

The Western Coalition of Arid States

WESTCAS

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Contact: Peter Carlson (202) 966-2190
Charlie Nylander (505) 470-7230

WESTCAS ASKS THAT ARID WEST WATER ISSUES BE CONSIDERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION

Charlie Nylander, the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) Water Infrastructure Financing Subcommittee Chair, called for the recognition of arid West water and wastewater issues when the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee develops' legislation for Clean Water Act related infrastructure financing. "There are a number of factors applicable to the arid West that should be considered regarding financing water infrastructure" Nylander noted in a statement provided to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment at their January 19th, 2007 hearing on "The Need for Renewed Investment in Clean Water Infrastructure".

The Committee needs to consider "the rapid population growth in the arid West, the increasing demand for water, the age of the existing infrastructure, the need for more sophisticated and expensive treatment processes and the demographics of the arid West population" Nylander stated. "It is also important to have water quality research needs considered so appropriate water quality criteria are developed for our part of the country" he added.

"We strongly encourage this Committee to move forward with the development of a Clean Water Trust Fund given the ongoing shortfalls in the SRF's and the funding gap that has been identified by the EPA, the GAO and the Water Infrastructure Network" Nylander stated. "We look forward to working with our partners in the water community, the states and Congress on a funding solution that renews this country's Clean Water Infrastructure and ensures protection of public health and the environment for the future" Nylander concluded.

WESTCAS is a coalition of approximately 125 water and wastewater agencies, cities and towns, and professional associates focused on water quality and quantity issues in the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Texas.

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The Voice of Water Quality in the Arid West

5335 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Suite 440 • Washington, DC 20015-2052
(202) 966-2190 • Fax: (202) 966-2191