



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Web Page: www.westgov.org/wswc

December 2, 2005

Position #273

The Honorable Joshua Bolton
Office of Management and Budget
Room 252 Eisenhower Executive Office Building
Washington D.C. 20503

Dear Director Bolton:

The Western States Water Council would like to urge continued support for the Nonpoint Source Grant program administered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. EPA and OMB have agreed on long-term measurable goals to measure success of the nonpoint source grant program, and at least level funding is needed to accomplish those goals.

The nonpoint source grant program has contributed significantly to water quality improvements in the Western states through support of nonpoint source abatement projects directed at agricultural, silvicultural, abandoned mine land, and urban runoff. Some may suggest dismissing the nonpoint source grant program as being duplicative of Farm Bill programs. However, nonpoint source pollution control is not merely a matter of funding agricultural Best Management Practices, the major thrust of the Farm Bill.

There is no question that the nonpoint source grant program can and does enhance local involvement in traditional implementation projects, which will aid delivery of Farm Bill programs. However, the nonpoint source grant program also provides opportunities to address traditional nonpoint source pollution control needs that are not eligible for traditional Farm Bill funding. The following are among those areas:

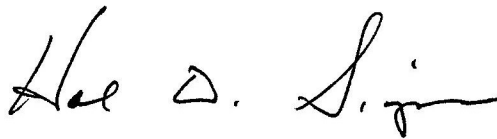
- Watershed coordination, planning and monitoring (e.g., by watershed councils) to effectively target limited resources to subunits most likely to be contributing a majority of the pollutant loads seen in the watershed.
- Technology transfer and demonstration of new and emerging Best Management Practices addressing agricultural pollutants, including those associated with irrigation return flows.
- Implementation of Best Management Practices in urban centers to combat pollution arising from stormwater runoff.
- Implementation of Best Management Practices for construction activities, mining (such as Good Samaritan clean-up sites), and addressing modifications to hydrology and habitats.

- Stream restoration and habitat improvement which restore the biological integrity of surface waters of the nation.
- Developing and implementing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to remedy impaired water quality.
- Increase awareness by individuals and communities on the significance of nonpoint source pollution in water quality problems, and the contribution to water quality improvement stemming from their individual actions.

The three decades of progress made under the Clean Water Act demonstrates the impact of Federal, state, and local investment in controlling point sources. We are now in the era where similar commitments must be made for controlling nonpoint sources. Nonpoint source pollution is the largest remaining contributor to the impairment of the nation's waters. There is no duplication of effort between the nonpoint source grant program and the USDA programs. Both are essential cogs in the Federal strategy to improve water quality in the nation's waters.

Again, we urge continued support and funding in the FY 2007 budget for the nonpoint source grant program at EPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal D. Simpson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hal Simpson
Chairman
Western States Water Council

cc: The Honorable Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Stephen Johnson, Environmental Protection Agency