



# washington dc update



## Congresswoman Napolitano and 1 Million Acre Feet for California

March 18, 2010

### Texas Water Day 2010

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual event, postponed due to the ‘snowmania’ in early February, will take place next week. The Congressional Reception is Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in B340 of the Rayburn HOB. If you are in town, please feel free to join us.

In addition to a large group of Texans, we expect Chairwoman Napolitano as well as Commissioner Connor and USACOE and USGS officials to join us.

Yesterday we sent you information from the Bureau of Reclamation concerning their request for public comments on how to make funding choices under the WaterSmart program. We are excited over this development and believe it merits the closest attention of all WESTCAS members.

The only problem with WaterSmart is that it is woefully underfunded given the breadth of the issue it is supposed to address. In a letter yesterday to Nancy Sutley at the Council on Environmental Quality [[see attached](#)], Congresswoman Grace Napolitano suggests ways that the WaterSmart program can be used to impact water issues in California through the Title XVI program.

Mrs. Napolitano makes three key points in her letter:

- Title XVI is a great government water investment generating a 75% local share for 25% of Federal funding, up to a maximum of \$20,000,000 per project.
- A \$200 million investment in Title XVI just in California each year for the next four years could be expected to yield 1 million acre feet of “new” water.
- Title XVI puts all sorts of people to work including planners, engineers, designers, construction workers, laborers, and construction companies.

Everyone who is working to provide a water future for the arid West owes Congresswoman Grace Napolitano a debt of gratitude for her strong and continuing leadership with regard to the Title XVI issue. Her talking points in favor of WaterSmart and Title XVI can be used by WESTCAS members in all of your states.

### Contact Fred or Tom

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2010

Ms. Nancy Sutley

Council on Environmental Quality

Executive Office of the President

730 Jackson Place, NW

Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Sutley:

Thank you for taking time to talk to me and my staff on March 10. We are convinced of the need to address all California water concerns and, that there is no better time than the present to actively work together on solutions. As we discussed, our priority objective is to work with the Administration to address California's water problems.

We on the Water and Power Subcommittee, stand ready to assist and support this Administration's short and long-term efforts. Our focus for the next 24 to 60 months is simple: stretching existing water, creating new local water supplies, and as a product creating jobs at many levels.

We firmly believe that through Title XVI, along with water conservation, and other water activities we can create jobs. In the many discussions with Members and this Administration, all are in agreement on the need to focus on what can be done in 2010 to get California through the present water restrictions and provide a clear direction for future actions.

We firmly believe that an opportunity exists to address the water issues that will face California over the next 24 to 70 months. We also believe that we can create an **additional 1 million acre-feet of new water** annually and put these supplies on line to fill California's water gap and reduce the stress on pumping water through the Delta. This can be accomplished through two programmatic investments and one management effort as follows: first, a water conservation program that includes education and coordination between the agencies, area farmers and farmer cooperatives.

Secondly, an aggressive effort to develop and utilize the WaterSMART tools available through the Bureau of Reclamation, including using the Water Grants and Title XVI programs. Third, additional physical ties between existing canal systems could be enhanced or developed to improve overall plumbing system capacity, and improve water manager's ability to move water more efficiently between water districts.

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Title XVI program is one specific area which can be utilized to develop water within the next 24 to 70 months. From our long history and analysis of the water problems in California, it is clear that collaboration between the Federal and State governments can create 1 million acre feet of new water annually. This program would immediately invest in California water through several avenues:

- The Title XVI program is one of the best government water investments around. The federal government investment of 25% (maximum of \$20 million) can leverage 75% private investments.
- A \$200 million investment in Title XVI can yield an \$800 million infusion of capital into the California water economy. Based on past experience, a \$200 million dollar investment will lead to at a minimum of 10 new water recycling projects and likely more. If we were to do this annually for the next 4 years, we can reach 1 million acre feet.
- Increasing Title XVI programs will immediately put Californians to work – planners, engineers, designers, construction workers, laborers and construction companies. Additionally, by increasing available water, farmers will continue to provide crops and keep seasonal farm workers employed.

These are great opportunities to address the California water issues and we need your leadership and support. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to develop and implement solid and viable solutions.

Most Sincerely,



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano