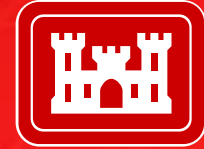




US Army Corps of Engineers



Building Strong Partnerships for Collaborative Integrated Water Resource Management

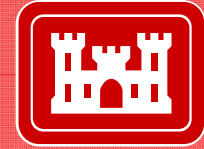
**Ada L. Benavides
Civil Works Directorate**

October 14-17, 2008

Western States Water Council Briefing



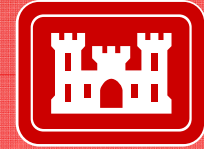
Something About Me



- **Native from Honduras, came to USA in 1981 - New Orleans, LA**
- **Education**
 - **B.A., Education**
 - **B.S., Civil Engineering**
 - **M.S., Civil Engineering**
 - **M.S., Engineering Management**
 - **PMP - Certified Project Management Professional for 8 yrs**
- **Worked as civil engineer in New Orleans District – 14 yrs**
- **Moved to HQ,USACE to be the Civil Works Operations and Maintenance Program Manager and for all the strategic planning activities – 2004-2008**
- **Deputy Chief for Civil Works, South Pacific Division RIT – Dec 2006-2008**
- **SPD manages 21% of the nation’s infrastructure**
- **Director of Civil Works – Appointment to manage special projects**



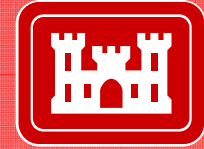
Our Vision for This Project



Provide appropriate Federal leadership to help states and regions tackle America's water problems through collaborative planning, a robust support toolbox and an integrated Water Resources Management framework



The Team



- **Executive Oversight**
 - **Steven L. Stockton, Director of Civil Works**
 - **Robert Pietrowsky, Director, Institute for Water Resources**

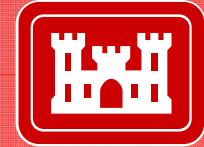
- **Regional Business Centers at Corps Division level**

- **States, Regional Entities, Federal Agencies and NGOs**

- **Study Team**
 - **Ms. Ada Benavides – HQUSACE (Project Manager/Co-Technical Leader)**
 - **Dr. Joe Manous – IWR (Co-Technical leader)**
 - **Mr. Darrell Nolton – IWR (Contracting support)**
 - **CDM – Contractor Support**
 - **Ms. Eva Opitz (Project Manager)**
 - **Dr. Donna Ayres (Principal Investigator)**
 - **Dr. Timothy Feather (Principal Investigator)**
 - **Other CDM research specialists and analysts**



Drivers



The World Has Changed...

**Population
Migration**

**Global
Warming**

**Water Conflicts
Between States**

Climate Change

**Growing State
Water Resources
Capabilities**

**Aging
Infrastructure**

**Growing Backlog
CG, O&M**

Droughts

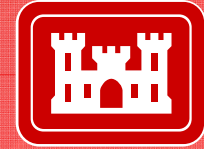
**Sedimentation
a Bigger Issue**

**Declining
Discretionary
Funding**

**Disappearing
Wetlands
& Coasts**



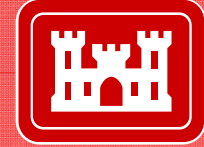
What Drives this Initiative...



- **21st Century Challenges:**
 - **Growing concern about reliability of water infrastructure**
 - **Discretionary funding is declining while entitlement programs are growing**
 - **Intractable water conflicts between states**
 - **Need to leverage resources in a budget-constrained era**
 - **Desire buy-in to identify national and regional priorities collectively**
 - **Belief in power of shared visioning approach for more collaborative and integrated solutions**
 - **Desire for “national will” to support sustainable water solutions**



Looking Into the Future...

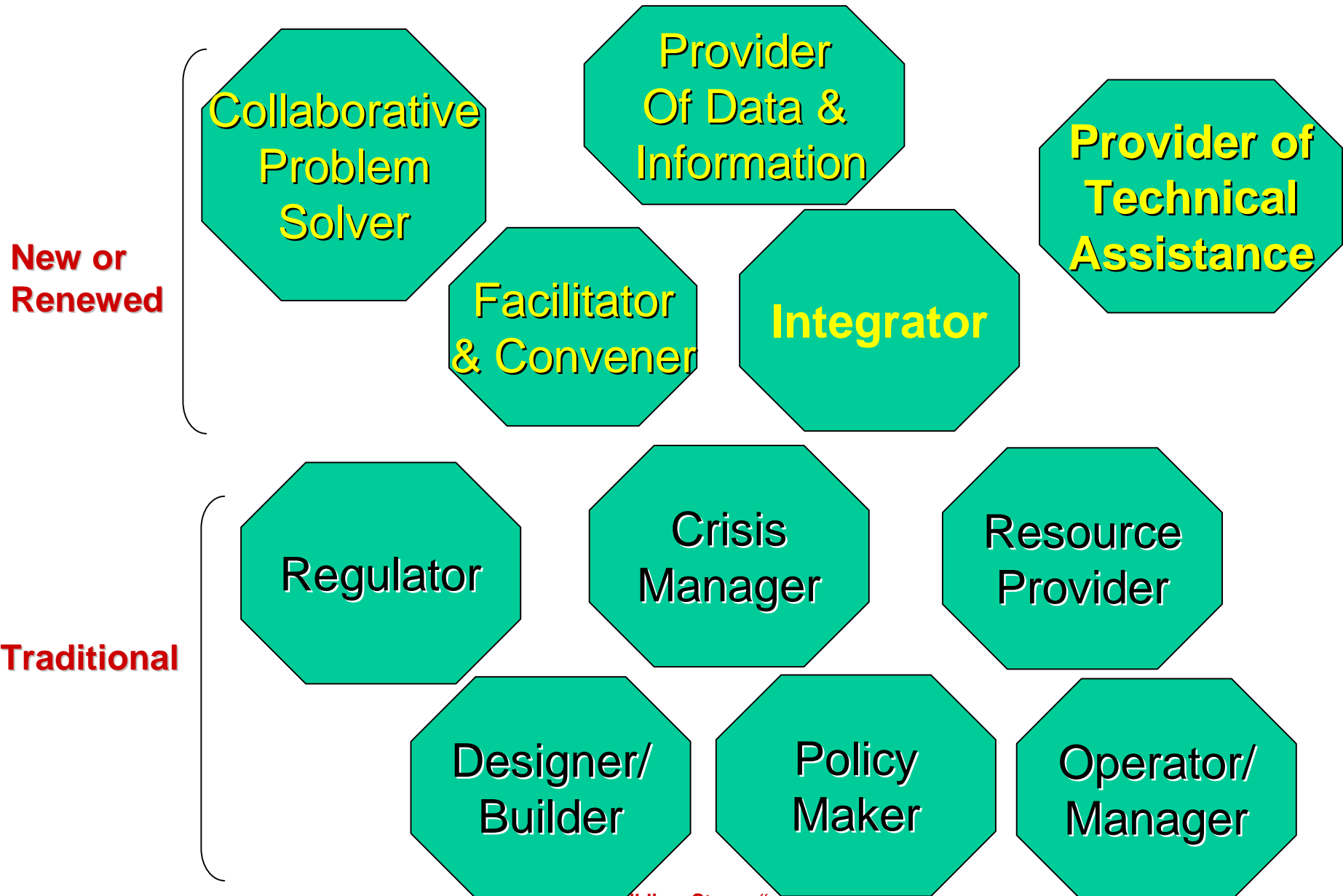
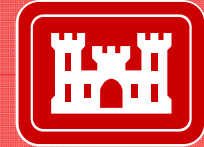


➤ **Goals:**

- **Listen to state-driven objective analysis of regional water resources vision and plans**
- **Promote national discussion of Federal roles and funding priorities for water**
- **Identify appropriate opportunities for inter-governmental strategic alliances and partnerships**
- **Collectively leverage authorities/resources**
- **Reduce overlap of Federal efforts and identify gaps**

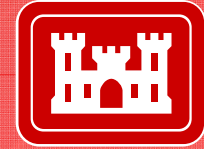


An Enhanced Role for the Corps





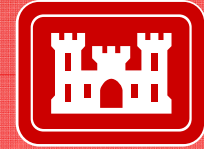
Desired Outcomes



- **Summarize and understand 50 state water visions**
- **Achieve collaborative participation in assessment and findings**
- **Identify and report unmet state and regional water needs**
- **Identify areas for more integrated and comprehensive planning and management within and across states**
- **Build stronger partnerships among states, regional groups, Federal agencies, and NGOs for comprehensive and integrated planning**
- **Identify needs, challenges and opportunities for joint Federal collaboration in support of state and regional water needs**
- **Identify ways to reduce duplication of efforts by Federal agencies for better use of Federal funds**
- **Educate and communicate the importance of a national strategy and funding to address key water needs**



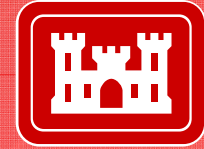
Our Approach



- **A contractor-supported study to get smart about what states say are their important water needs**
- **Analyze and summarize the data to reveal state and regional needs, challenges, regional trends, gaps, and priorities**
- **Produce 3 regional reports reflecting regional needs and priorities and discuss the results collaboratively**
- **Produce a national report synthesizing regional and national trends and priorities and discuss the results collaboratively**
- **Recommend strategies for addressing high-priority state and regional needs in the context of a national water dialogue**
- ***Heighten visibility of integrated water resources management to promote comprehensive national and regional water policy and targeted funding for sustainable solutions***



Key Events and Milestones



States and Regional

➤ Eastern Region

- *Summary reports and follow-up interviews – Dec 08*
- *Regional trend analysis report – Jan 09*
- *Regional conference – Feb 09*

➤ Western Region

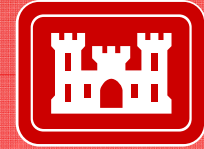
- *Summary reports and follow-up interviews – Jan 09*
- *Regional trend analysis report – Mar 09*
- *Regional conference – Apr 09*

➤ Central Region

- *Summary reports and follow-up interviews – Jan 09*
- *Regional trend analysis report – Apr 09*
- *Regional conference – Jun 09*



Key Events and Milestones



Federal

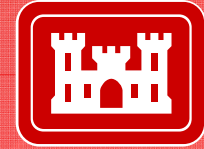
- **Federal Agencies Assessment (FEMA, BoRec, USGS, NOAA, EPA, FWL, NRCS, USDA, BLM, TNC, etc.)**
 - *Draft Summary report – Dec 08*
 - *Interviews – Nov/Dec 08*
 - *Final Summary report – Dec 08*

- **National Conference (DC area)**
 - **National Conference – Jul 09**
 - *Draft comprehensive report - Jul 09*
 - *Final report Nov 09*

- **Speak at conferences such as this**



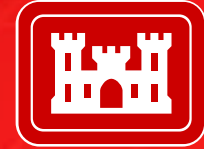
The Future



A Picture of the Future

- **Stronger partnerships for collaborative water resources planning and problem solving**
- **Smarter regional planning**
- **Comprehensive strategy to inform and educate about water needs**
- **Advocacy for critical national water needs**
- **Shared water visions and goals**
- **Life-cycle water infrastructure approach**
- **Risk-based management**
- **Resilient water infrastructure**

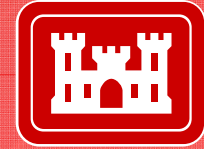




Questions ?



On the 3x5 Card



- **Identify your state or agency or organization**
- **Side 1: List 3 critical water resources challenges you face – beyond funding**
- **Side 2: List the name of the best person for us to talk to about your water needs**