



Western States Water Council Spring (201st) Meetings

Supporting Drought Resilience through State Planning

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BACKGROUND

- Drought impacts multiple sectors of society.
- Drought mitigation needs multiple, if not all, federal agencies.
- Federal funding sources require Planning Documents at the state level:
 - EPA- State Revolving Funds (SRFs) – SRF Intended Use Plans (IUPs)
 - FEMA - State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – State Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Forest Service – State Forest Action Plan
 - Etc....
- State and Local Planning Documents are often siloed and could be better aligned.
- Significant funding is currently available (BIL, IRA, annual appropriations, etc.)
- Direct and Competitive Federal Grant programs:
 - How do states, tribes, local communities, utilities, etc. know which source(s) of funding they should apply for to meet their specific needs?
 - Do federal agencies/staff know which source of funding is most appropriate?
- FEMA is advocating for drought resilience through their programs.



Interagency Coordination for Drought Mitigation

- FEMA Region IX engaged with Nevada to see how the state could use available Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for drought resilience projects.
- FEMA and the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) realized that the state's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) did not have the necessary details related to drought to fund drought projects.
- FEMA Region IX engaged with EPA Region IX and Office of Water to work with Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM), Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR), and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), to build a “team” with expertise to help develop an amendment to the Nevada HMP.



Nevada State Hazard Mitigation Plan Drought Amendment

- Nevada identified their State Water Plan, State Forest Action Plan, and SRF Intended Use Plan as key resources for the HMP amendment.
- Nevada successfully added nearly 20 specific drought mitigation measures in the state's HMP.
- Examples...
 - Drought planning and mitigation
 - Drought monitoring
 - Water system improvements - reuse, etc.
 - Water conservation – outreach and education



Nevada State Hazard Mitigation Plan Drought Amendment

- In 2022, an amendment was made to Table 4-1 and 4-2 identifying drought as a **High-Risk** hazard for the state.
- Table 4-1 Goal 6: Reduce the possibility of damage and losses due to drought.
- Table 4-2 Goal 6: Strategic Actions

Excerpt:

6.D	Encourage water system improvements that increase drought resiliency.
6.E	Assist in identifying funding opportunities for projects associated with increasing water system drought resiliency.



EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Fundable Projects

Drinking Water

- New or redundant source or storage
- Pipes, valves, and meters

Wastewater / Storm water

- Direct and indirect reuse
- Stormwater capture

Jason's examples – Septic to sewer, Las Vegas wash, etc.

NDEP Potential Drought Projects:

- Las Vegas Wash Project
 - Brief Description
- Walker Lake GID Project
 - Brief Description



State Hazard Mitigation Plans

A few takeaways for states updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan, or who would like to do a drought amendment:

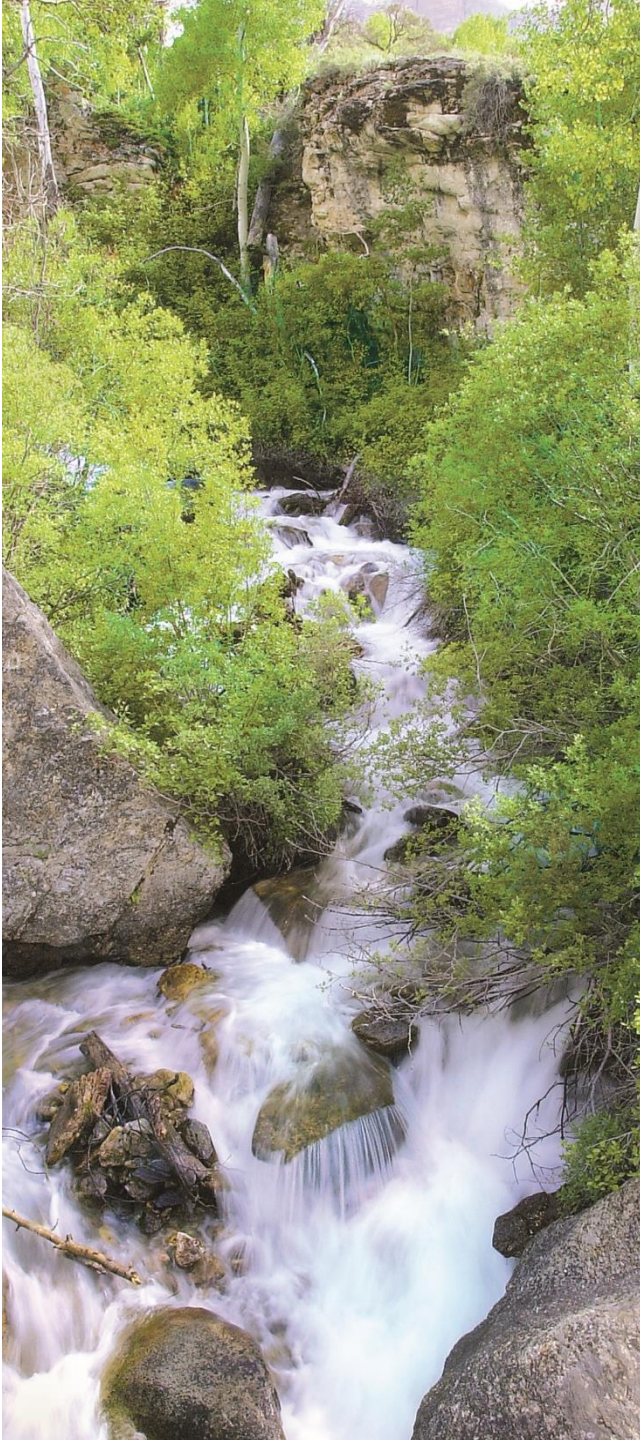
- States should review their HMP to ensure drought mitigation measures are appropriately included in their plan.
- States should work to leverage the expertise within the state and work to leverage and align the state plans with one another e.g., state water plan, state SRF intended use plans, state forest action plan, state HMP, etc.
- States should reach out to federal agencies to enlist support and assistance in engaging other federal agencies and to provide technical assistance.



COLLABORATION THAT WORKS

- ❑ The **Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)** is a collaboration of 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC), the Western Governors Association (and Western Partners in general), and other western water resource partners in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.
- ❑ The **Urban Waters Federal Partnership** reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve our Nation's water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits.
- ❑ The **National Estuary Program (NEP)** is an EPA place-based program to protect and restore the water quality and ecological integrity of estuaries of national significance.

Questions?



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