WESTCAS
2011 Winter Conference

Update on Western States Water Council Initiatives

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Outline

• Overview of the Western States Water Council (WSWC)
• Brief summary of “Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future” and Next Steps
• Summary of Current Efforts
• Overview of Chairman’s Initiatives
Overview of WSWC

- Resource and advisor to 18 Western governors on water policy issues
- Committee structure
  - Executive
  - Management
  - Water Resources
  - Water Quality
  - Legal
Overview of WSWC

• Leadership
  – Weir Labatt, Chairman (Texas)
  – Phil Ward, Vice Chairman (Oregon)
  – Pat Tyrrell, Secy/Treasurer (Wyoming)
  – Tony Willardson, Executive Director

• Chairman Weir Labatt
  – Chairmanship July 2010 – July 2012
  – Long and storied career in public service
  – Former board member, Edwards Aquifer Authority
  – TWDB board member since 2002
2006 Report

- Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future
  - Water Policy & Growth
  - Water to Meet Future Demands
  - Water Infrastructure Needs & Strategies for Meeting Them
  - Resolution of Indian Water Rights
  - Climate Change Impacts
  - Protecting Aquatic Species under ESA
• *Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future:* Next Steps

• 3 Priorities:
  – Western States Federal Agency Support Team
  – Incorporate Integrated Water Resources Planning and Assistance as a federal mission
  – Require federal agencies to use state water plans to help determine policy and priorities
Current Efforts

- Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)
- Energy-Water Nexus
- Continued congressional advocacy on policy and funding
- Outreach to federal agencies on data needs, planning, and rulemaking
New/Emerging Initiatives

• Shared Vision
  – Response to federal government creating a national water vision
  – Avoid a unilateral “national” or “federal” vision
  – Need for balance and deference to state primacy

• Water Supply
  – Why is water supply neglected in the public debate?
  – Who speaks up for water supply issues?
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