



# The Western Coalition of Arid States

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April 16, 2019

The Honorable John Garamendi  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

The Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] wishes to express our appreciation and support for H.R. 1764 that extends the time frame for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits [NPDES] from the current 5 years to 10 years. Thank you for the timely introduction of this important legislation.

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.

WESTCAS member agencies like many of their colleagues in the Arid West and nationally are finding it difficult to complete complex projects that require an NPDES permit within the current 5-year time frame provided. We believe that this challenge will only increase as individual projects are obliged to deal with increasingly difficult design, permit, and construction phases of the effort as well as other issues such as labor agreements, project design and the application of new technology to address future needs.

Our national water resources challenges cannot be effectively addressed unless the length of time for NPDES permits is increased. The 5-year span of current permits is not in synch with the complexity of our water infrastructure. H.R. 1764's provision of an additional 5 years to complete the NPDES process for agencies with a good permitting track record represents a common sense step to address the problem.

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

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

Thank you again for your support and leadership that addresses this important need in Federal water permitting. If you would find it helpful, WESTCAS would be happy to provide you with examples of how our individual member agencies could benefit from your H.R. 1764.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley  
President

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