

August 21, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar;

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge that you request at least \$1.2 billion in the FY 2011 Presidential budget request for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources account. As part of the 2011 Presidential request, we also urge your support of at least \$100 million for Reclamation's Title XVI Water Recycling program as well as significant funds to address the serious issues of aging water infrastructure and rural water needs throughout the West.

Drought and recession affect all parts of our country, but bring particular hardship for the people of western states. Today, national unemployment rate is 9.3 %, but higher in many drought-stricken states such as California which is currently 11.9 %.

According to a recently released economic impact study prepared, for the Clean Water Council, a \$1 billion investment in water and wastewater infrastructure results in the creation of ~27,000 jobs and a tripling in demand for goods and services. These projects also represent an environmentally sustainable approach to ensure a safe and reliable water supply as communities across the west seek to develop effective responses to climate change effects.

As noted by Reclamation's Commissioner Mike Connor in his July 21, 2009 testimony to the House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, there is a \$600 million unfunded backlog of authorized Title XVI projects. Funding to eliminate this backlog represents a unique opportunity for the Administration to create jobs and provide a near-term solution to water supply challenges facing many Western states.

The infusion of funding that was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the Reclamation program is a valuable step in addressing this backlog, however there is an abundance of remaining water supply and infrastructure needs that can be met in a timely manner by providing adequate FY 2011 funding necessary to address these issues.

In conclusion, we again request your support for at least \$1.2 billion in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources FY 2011 budget to help address western water infrastructure needs, including a \$100 million request for the Title XVI program. We thank you for recognizing that water is the essential resource for our western economy and environment.

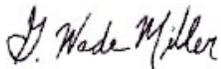
Sincerely,



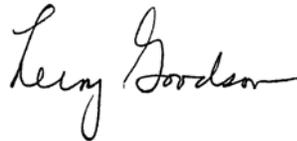
**Timothy Quinn**  
Executive Director  
ACWA



**Hamlet J. "Chips" Barry, III**  
Chairman  
WESTERN URBAN WATER COALITION



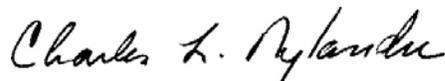
**G. Wade Miller**  
Executive Director  
WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION



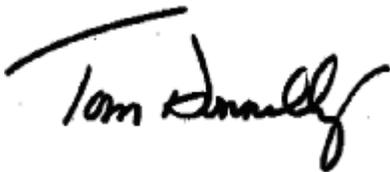
**Leroy Goodson**  
General Manager  
TWCA



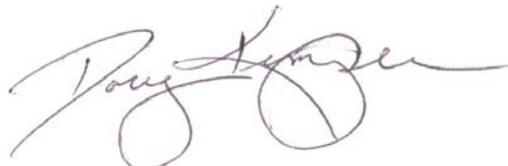
**Peter Carlson**  
Vice Chair of Western Water Programs  
WATER RESOURCES COALITION



**Charles Nylander**  
President  
WESTCAS



**Tom Donnelly**  
Executive Director  
NWRA



**Doug Kemper**  
Executive Director  
Colorado Water Congress

cc: Hon. Michael Connor, Commissioner