



THE STATE OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE IN THE ARID WEST

Kris Polly, Senior Advisor
NWRA

SOME PERSPECTIVE

In the late 1800's, there were 50,000 horses transporting goods and people each day in London, England.

- 11,000 Single-horse Hansom Cabs
- Several thousand 12-horse buses
- Several thousand freight wagons with multiple teams

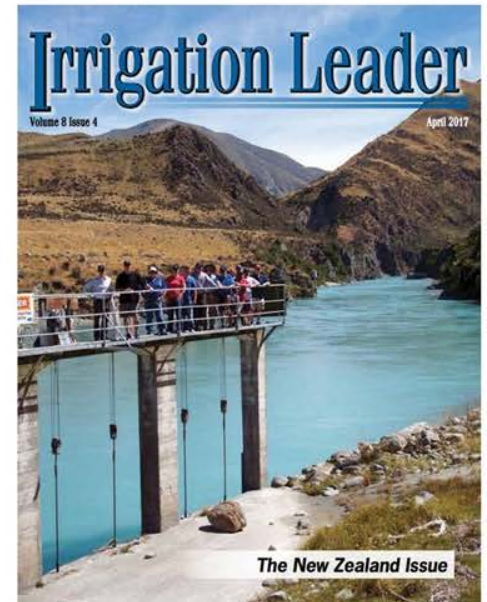
SOME PERSPECTIVE

In 1894, the London Times newspaper predicted,

“In 50 years, every street in London will be buried under nine feet of manure.”

TECHNOLOGY/POLICY

- Irrigation Technology
- Fall Congressional Agenda
- FY18 Budget and Funding
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Infrastructure
- Water Transfer Rule
- Waters of the United States
- NWRA – WESTCAS Partnership Opportunities
- NWRA 86th Annual Conference



**NATIONAL
WATER
RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION**

DRAGONLINE

DRAGON-LINE®



NATIONAL
WATER
RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DRAGONLINE

TOTAL CANAL CONTROL



NATIONAL
WATER
RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUBICON WATER

CONGRESSIONAL AGENDA

- FY 2018 **budget**
- Pass **tax reform** by the end of 2017
- Fix **health insurance** issues
- Another **disaster spending** bill
- Continue **funding the federal government** (Dec. 8th)
- Increase the **debt ceiling** (Dec. 8th)

*There are just **25 legislative days** left.*

FY 2018 FUNDING

- In September, Congress passed a short-term funding bill until December 8.
- The House has passed **all** of its appropriations bills.
- The Senate has only passed a handful out of committee.

FY 2018 FUNDING

- Senate Republicans passed a \$4 trillion budget by a 51-49 vote.
- Includes reconciliation.
- House will vote this week.

Why do we need a budget? **Tax reform**



PHOTO COURTESY OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

NATIONAL
WATER
RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION

BY THE NUMBERS

10 million acres

of farmland irrigated by Reclamation water

140 million acre-feet

water storage capacity

492 dams

maintained by Reclamation

8,116 miles

of irrigation canals for which Reclamation is responsible

RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER NOMINEE: BRENDA BURMAN



BRENDA BURMAN AND IAN LYLE, NWRA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

JULY 20

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a confirmation hearing

AUGUST 3

Senate Energy & Natural Resources passed Burman's nomination out of Committee

TBD

full Senate vote



WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

COMMITTEE'S TAKE...

Focus on Corps projects and implementation of 2014 and 2016 WRDA policies.

NON-WRDA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

Sen. Jeff Flake announced plans for a Western water infrastructure and drought resilience bill

Previous bill included:

- Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act
- Water Supply Permitting Act
- Bureau of Reclamation Project Streamlining Act
- Water Rights Protection Act

HOWEVER...

WRDA may be the only infrastructure legislative vehicle moving.

EPA'S WATER TRANSFER RULE

WHAT THE RULE DOES

Excludes water transfers, into which no outside pollutants have been introduced, from the NPDES permit requirements.

CURRENT STATUS

Rule was challenged in court, NWRA submitted an amicus brief in support of rule.

January 18, 2017 the Second Circuit Court of Appeals found that an NPDES permit is not required, affirming EPA's Water Transfer Rule and NWRA's view.

September 15, 2017 New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Washington and the Canadian province of Manitoba filed a petition to the Supreme Court arguing that the Rule was unlawful and violated the CWA's mission to keep pollution out of waterways.

POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Western water users and NWRA are working with several Congressional members on codifying the Water Transfer Rule.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

SUPREME COURT ACTION

October 11, 2017 - Supreme Court argument on jurisdiction over “Waters of the United States” rule.

- The question before the Court is whether the case should be heard in district courts or courts of appeals.

THE EPA AND THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FORMALLY PROPOSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE “WATERS OF THE U.S.” RULE.

Step 1 recodification of 2008 guidance governing the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act as an interim measure to provide certainty for those affected by the rule.

Step 2 reworking of the rule to actually define “Waters of the United States.” NWRA will submit recommendations by November 28, 2017.

FINANCE PROGRAMS

- WIFIA – Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
- WILA – Water Infrastructure Loan Act
- WINN– Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act
- New Water Act – H.R. 434
- More than 10 years since Regular Order on Appropriations

NWRA-WESTCAS PARTNERSHIPS

Comments on WOTUS

Water Transfer Rule Legislation

Push for Western water
infrastructure financing

Reclamation Commissioner
nomination push

NWRA SENIOR ADVISORS



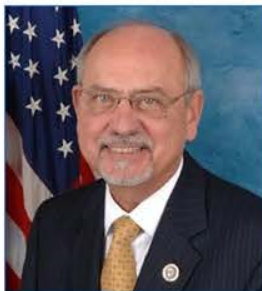
ROBERT JOHNSON

Former Bureau of Reclamation
Commissioner



STEVEN STOCKTON

Former Director of Civil
Works for the Army
Corps of Engineers



DOC HASTINGS

Former Chairman,
House Resources
Commissioner

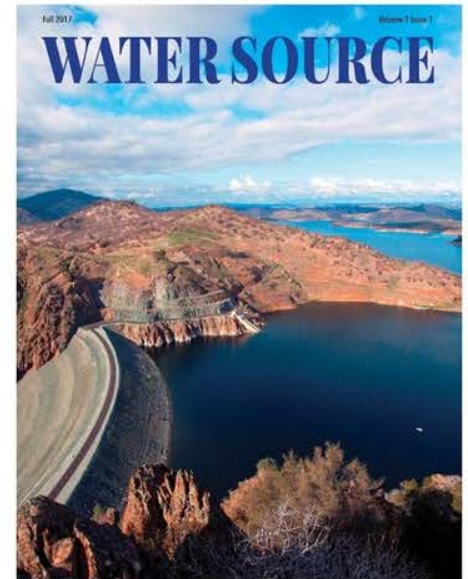
NWRA 86TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



November 15-17, 2017
Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
Tucson, Arizona

Registration increases after October 30th

OUR PUBLICATIONS





THANK YOU

Kris Polly
 Kris.Polly@waterstrategies.com
 (202) 698-6090

 /NWRAWater

 @NWRA_Water

**NATIONAL
 WATER
 RESOURCES
 ASSOCIATION**