

Policy Statement
on
Research and Technology
prepared by
WESTCAS Associates Committee

Objectives

WESTCAS supports a variety of activities dealing with arid West water issues. One of these activities is to promote research and the application of technology in solving problems facing WESTCAS members. Specific goals are to:

- Educate WESTCAS members of new and emerging technologies
- Develop testimony and position statements to support funding for water research
- Support research projects most applicable to arid West needs

The following summarizes specific strategies for advancing research and technology within WESTCAS.

Education

- **Identify Topics of Interest:** Conduct a survey of WESTCAS members to identify the issues of greatest concern that could be solved with technology. Also, identify the technologies that WESTCAS members are most interested in learning more about. Some possible topics of interest may include controlling storm sewer overflows, desalination, brine disposal, reuse, conservation, energy reduction, etc.
- **Presentations at WESTCAS Meetings:** Make presentations at regular WESTCAS meetings. These may include the following:
 - **Associates Spotlight:** Continue to make presentations at most conferences centered on projects Associate Members are involved with (preferably within the state where the conference is being held) that demonstrate the application of technology, methodologies, etc. to address water related issues of concern.
 - **Emerging Technologies:** Periodically hold a half day session on emerging technologies or emerging issues. Presentations would be made by government researchers, university professors, industry representatives or technical consultants to show a range of cutting edge technologies for addressing a variety of issues.
 - **Focused Presentations:** Periodically hold a half day session on all aspects of a specific issue of concern in the state that the conference is being held. For example, at one of the meetings in Albuquerque, there was a session that focused on various aspects of arsenic removal including regulations, technologies, implementation, costs, etc.
 - **Poster Session:** Periodically provide posters at a WESTCAS meeting for attendees to review at their leisure.

Testimony and Position Statement Development

- **Identify Authorizing Legislation:** In conjunction with the legislative committee, identify and review legislation that authorizes applicable water research and technology development.
- **Identify and Track Appropriations:** Identify annual appropriations for research of interest and keep track of changes in the level of funding.
- **Develop Position Statements/Briefing Papers:** For the most critical research needs, prepare position statements which summarize WESTCAS' position on the need for specific research. These position statements may include factors that are driving the need for research, impacts of various technologies, evaluation of funding adequacy, and concrete examples supporting the position of WESTCAS. Specific areas for which position statements will be prepared include:
 - Desalination (salinity management and brine disposal)
 - Climate Change
 - Emerging Contaminants
 - Water and Energy Conservation
- **Prepare Testimony:** Prepare testimony to be given to governmental agencies to support funding of appropriate research and development.

Research Support

Identify Research Needs: Identify the specific research needs of WESTCAS members. This might include such research topics such as phreatophyte control, weather modification, etc. Prepare position statements on the need to support the type of research of most interest and need to WESTCAS members.

Participate in Collaborative Research: Investigate research projects funded by AwwaRF, WERF, or other professional organizations and look for opportunities for WESTCAS members to participate in collaborative research projects involving other agencies.

Support Research Agencies: Continue to look for opportunities to support research on arid West topics of concern, such as the Arid West Water Quality Research Project.