

WESTCAS

2011 Winter Conference

Update on Western States Water Council Initiatives

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Outline

- Overview of the Western States Water Council (WSWC)
- Brief summary of “Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future” and Next Steps
- Summary of Current Efforts
- Overview of Chairman’s Initiatives

Overview of WSWC

- Resource and advisor to 18 Western governors on water policy issues
- Committee structure
 - Executive
 - Management
 - Water Resources
 - Water Quality
 - Legal



Overview of WSWC

- Leadership
 - Weir Labatt, Chairman (Texas)
 - Phil Ward, Vice Chairman (Oregon)
 - Pat Tyrrell, Secy/Treasurer (Wyoming)
 - Tony Willardson, Executive Director
- Chairman Weir Labatt
 - Chairmanship July 2010 – July 2012
 - Long and storied career in public service
 - Former board member, Edwards Aquifer Authority
 - TWDB board member since 2002

2006 Report

- *Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future*
 - Water Policy & Growth
 - Water to Meet Future Demands
 - Water Infrastructure Needs & Strategies for Meeting Them
 - Resolution of Indian Water Rights
 - Climate Change Impacts
 - Protecting Aquatic Species under ESA

2008 Report

- *Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future: Next Steps*
- 3 Priorities:
 - Western States Federal Agency Support Team
 - Incorporate Integrated Water Resources Planning and Assistance as a federal mission
 - Require federal agencies to use state water plans to help determine policy and priorities

Current Efforts

- Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)
- Energy-Water Nexus
- Continued congressional advocacy on policy and funding
- Outreach to federal agencies on data needs, planning, and rulemaking

New/Emerging Initiatives

- Shared Vision
 - Response to federal government creating a national water vision
 - Avoid a unilateral “national” or “federal” vision
 - Need for balance and deference to state primacy
- Water Supply
 - Why is water supply neglected in the public debate?
 - Who speaks up for water supply issues?

More info on WSWC

Western States Water Council

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