



The Western Coalition of Arid States

WESTCAS

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April 14, 2020

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur,
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson,
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

We are writing to you on behalf of the Western Coalition of Arid States [WESTCAS] to ask for your consideration to support FY21 funding for important programs in the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

WESTCAS is an organization of water and wastewater service providers who advocate for water resources in the Arid Southwest. We are active in both the legislative and regulatory arenas on water related issues that affect our membership. We seek to raise awareness of the unique character of arid regions that lead to the development of proposed legislation and rulemaking that support water resources.

As you consider the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for FY21, we respectfully request that you continue your long-standing support for important programs of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. We ask that you maintain the following programs at a minimum of their FY20 levels including:

Army Corps of Engineers Investigations
\$151,000,000 FY20 funding
\$102,600,000 FY21 Administration request

Army Corps of Engineers Construction
\$2,681,000,000 FY20 funding
\$2,173,000,000 FY21 Administration request

Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Infrastructure (Construction account)
\$100,000,000 FY20 funding
\$-0- Administration FY21 request

Army Corps of Engineers O&M
\$3,790,000,000 FY20 funding
\$1,996,000,000 FY21 Administration request

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



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Bureau of Reclamation Water & Related Resources
\$1,512,151,000 FY20 funding
\$ 979,000,000 FY21 Administration request

USBR WaterSmart Grants
\$55,000,000 FY20 funding
\$ 7,861,000 FY 21 Administration request

USBR Title XVI
\$63,617,000 FY20 funding
\$ 3,000,000 FY21 Administration request

The above-referenced accounts provide much needed tools for water resources infrastructure including investment and the opportunity to partner with the USACE and the USBR on a wide range of water related issues. This is vital to water agencies in the arid west as they work to address the challenge of providing for water supply at a time of population growth and recurring drought. We believe that the Administration's FY21 request for these programs falls short of the need. A funding level of at least what was provided in FY20 would be a good start as we work to address these growing challenges.

Sincerely,



Steve Bigley
President

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