



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 18, 2002

Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Attn: «Staffer»

Dear Senator,

Members of the Invest in the West coalition appreciate the Budget Committee's recent action to increase the Bureau of Reclamation's allocation by \$79 million over the Bush Administration's '03 request. However, in view of the urgent need to reverse a 10-year decline in the agency's budget we are asking that the Appropriations Committee, as it did last year, provide a \$115 million increase to the Bureau of Reclamation in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2003.

As noted during the Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee hearing on the Bureau's FY2003 Budget March 8, 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% 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."

We agree with that assessment of Reclamation's challenge. 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 by \$115 million in fiscal year 2003. 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
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Norm Semanko, Executive Director and
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Tom Donnelly, Executive Vice President
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