



June 17, 2009

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar;

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to distribute the \$135 million provided to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Since enactment of ARRA on February 17, 2009, project sponsors have worked diligently to secure funding under the law's provisions.

Congress funded the Title XVI Program in the ARRA because water recycling projects create jobs and reduce water supply challenges faced by Western states. On March 15, you announced the availability of the funds for this program with a deadline for local governments to submit applications by April 7, 2009; however, Reclamation has yet to release the money. Reclamation's unique project certification process to assure stimulus funds will not be spent on golf courses, casinos, etc. is slowing down the distribution of stimulus funds and is not being emulated by other agencies.

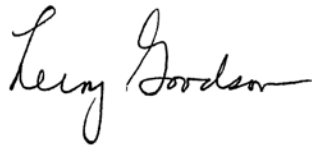
On June 8, Vice President Biden committed to "more dollars out the door, more shovels in the ground and more money into the pockets of workers and families that need it most." There are shovel-ready projects throughout the West that would meet Vice President Biden's goal and could begin construction if they received the go-ahead from Reclamation. The Congressional Research Office estimated these projects will create 2,000 direct and in-direct jobs.

We applaud your continued commitment to the Title XVI program and encourage you to proceed with the distribution of Title XVI's ARRA funds. We look forward to working with you.

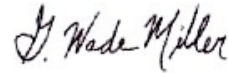
Sincerely,

Timothy Quinn
Executive Director
ACWA

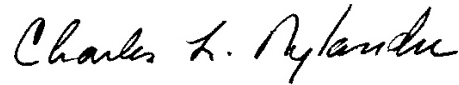
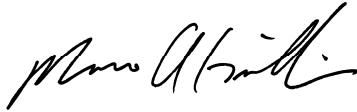
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WESTERN URBAN WATER COALITION



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Patrick J. Natale, P.E.
Executive Director
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