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What They Are Saying | Trump Administration Announces Completion of Actions Under the Western Water PM

Contact: (Andrea.N.Woods@ceq.eop.gov)

Yesterday, the White House Council on Environmental Quality joined the Departments of the Interior, Commerce, Energy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in announcing the completion of all actions directed by the [October 2018 Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West](#) (Western Water PM). Under President Trump's directive, agencies efficiently coordinated to complete the environmental reviews of major water infrastructure projects in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, to meet the needs of agricultural communities and other water users within the region. The actions in the Western Water PM, which were completed in under two years, will support reliable water supplies for the American West and promote economic prosperity in the region. For more details, please see our press release [here](#).

Here's what elected officials and stakeholders are saying in response:

Members of Congress

Senate

Senator Jim Risch (ID): "Today's Record of Decision has been years in the making. This comprehensive review of the Columbia River System Operations affirms the critical importance of the four dams of the Lower Snake River to Idaho and the region's energy production, irrigation, flood risk, and economic success while balancing species recovery. I appreciate the Administration's commitment to western water and applaud its dedication to conducting a robust and thorough review on time."

House of Representatives

Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (WY-AL): "I applaud the completion of this critical directive by the Trump Administration, recognizing that the best stewards of our western waters are state and local officials. For decades, burdensome and conflicting regulations have prevented Wyoming communities from building water storage projects that are essential to our economy and our way of life. Instead of granting more authority to unelected Washington bureaucrats, the Administration has streamlined the regulatory process that will empower Wyoming's ranchers, farmers, and small business. I remain committed to working in Congress to

return power to the states and provide them with greater and more reliable regulatory certainty when it comes to managing our precious water resources.”

Ranking Member Greg Walden (OR-02), House Energy and Commerce Committee:

“Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are blessed with a river system that helps us transport goods and that generates 43 percent of our state's electricity. I am pleased that the Trump Administration successfully prioritized the completion of the most recent environmental review guiding operations of the Columbia River System, to protect fish and support clean, renewable energy in our region.”

Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-04), Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus: “As I often say, whisky is for drinking and water is for fighting. I applaud the Trump Administration for their work on prioritizing western water issues for the communities and businesses I represent. There are many opportunities to ease excessive Federal regulations that stand in the way of securing a reliable water supply in the West and this Presidential Memorandum is a great step in that direction. Throughout my time in office I have worked to ensure the communities I represent in Rural Arizona have the water supply they need and I look forward to working with the Trump Administration to continue this work.”

Congressman Andy Biggs (AZ-05), Vice Chairman for Regulatory Reform, Congressional Western Caucus: “I thank the Trump Administration for its efforts in streamlining our western water infrastructure regulatory processes. Since day one, President Trump has taken action to address the needs of the West. Thanks to this action, farmers from across the West will continue to have a reliable supply of water to help grow our economy.”

Congressman Ken Calvert (CA-42): “President Trump has delivered on his promise to support water supply security throughout the West. From successful implementation of the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan to the biological opinions governing Central Valley Project Operations, this Administration has shown we can ensure abundant water supplies while continuing to protect our environment. I applaud these actions and look forward to continuing to work with the Trump Administration on sound water management policies that will secure a reliable and affordable water supply for southern California.”

Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08): “I applaud the Administration’s commitment to improving our water infrastructure. The actions completed under this order will help provide a sustainable and reliable long-term water supply for our western states, particularly for our communities and farmers in California.”

Congressman Russ Fulcher (ID-01): “I applaud President Donald Trump and his Administration for modernizing our permitting process and prioritizing the West’s critical, carbon-free infrastructure. With the release of the Columbia River Power System’s Record of Decision, the science shows, yet again, that our hydropower system is crucial to our way of life in Idaho and the entire West.”

Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Vice Chairman for Agriculture and Chief Business Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “The 2020 water year has been another difficult year for water users throughout California. Since issuing his Presidential Memorandum on Western Water in October 2018, President Trump has continually prioritized regulatory reform and building more water infrastructure - like Sites Reservoir. By supporting our farmers and water users of the Central Valley Project, State Water Project, and Klamath Irrigation Project, the Trump Administration is reinforcing nearly \$50 billion in primarily rural economic activity. I am grateful for the steadfast commitment to maximizing water deliveries and development in the West.”

Congressman Tom McClintock (CA-04), Vice Chairman for Wildlife and Water, Congressional Western Caucus: “This executive action restores the principal objective of our water and power policy: creating an abundance of both. California has not added major water storage facilities since completing the New Melones Dam in 1979, while in the intervening forty years our state’s population has nearly doubled. By establishing reasonable timelines for environmental review, this executive action will ensure we can store more water during wet years for use in dry years. I commend the Trump Administration for its commitment to restoring common sense to our water and power public policy.”

Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice Chairman for Departments of Interior and Energy, Congressional Western Caucus: “Federal water infrastructure makes our way of life possible throughout the West. Central Washington boasts one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country, and our farmers and ranchers would simply not be able to provide food and fiber for the world without a reliable supply of our most precious resource: water. The Presidential Memorandum, which called for the completion of the scientific environmental review for the Columbia River System Operations a year sooner than originally slated, is delivering certainty to not only our agriculture industry, but to the millions of people who rely on the clean and reliable power generated by our hydroelectric dams. I applaud President Trump and his Administration for working collaboratively to support our federal water infrastructure, ensure reliable water supply and delivery, and develop a plan for the future.”

Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Vice Chairman for Infrastructure and Forestry, Congressional Western Caucus: “Safe, reliable water resources are essential, particularly to rural areas needing to irrigate farmland. As the ranking member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, we are working on federal policies that would remove burdensome regulations and allow more efficient use of surface water. This action by the Trump Administration is a huge step forward in giving western communities access to reliable water supplies, and I look forward to continuing to support these efforts in Congress.”

Stakeholders

California Agricultural Irrigation Association, Jane Townsend, Executive Director: “We thank President Trump and his Administration for their vision which resulted in the 2018 Presidential Memorandum, and the dedication of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, NOAA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to implement that vision for the benefit of farmers and communities who rely on federal water. Reducing the regulatory burden on producers by implementing sound, science-based solutions is a tangible result of the cooperative actions of our agencies, and we commend them for their outstanding efforts.”

California Farm Water Coalition, Mike Wade, Executive Director: “For decades, California farmers have had to fight for the water supplies necessary to grow food for the American people. A regulatory maze, based on outdated science, limited water deliveries to farms and important wildlife refuges on the Pacific Flyway, while simultaneously failing to provide adequate ecosystem protections. Recent regulatory updates and investments in our water supply infrastructure now provide more flexibility to the operations of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service. That flexibility helps deliver more water to grow food, provides better protections for threatened and endangered fish, and improves wildlife refuges for migratory birds, waterfowl, and the terrestrial species that depend on them.”

Family Farm Alliance, Dan Keppen, Executive Director: “President Donald Trump in October 2018 signed a presidential memorandum intended to promote reliable water access in the West. That memo kick-started a series of actions intended to reduce regulatory burdens and promote more efficient environmental reviews of Western water infrastructure projects. President Trump’s memo and this Administration’s follow through will benefit Western farmers and ranchers whose livelihoods depend on federal water projects. It’s a practical and assertive change to water management and species recovery that those producers deserve.”

Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority: “The signing of the 2018 Western Water Presidential Memorandum, and the actions and decisions that followed, are evidence that not since the 1950s has there been an Administration so focused, and so determined to address the chronic water challenges that the valley has been facing for decades. Additionally, it cannot be overstated how thankful the Friant Water Authority is for the attention given to the Friant Kern Canal Capacity Correction Project by the President himself, and by those in the Administration.”

Klamath County Board of Commissioners, Derrick DeGroot, Vice Chair: “Rural communities like Klamath County rely on our federal partners to implement common sense driven solutions to water deliveries to our agricultural producers. In 2018 President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to do just that. I am hopeful his decisive action and direction to the Department of the Interior will bring stability to Klamath, something that has been absent for decades.”

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, Federico Barajas, Executive Director:

“Reliable water supplies are the lifeblood of the communities and ecosystems served by the 28 member agencies of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority. The Authority and its members appreciate the constructive partnership with the Department of the Interior, particularly the Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service, which has benefitted south-of-delta water contractors through improved water management and species protection resulting from revised biological opinions for the operations of the Central Valley Project, as well as a focus on the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure facilities, like the Jones Pumping Plant and B.F. Sisk Dam at San Luis Reservoir, that communities and managed wetlands served by our member agencies rely on for their water supplies.”

Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, Jeffrey P. Sutton, General Manager: “On behalf of the seventeen (17) Central Valley Project (CVP) water contractors that comprise the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, I wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Trump Administration for its vision and leadership on the Presidential Memorandum. Likewise, we commend the dedication and talent of the folks at the Department of the Interior, USBR, NOAA, and the USFWS, whose efforts effectuated that vision, resulting in new, updated, science-based Biological Opinions that greatly enhanced the operational flexibility, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the CVP. This effort has greatly enhanced water supply reliability for Sacramento Valley farms, the foundation of our rural agricultural communities.”