



washington dc update

California Water Woes

September 15, 2009

RECENT NEWS:

DOI and Climate Change Order

Yesterday, Secretary Salazar issued Order No. 3289 to address climate change and "...establish a Department-wide approach...to increase understanding...and to coordinate effective response to its impacts..." The Order establishes a *Climate Change Response Council* to carry-out these objectives.

HRA will provide more details and reactions to the Order in future Updates. A copy of the Order is attached.

We have attached two important pieces of correspondence that all WESTCAS members should read. The first is a September 3rd letter from Secretary of the Interior Salazar and Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke to Governor Schwarzenegger which essentially denies the assertion that California's water woes can be attributed to scientific conclusions reached by Federal agencies which in turn have led to decreased water deliveries, particularly in areas like the Central Valley. The lack of irrigation water in the Central Valley has resulted in unemployment levels which have not been seen since the Great Depression.

The second attachment is an invitation to attend a three hour forum that will include Secretary Salazar and other top officials of the Department of Interior as well as senior California water resource officials. The intent of the discussion is to try and identify ways in which the Federal Government and stakeholders in California can work more closely together to address water challenges.

The meeting has been scheduled for September 30th and we will be in attendance representing WESTCAS.

There is no shortage of ideas and suggestions for what needs to be done, including investing in new water infrastructure in the form of Title 16 water reuse and other opportunities.

The September 3rd letter from the Departments of Interior and Commerce was not well received by many in the California water community. There will be an opportunity to talk this matter out on September 30th.

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