counties; National Water Resources Association; Northern California Water Association; Oregon Water Resources Department; Regional Council of Rural Counties; San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority; Six Agency Committee; Sonoma Water; State Water Project Contractors; Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Turlock Irrigation District; Utah Association of Special Districts; Weber Basin Water Conservancy District; and WSWC.

Appropriations/EPA/Water Data

On April 28, the WSWC sent a letter addressed to the House and Senate leadership supporting a \$15M FY23 appropriation for EPA’s Water Data Sharing Pilot Program authorized under the Infrastructure Investment

and Jobs Act (IIJA) §50213 and included in President Biden’s FY23 EPA budget request.

CONGRESS/WATER RIGHTS **Arizona/Hualapai Water Rights**

On April 28, Senator Krysten Sinema (D-AZ) and Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D-AZ) introduced the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act (S. 4104 and H.R. 7633). Part of the Hualapai Tribe’s water rights were settled and authorized by Congress in 2014 with the Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act (PL 113-223). The bills authorize \$180M for the Hualapai Water Trust Fund Account, and \$5M for the Hualapai Water Settlement Implementation Fund Account. The trust fund is to plan and construct the “Hualapai Water Project, which shall be designed to divert, treat, and convey up to 3,414 [acre-feet per year] of water from the Colorado River in the lower basin [in Arizona], including locations on or directly adjacent to the Hualapai Reservation, for municipal, commercial, and industrial uses on the Hualapai Reservation,” for operations and maintenance, for electrical power facilities to pump water, to update well infrastructure and conveyance systems, and for other purposes. The purpose of the implementation fund is to monitor off-reservation groundwater withdrawals in the Truxton Basin to ensure they do not exceed the estimated 3,000 acre-feet per year.

The bills include various provisions for waiving certain claims against the United States and Arizona, such as “for water rights, including rights to Colorado River water, for Hualapai land, arising from time immemorial and, thereafter, forever.” The bills direct the Secretary of the Interior to reallocate the Tribe’s Central Arizona Project (CAP) water, firming it to the equivalent of CAP M&I priority water. The bills authorize the Tribe to supplement its CAP water, at its expense, by entering into agreements with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the Arizona Water Banking Authority, or other lawful authority under Arizona law. The Tribe is further authorized to enter into contracts or options to lease or exchange its CAP water within the lower basin of Arizona. The Tribe may also lease any Colorado River water entitlement for use or storage within Arizona, and the leased water may be transported through the CAP infrastructure. Groundwater rights may not be leased off-reservation, and may only be used outside the reservation boundaries under an exchange.

MEETINGS

On June 1, the WSWC and the California Department of Water Resources are cosponsoring a workshop on Improving Snowmelt Runoff Forecasting. <https://westernstateswater.org/events/improving-snowmelt-runoff-forecasting/>

The WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL is a government entity of representatives appointed by the Governors of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.