

# The Western Coalition of Arid States

## WESTCAS



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May 1, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

The Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) is extremely grateful that you committed \$135 million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds to the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program. The funding directed to the Title XVI Program will provide much needed financial support for water reuse, reclamation, and desalination projects in the West and will help ease the critical water conditions, which many WESTCAS members are managing on a day-to-day basis.

WESTCAS is a coalition of over 125 water and wastewater districts, cities, and professional organizations focused on water quality and water quantity issues in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, and Texas. Our members are acutely aware of the water quality and water supply challenges the West is currently experiencing and the tremendous difficulties that will exist in the future. WESTCAS is committed to helping address and solve these problems through cooperation, collaboration, and education and believes the Title XVI program is an important tool with proven success.

Some of the existing and future Title XVI projects WESTCAS members are involved include:

- Camino Real Regional Utility Authority, NM – reclamation of groundwater contaminated with arsenic for public drinking water supplies
- Santa Fe, NM - Buckman Direct Diversion Project – conjunctive surface water and groundwater management
- Eastern Municipal Water District, CA – Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project

***The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West***

P. O. Box 77561 Washington, D. C. 20013-7561  
770-424-8111 Fax: 770-424-9468

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- Rancho California Water District, CA - Southern Riverside County Recycled/ Non-Potable Distribution Facilities and Demineralization/Desalination Recycled Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility Project

As you know, the Bureau of Reclamation has estimated the backlog for authorized Title XVI projects at \$655 million. WESTCAS urges the Department of the Interior to consider additional funding for the program should the Department re-allocate funds under the ARRA. There are many Title XVI projects which are ready to go and – if funded – will be able to provide numerous new jobs and will provide additional water supply in communities throughout the West that are experiencing extreme water shortages.

WESTCAS is dedicated to educating decision and policy makers about the unique conditions, challenges, and requirements of water management in the arid West. Please contact us if you or your staff have any questions or would like additional information about our organization and our member states' Title XVI water reclamation projects.

On behalf of all of WESTCAS' members, we thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles L. Nylander".

Charles L. Nylander  
President

CLN/dm

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