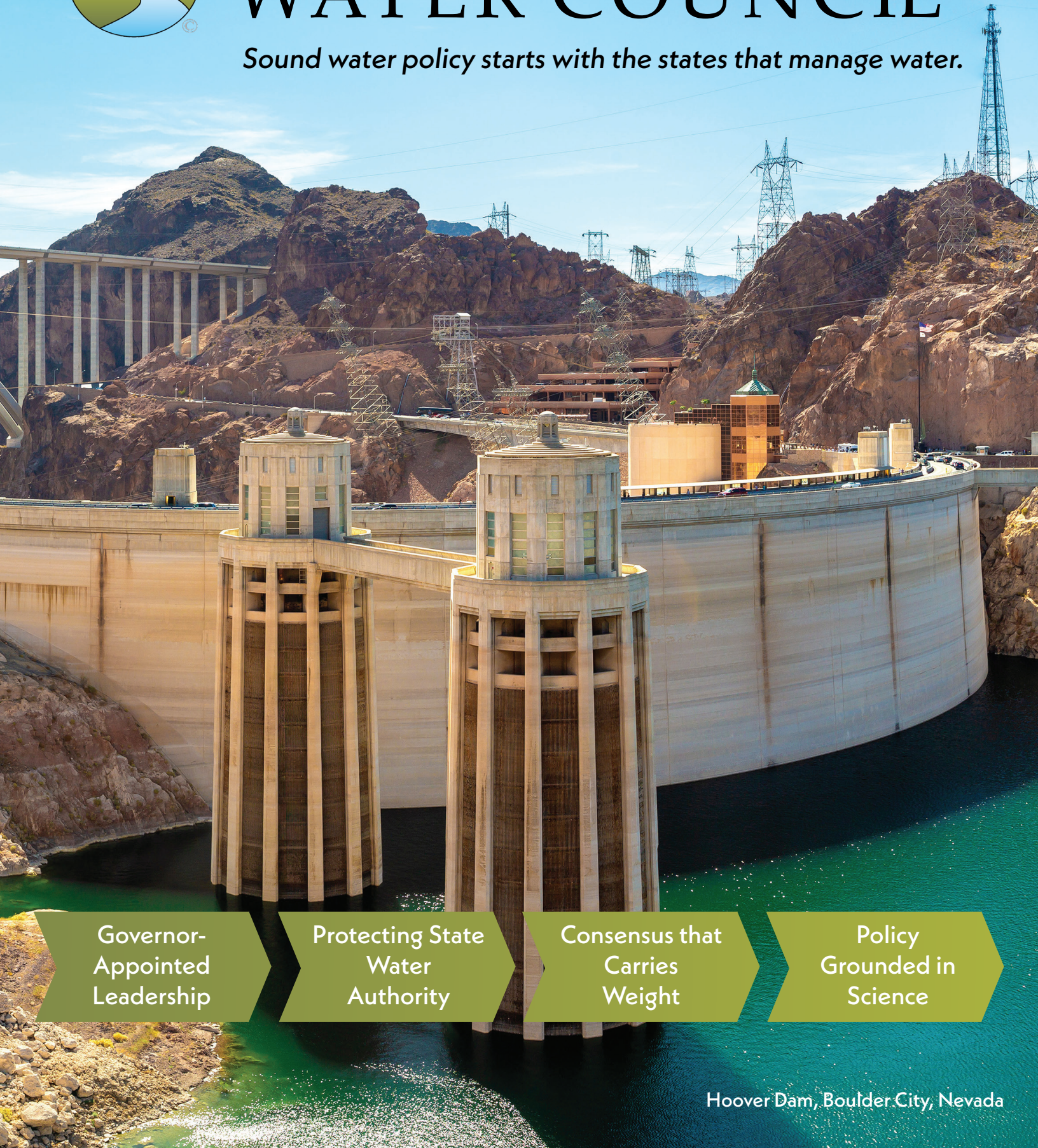




WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

Sound water policy starts with the states that manage water.



Governor-
Appointed
Leadership

Protecting State
Water
Authority

Consensus that
Carries
Weight

Policy
Grounded in
Science

Hoover Dam, Boulder City, Nevada

Our History and Mission

Created by the Western Governors' Conference (now Western Governors' Association) in 1965, the Western States Water Council (WSWC) brings together water leaders from across the West. It protects state authority, advances cooperation, and gives western states a stronger collective voice on water quantity and water quality issues. For policymakers, WSWC offers direct access to governor-appointed members and informed state perspectives that are grounded in real management responsibility.

Water is the lifeblood of the West. Scarcity, scale, and climate extremes demand water policy rooted in western reality and shaped by the states that manage it. Since 1965, that is why WSWC exists.

Convenes States:

- Brings together governor-appointed water leaders to align western priorities and share practical experience.
- Builds durable bipartisan consensus across water quantity, water quality, infrastructure, and resilience challenges.

Shapes Federal Policy:

- Translates western state expertise into positions, letters, testimony, and briefings for Congress and federal agencies.
- Helps ensure federal laws, rules, and funding decisions support rather than hinder state water management.

Advances Practical Solutions:

- Connects states with federal partners, data, and funding tools through WestFAST and related collaboration.
- Supports workable, science-based approaches to drought, flooding, infrastructure, groundwater, and water quality.

Denver, Colorado

"Idaho relies on the Western States Water Council as a trusted resource on interstate water issues, helping ensure our leadership has clear, informed perspectives beyond our borders."

- Mathew Weaver, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources

Working together with Federal Partners for *All Of Us*

In the West, water management is complicated by an increasingly complex overlay of federal laws, regulations, and the reality of abundant federal lands and resources. To navigate this, WSWC works closely with federal agencies to ensure that national policies support, rather than hinder, state water laws and management prerogatives.

WSWC also supports leveraged, collaborative funding partnerships, such as the EPA's State Revolving Funds and the full expenditure of the Reclamation Fund, to cooperatively address water quality challenges and critical aging infrastructure.



**Direct State-
Federal
Collaboration**



**Securing
Vital Water
Data**



**Leveraging
Infrastructure
Funding**

WestFAST: Western States Federal Agency Support Team

WestFAST is a partnership of federal agencies established in 2008 that helps western states navigate federal programs, expertise, and decision-making on water. Working with WSWC, WestFAST connects state water managers with the right federal people earlier, faster, and more effectively.

Federal representatives participate in WSWC meetings and workgroups on priority issues. WestFAST helps states navigate and resolve bottlenecks through coordination, technical support, webinars, and direct problem-solving.

Its greatest value is often the practical work it does between meetings to help states find solutions and move projects forward.

"I find the Council to be a provocative forum to discuss how State water supply and water quality programs should interact. Western perspectives highlight the unique and confounding aspects of managing water quality in ways that defy uniform application of the Clean Water Act."

- Tom Stiles, Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment (Ret.)



Get current policy materials shaped by *western state consensus*.

Scan the QR code or visit westernstateswater.org/policy-briefing/ for the latest updates and policy priorities from the Western States Water Council.

"The Western States Water Council is the preeminent water policy organization in the western U.S. From influential positions on federal rules and legislation to support of Landsat missions intended to acquire important water use information, the Council serves its member states like no other entity."

- Pat Tyrrell, former Wyoming State Engineer

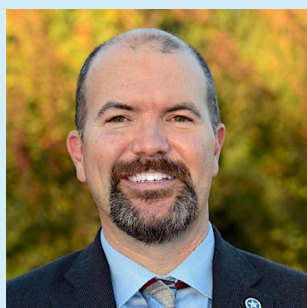


Irrigated Cotton Farm, Arizona

Why the Western States Water Council Matters

Scarcity, scale, and climate extremes demand policy grounded in western reality. Since 1965, WSWC has helped western states work together, protect state authority, and bring practical western experience to federal decision-making.

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