



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

June 19, 2002

Member, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attention: «Staffer»

Dear Representative,

In February of this year, President Bush requested an \$80 million fiscal year 2003 increase for the Bureau of Reclamation over his 2002 request. Members of the Invest in the West coalition appreciate the President's action, but in view of the urgent water needs confronting communities across the west, we are asking the House Appropriations Committee to approve a \$115 million increase over the Bureau's enacted 2002 budget for the 2003 fiscal year.

This funding will help restore the Bureau's budget after 10 successive years of decline. All indications point to 2002 being an exceptionally dry water year throughout the West according to the National Drought Monitor. Water allocations are being reduced accordingly, with the inevitable impacts for agricultural communities, cities, and economies throughout the west.

At the same time, the population growth that increased western states' populations more than 19 percent between 1990 and 2000 shows no sign of letting up. As Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Bennett Raley aptly noted in his testimony to the Subcommittee, "For 100 years Reclamation has contributed to sustained economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in the Western States... In recent years, the public has requested environmental enhancements and more recreational opportunities while municipal and industrial users have demanded more high quality water. Population growth in the west is leading to greater competition for very limited resources." These developments have not come without significant cost.

Trends in the western U.S. emphatically warn of a period of prolonged and acute water shortage, one that cannot be forestalled without an increased commitment to the Bureau of Reclamation.

We hope the Appropriations Committee will respond to this challenge by increasing the Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources budget in 2003 by \$115 million, and moving it to \$1 billion by 2005.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter, and please contact us if we may be of assistance in efforts to adequately fund the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sincerely,

Douglas Karafa, President
Western Coalition of Arid States

Stephen K. Hall, Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

G. Wade Miller, Executive Director
WaterReuse Association

Anita Winkler, Executive Director
Oregon Water Resources Congress

Craig Smith, Executive Director
Family Farm Alliance

Michael Dwyer, Executive Director
Upper Missouri Water Association

Roger Waters, President
National Urban Agriculture Council

Norm Semanko, Executive Director and
General Counsel
Idaho Water Users Association

Tom Donnelly, Executive Vice President
National Water Resources Association