



# Western States Water

## Addressing Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future

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### **ADMINISTRATION UPDATE**

#### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Earlier this month, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Peter S. Silva as the next Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Water. The White House reports that Silva has "nearly 32 years of experience in the water and wastewater fields" and has served in a number of capacities in the public sector "specializing in water resources policy with extensive experience in U.S.-Mexico border issues." Silva currently serves as a Senior Policy Advisor for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He worked previously as the Vice-Chair of the California Water Resources Control Board, having been appointed by California Governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger. President Clinton also appointed Silva to serve three years on the Board of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, where he also served as General Manager in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. In a press release, Obama lauded Silva's "dedication and intelligence" and said that he would be an "effective and important" addition to "our team as we work to tackle the many challenges our nation faces." Silva would supervise Water Office programs that implement the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act, and provisions under a number of other laws aimed at preventing water pollution and reducing human and environmental risks.

#### **Interior**

On April 10, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Larry EchoHawk as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs. EchoHawk, a member of the Pawnee Nation, is a former Idaho Attorney General, and was the first American Indian in U.S. history to be elected as a state attorney general. He also served as a state legislator in Idaho, as a prosecuting attorney in Bannock County, and as a tribal attorney and special counsel for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho. Currently, EchoHawk is a professor of law at Brigham Young University where he teaches federal Indian law. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including George Washington University's Martin Luther King medal for his contributions to human rights. He also spoke at the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar praised EchoHawk, stating, "Larry EchoHawk has the right leadership abilities, legislative experience and legal expertise to bring about the transformative improvements we all seek for Indian Country. He is a dedicated public servant and an excellent choice for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs." If confirmed, he would lead the Bureau of Indian Affairs, providing services to 1.7 million American Indians and Alaskan natives and managing 66 million acres that the United States holds in trust for the tribes.

Secretary Salazar also named Deanna Archuleta as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science on April 10. She will work under Assistant Secretary nominee Ann Castle if Castle is confirmed (WSW #1820). Archuleta's appointment does not require Senate confirmation. Archuleta will advise and assist the Assistant Secretary who oversees the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey. The Assistant Secretary's office is also responsible for managing and directing programs that support the development and implementation of western water policy. Archuleta currently chairs the board of the Bernalillo County (Albuquerque) Water Utility, which is overseeing the completion of the San Juan Chama Drinking Water Project. The Project is one of the largest water treatment facilities in the nation and provides drinking water to more than 600,000 people. Archuleta also served as the Southwest Regional Director for the Wilderness Society and worked on the Obama-Biden Transition Team. "Deanna has extensive experience and expertise in developing water policy and public-private partnerships," said Secretary Salazar in a press release. "She understands western water issues, is a dedicated and energetic professional with strong team-building skills and will be a valuable member of our water and science leadership here at Interior."

### **WATER RESOURCES**

#### **Stimulus/Infrastructure/Interior/Reclamation**

On April 15, Secretary Ken Salazar of the Department of the Interior and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) held a press conference in which they announced that the Bureau of Reclamation will invest \$1B under the Stimulus package "to create jobs and get the economy moving again." "President Obama and this Department have ambitious goals to build America's new energy future, to protect and restore

our treasured landscapes....” said Secretary Salazar.” “These Bureau of Reclamation projects will help us fulfill these goals while helping American families and their communities prosper again.”

According to a Reclamation media packet, the majority of the \$1B in Stimulus funds will be expended by the end of 2010, and “nearly all funds will be spent by the end of 2011.” About \$451M will go towards meeting future water supply needs, including \$135M for projects “providing for the reclamation and reuse of wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface waters,” and \$200M for the “construction of rural water projects with an emphasis on water intakes and water treatment plants.” Another \$164.6M will be allocated for infrastructure reliability and safety projects, including \$10M to inspect canals in urban areas using aerial and onsite procedures, and \$130M for “high priority infrastructure repair and replacement projects across many Reclamation facilities across the West.” With respect to environmental and ecosystem restoration projects, Reclamation will spend a total of \$236.3M on projects in California, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, and Oregon. Similarly, \$13.5M will go towards a green office building in Nevada, while \$40M will fund “competitively selected grants” as part of Reclamation’s Water Conservation Initiative - formerly known as the Challenge Grant Program for water marketing and efficiency grants. An addition \$40M will go towards emergency drought relief projects. In total, Interior will manage \$3B in investments as part of the Stimulus.

## California

California will receive \$260M of the \$1B in Reclamation Stimulus funds, and an additional \$135M will be available for grants for water reuse and recycling projects. In total, Secretary Salazar has announced over 30 Reclamation water infrastructure projects in California. These include: (1) \$40M for “immediate emergency drought relief in the West, focused on California,” and include the installation of ground water wells to boost water supplies to agricultural and urban contractors, water transfers, and the installation of rock barriers in the Sacramento Delta to meet water quality standards during low flows; (2) \$109.8M to build a screened pumping plant at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam to protect fish populations while “delivering water to agricultural users irrigating approximately 150,000 acres;” (3) \$22.3M to address dam safety concerns at Folsom Dam near Sacramento; (4) \$8.5M to repair water-related infrastructure at Folsom Dam; (5) \$20M for the Contra Costa Canal to protect water supplies for 500,000 people and to build fish screens to restore winter-run Chinook salmon and the Delta smelt; (6) \$4.5M to restore the Trinity River; (7) \$26M for the Battle Creek Salmon/Steelhead Restoration project aimed at helping restore fisheries in northern California; (8) \$4M to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan for conveyance systems to move Central Valley Project

water; (9) \$4M to “broaden scientific knowledge of Klamath River sedimentation for future management decision-making;” and (10) \$20.7M in smaller water infrastructure and related projects across California.

Secretary Salazar explained the need for the funding, saying that it will “...help address both short and long-term water supply challenges the Golden State is facing. From boosting water supplies and improving conservation to improving safety at our dams, these shovel-ready projects will make a real and immediate difference in the lives of farmers, businesses, Native American Tribes, and communities across California.” The press release is available at Interior’s website: <http://www.doi.gov/news/09NewsReleases/041509.html>.

## Central Utah Project

On April 15, Secretary Salazar announced that Interior will invest \$50M from the Stimulus in the Central Utah Project (CUP), which delivers water from the Colorado River Basin to water users in Central Utah. Interior’s Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUPCA) will use \$41M to construct portions of the pipelines as part of the Utah Lake System for conveying an additional 60,000 acre-feet of water to Utah and Salt Lake Counties. An additional \$9M will be used to construct a Ute Tribal fish hatchery and other fish and wildlife projects. “This investment in the [CUP] will help stimulate the local economy, protect and restore the environment, and support our commitment to Native Americans and rural communities,” said Secretary Salazar in an Interior press release.

## PEOPLE

Last month, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer (R) named **Ben Grumbles** as the next Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) effective June 22. Ben is the former Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Water. He has an extensive background in water policy. Governor Brewer praised Ben as “an internationally renowned” water expert, and said that she is “thrilled” to have secured his services. The WSWC has enjoyed working with Ben in the past as Assistant Administrator and looks forward to doing so in the future in his new capacity.

In related news, WSWC Water Quality Committee Chair **Joan Card** of Arizona will resign as the Director of Arizona’s Water Quality Division with the ADEQ effective April 24. “Leaving my position...truly is bittersweet and my decision to do so was not an easy one,” said Joan in an email to friends and colleagues. “I look forward to spending more time with my family and eventually moving on to the next phase of my career....” Ben also praised Joan in an email for her “exemplary” service and said, “we will all miss her very much.” The WSWC wishes Joan the best in her new endeavors.