



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Congress Acts to Invest in the West *Funding increase approved for Bureau of Reclamation*

Western water groups today hailed passage of the 2002 Energy and Water Appropriations bill from the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill increases the Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources (construction) account by \$115 million above the administration's 2002 request, which will help the Bureau to address a water infrastructure backlog of several billion dollars in western states.

"This increase is desperately needed to address the strain on western states' infrastructure, and stem a 36 percent decline in the Bureau's budget over the past 10 years," said Peter Carlson, coordinator of the Invest in the West campaign. "States relying on Bureau of Reclamation facilities have seen some of the fastest population growth nationwide, and are long overdue for critical water supply improvements."

The legislation, sent to the House floor by a joint House-Senate conference committee, goes further than the Bush Administration's originally proposed \$648 million Budget for the Water and Related Resources account. The Energy and Water Appropriations conferees rejected underfunding of the Bureau, and instead offered the \$115 million in additional funding in the final conference report approved by the House and Senate on November 1, 2001.

Earlier this year, the Invest in the West Campaign called upon the Secretary of the Interior to provide a plan to increase the Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources Budget to \$1 billion in FY2005 to make up for the Bureau's declining budget over the past 10 years. The House-Senate conference report begins to move the budget in that direction.

"The recognition of Congress during the process should send a message to the Administration that the need is great, the interest is there, and the support for the Bureau's work is solid," said Carlson. "We are heartened by the increase for 2002, and will keep the pressure on for fiscal year 2003 to move the budget up to \$1 billion so that the federal investment can start to catch up with demand."

Members of the Invest in the West campaign represent water providers in 17 fast-growing western states, with communities built around Bureau of Reclamation water facilities.

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**ATTACHMENT
NOVEMBER 8, 2001 PRESS RELEASE**

**DISTRIBUTION BY STATE OF \$115,424,000 INCREASE (ABOVE ADMINISTRATION
FY2002 BUDGET REQUEST) FOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATER AND
RELATED RESOURCES PROGRAM**

RANKING BY AMOUNT

CALIFORNIA	\$	65,340
NEW MEXICO	\$	21,775
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$	19,989
MONTANA	\$	4,350
NEVADA	\$	4,200
COLORADO	\$	4,000
OREGON	\$	3,783
ARIZONA	\$	1,800
NORTH DAKOTA	\$	1,489
UTAH	\$	1,500
TEXAS	\$	700
WASHINGTON	\$	500
HAWAII	\$	300
IDAHO	\$	0
KANSAS	\$	0
NEBRASKA	\$	0
OKLAHOMA	\$	0
WYOMING	\$	0
VARIOUS PROGRAMS	\$	-379
ANTICIPATED DELAYS	\$	-13,923
LOAN PROGRAM	\$	0
TOTAL INCREASE		\$115,424,000