



washington dc update

January 9, 2012

TO: WESTCAS Membership
FROM: Fred B. Hicks and Tom Ray
SUBJECT: Op/Ed By Tim Quinn of ACWA

A Meaningful Quote

"The survey found that three in four voters, 75 percent, are concerned about water. An overwhelming majority, 84 percent, agrees the state has major water problems and must invest in its water infrastructure to ensure reliable water now and in future years."

Tim Quinn, Executive Director, ACWA

WESTCAS is preparing to embark on a major effort to develop and circulate new ideas concerning the funding of water resources infrastructure. We are by no means alone in the endeavor since national groups including the AWWA, AMWA, WEF, and the Clean Water America Alliance are working along the same lines. What will be unique about the WESTCAS approach will be its focus on how the funding issue impacts the Arid West.

The United States is in the grip of a major deficit challenge which will be a reality for years to come. This will require tough choices with regard to future spending priorities. One of these priorities is how to finance the hundreds of billions of dollars that will be needed to upgrade and build new water and wastewater infrastructure. A major concern is whether the public even sees this as an issue, much less something worthy of special consideration.

As such, we thought you would be interested in this op/ed from Tim Quinn of ACWA which appeared in the Friday edition of the Sacramento Bee. Tim reports on the results of a recent survey commissioned by ACWA which offers proof that the public not only understands the importance of water infrastructure but favors, by overwhelming majorities, providing the funding to address this challenge. Tim's remarks are attached or available on-line at [The Bee](#).

ACWA is a member of WESTCAS and Tim and appeared at many conferences. We hope you will read his op/piece carefully.

Thanks,

Fred and Tom

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WESTCAS
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