



# The Western Coalition of Arid States

## WESTCAS

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March 27, 2019

Hon. Martha McSally, Chair  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy @ Natural Resources  
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Hon. Catherine Cortez Masto, Ranking Member  
Water and Power Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Hon. Jared Huffman, Chair  
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Hon. Tom McClintock, Ranking Member  
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: WESTCAS Support of enactment of the Colorado River Basin  
Drought Contingency Plan

Dear Chairmen McSally and Huffman and Ranking Members Masto and  
McClintock:

On behalf of the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) we wish  
to express our strong support for the Colorado River Basin States  
Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) and we further  
wish to thank your respective subcommittees for the public hearing on  
this issue which you are holding in the Senate on March 27 and the  
House on March 28.

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

*P. O. Box 77561 Washington, D. C. 20013-7561  
770-424-8111 Fax: 770-727-2121*

WESTCAS  
**The Western Coalition of Arid States**  
**W E S T C A S**

WESTCAS was formed in 1992 when water and wastewater service providers joined together to pool their talents and resources in support of the development of water programs and regulations. Our mission is to ensure adequate supplies of high quality water for those living in the arid west while also protecting the environment. The WESTCAS membership is located in the states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

We applaud and salute the Basin States, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, urban and agricultural water districts and the key water contractors for reaching agreement to establish a voluntary program for managing the critically important Colorado River system. WESTCAS urges the Congress to act swiftly to enact the necessary legislation to implement the DCP. Long-term drought conditions have caused a 130-drop in the water level of Lake Mead since the year 2000. If the annual water level reaches an elevation of 1,075 feet, about 15 foot lower than the current water level, an official shortage would be declared that would in turn trigger cuts in water delivered to Arizona and Nevada. A continuing decline in Lake Mead elevation to critical levels would have increasingly severe consequences for all the stakeholders.

WESTCAS believes that the DCP would help to address the challenges associated with drought in the Colorado River Basin. We appreciate your consideration to swiftly enact the DCP legislation. If you have any questions regarding these comments please do not hesitate to contact me at (760)398-2661, extension 2286.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley  
President  
Western Coalition of Arid States

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