



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Web Page: www.westgov.org/lwswc

July 11, 2008

Position No. 305
(see also Position No. 266)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Wayne Allard, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies
United States Senate
123 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman and Senator Allard:

As the Chairman of the Western States Water Council, which consists of representatives appointed by the governors of eighteen western states, I am writing on behalf of the Council to express our strong continuing support for the base federal appropriation for the state water resources research institutes program under provisions of the Water Resources Research Act. While this and past Administrations continue to propose elimination of this program, funding water resources research is increasingly important to meeting our present and future water needs.

Members of the Council are familiar with the work of the Water Resources Research Centers and Institutes located in their respective states. Many of these centers have assisted our state water agencies in a number of ways as they seek to address the increasingly complex challenges associated with water management in the West. The challenges are exacerbated by the uncertainty surrounding climate change, population growth, economic and environmental water demands. The Council has been working with the institutes and other academic water research centers to ensure research investments are relevant to our most pressing water problems.

The Water Resources Research Centers and Institutes provide important support to western state water agencies in long-term water planning, policy development, and management. They provide a research infrastructure that utilizes the capabilities of universities in our states to address the water resources challenges we face. Most importantly, their research agenda are determined in consultation with an advisory committee of the respective State officials and stakeholders that allows each state to solve its own problems by methods most appropriate to its own situation. In addition, their outreach and information-transfer activities are very valuable to the water communities in the various western states.

This is a very worthwhile partnership and we respectfully request you and your Subcommittee take the lead in ensuring that appropriations for the state water resources research program be maintained and increased.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garland Erbele".

Garland Erbele, Chairman
Western States Water Council