



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 3, 2003

Senator Pete Domenici
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative David Hobson
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Domenici and Chairman Hobson:

As you continue the process for the development of the FY04 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we are writing to draw your attention to an issue that has dramatically affected our membership. In the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations bill, the underfinancing grew for the Water and Related Resources Program of the Bureau of Reclamation from the Administration's request of \$37,942,000 to \$80,700,000, which is approximately 10% of the overall \$813,491,000 provided for the account. However, with the Bureau exempting their Operation and Maintenance funding from underfinancing, it effectively makes this an approximate 20% reduction for the water resources program.

As members of the *Invest In the West Coalition*, we have been urging Congress to increase the funding for the Water and Related Resources Program these past couple of years to help address the 36% cut during the decade of the 1990's and to address the \$3 to \$5 billion backlog of projects in the program. While we appreciate the increase that Congress has provided, the application of underfinancing at the level in the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations bill makes it almost a zero sum gain.

As the recently released Department of the Interior *Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West* document states "Water 2025 is intended to focus attention on the reality that explosive population growth in western urban areas, the emerging need for water for environmental and recreational uses, and the national importance of the domestic production of food and fiber by western farmers and ranches is driving major conflicts between these competing uses of water." We agree and believe there is a strong need for the Water and Related

June 3,2003

Page 2

Resources Program of the Bureau of Reclamation to have the financial resources to aid in addressing these issues.

As some Members have recently stated “Adequate funding is crucial to the ability of our communities to meet the water supply challenges of the future...and to meet the growing demands placed on our limited water supplies throughout the West.” Our campaign has requested of your Subcommittees that the Water and Related Resources Program be given a \$150 million increase above the FY04 Administration’s request, in order to help address the water challenges in the West that our members face as they confront these challenges.

Attached to this letter is a chart showing the past twelve year history of underfinancing. Our request is that you maintain the level of underfinancing proposed by the Administration for FY04 of \$40 million, while increasing the Water and Related Resources Program Administration’s request by an additional \$150 million, to help restore funding for the program as a result of this historical high level of underfinancing that occurred in the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.

Thank for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Douglas Karafa, President
Western Coalition of Arid States

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

G. Wade Miller, Executive Director
WateReuse 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