



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2003

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Senate Increases Bureau of Reclamation Budget For Western Water Infrastructure

On July 17, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its version of the FY-2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations, the funding conduit for the Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources (construction) program. The Committee continues to recognize the important role the Bureau plays in Western water infrastructure and provided an additional \$82 million above the Administration's original \$771 million request.

"The Invest in the West Coalition greatly appreciates the increase the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided for the third straight year for this vitally important program," said Invest in the West Coordinator Peter Carlson. "Putting additional funding in the bill for rural water projects as well as for urban areas and new water resource technologies is the balance that we need for water and economic security in this country."

Adding further justification for an overall increase to the Bureau's Water and Related Resources budget, the General Accounting Office recently produced a report titled Freshwater Supply, indicating that state water managers feel the number one Federal action that could help states meet their water resource needs would be "financial assistance to increase storage and distribution capacity."

"If we are to address current water resource conflicts and prevent future crisis we need this continued commitment from Congress to help the West construct the water facilities for the expanding population, drought response and new environmental mandates that we are faced with in the West," said Carlson.

The Invest in the West Coalition represents thousands of water users in the 17 Western states served by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Coalition is seeking to increase the Bureau's Water and Related Resources account to \$1 billion by FY-2005 to address a multibillion backlog of authorized but unfunded water facilities

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