

Western Coalition of Arid States  
WaterReuse Association  
Family Farm Alliance  
National Urban Agriculture Council  
National Water Resources Association  
Association of California Water Agencies  
Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Idaho Water Users Association

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March 16, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear President Bush,

In 1902, Congress saw that the nation's future prosperity depended upon the development of the West. The Reclamation Act of 1902 opened the West to settlement and progress through the construction of irrigation, flood control and hydroelectric facilities that today serve a region with the most productive agricultural lands and fastest growing cities in the nation.

As the Bureau of Reclamation nears its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is an agency without adequate resources to carry out a mission that is more complex and vital than ever before. Aging infrastructure, a rapidly growing population, increasing environmental mandates and recurring drought conditions threaten the communities and economies established around Reclamation projects throughout the West.

Yet, during the past 10 years, the Bureau of Reclamation budget has declined by 36%. Reversing this disturbing trend will require substantial restoration and enhancement of funding. We respectfully request that your fiscal year 2002 budget justification include plans to increase Reclamation project and program funding to \$1 billion annually by 2005.

Currently the Bureau is facing a \$5 billion backlog and potential for up to \$7 billion in new project needs in the next several years. Restoration and enhancement of Reclamation's budget to necessary levels presents a remarkable opportunity to provide solid progress for agricultural, environmental and urban water needs, and head off water shortages in the entire western United States.

As you know, in your home state of Texas, an annual shortfall of 5.5 trillion gallons already threatens agricultural production and economic growth. And as demonstrated by the energy crisis ravaging California, investment in water infrastructure is needed now to prevent a future crisis in water throughout the western U.S.

Mr. President, your leadership on federal water issues is critical to the western United States. Water reclamation has been, and with your help will continue to be, the cornerstone of our communities and economies.

Respectfully,

Douglas Karafa  
President  
Western Coalition of Arid States

G. Wade Miller  
Executive Director  
WateReuse Association

Craig Smith  
Executive Director  
Family Farm Alliance

Roger Waters  
President  
National Urban Agriculture Council

Tom Donnelly  
Executive Vice President  
National Water Resources Association

Stephen K. Hall  
Executive Director  
Association of California Water Agencies

Beverly Bridgewater  
President  
Oregon Water Resources Congress

Norm Semanko  
Director  
Idaho Water Users Association

cc. Honorable Gale Norton  
Honorable Mitch Daniels  
Honorable Kent Conrad  
Honorable Pete Domenici  
Honorable Harry Reid  
Honorable Jim Nussle  
Honorable John Spratt, Jr.  
Honorable Sonny Callahan  
Honorable Pete Visclosky

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### **Profiles of Signatory Organizations**

The **Western Coalition of Arid States** (WESTCAS) consists of 125 Western towns and municipalities, water and wastewater agencies, irrigation districts, Native American nations, and private members united by their concerns related to water and wastewater supply and quality. WESTCAS members are in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho and Texas. ([www.westcas.org](http://www.westcas.org))

The **Water ReUse Association** (WateReuse) is a national organization consisting of 250 public and public and private organizations throughout the U.S. dedicated to increasing the beneficial use of recycled water. ([www.watereuse.org](http://www.watereuse.org))

The **Family Farm Alliance** is a grassroots, non-profit organization of family farmers, irrigation districts and those in related industries concerned about federal water policy issues as they relate to western irrigated agriculture. The Alliance has members in 16 western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. ([www.familyfarmalliance.com](http://www.familyfarmalliance.com))

The **National Water Resources Association** (NWRA) is a nonprofit federation of state organizations whose membership includes rural water districts, municipal water entities, commercial companies and individuals. NWRA is concerned with the appropriate management, conservation, and use of water and land resources on a national scope. NWRA works to balance the needs of people and the environment. ([www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org))

The **National Urban Agriculture Council** (NUAC) is a national association established to meet the challenge of providing sound, scientifically based information on water resource management and conservation practices for the urban landscape as well as strategies that enhance the environment and work to shape future national water policy. ([www.nuac.org](http://www.nuac.org))

The **Association of California Water Agencies** (ACWA) is the largest coalition of public water agencies in the country. ACWA's 438 public agency members are collectively responsible for 90 percent of the water delivered in California. ([www.acwanet.com](http://www.acwanet.com))

The **Oregon Water Resources Congress** (OWRC) is a statewide association representing local government water suppliers. This includes ports, cities, counties, drainage, irrigation, water control and improvement districts, along with associations of water users. ([www.owrc.org](http://www.owrc.org))

The **Idaho Water Users Association** (IUWA) was organized to promote, aid and assist the development, control, conservation, preservation and utilization of the water resources of the State of Idaho and to cooperate with similar organizations in other states. ([www.iwua.org](http://www.iwua.org))