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What They Are Saying | President Trump Signs Executive Order on Modernizing America's Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure

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Yesterday, President Trump signed an Executive Order on “Modernizing America’s Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure.” This historic action ensures Federal coordination on water policy is standard practice now and into the future by formally establishing a Water Subcabinet of senior Federal agency officials to facilitate efficient and effective management and modernization of our water supplies and systems while also eliminating duplication between agencies. With this Executive Order, President Trump is demonstrating his bold vision for improving our Federal water infrastructure and prioritizing access to essential water supplies for all Americans. For more details, see a fact sheet [here](#).

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

Members of Congress

Senate

Chairman Martha McSally (AZ), Water and Power Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: “As Chair of the Water and Power Subcommittee, strengthening water security in Arizona and across the West is a top priority for me. I have worked closely with the Trump administration to modernize our water delivery technology so that all Americans have access to safe and affordable water. President Trump’s executive order demonstrates the administration’s commitment to investing in the water infrastructure our farms and cities need for the future.”

House of Representatives

House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23): “President Trump and the Administration have continuously worked to promote commonsense water policy and water infrastructure projects – especially in California through new Federal Biological Opinions and funds to support enlarging Shasta Dam and fixing the Friant Kern Canal – to help Americans across the country have access to safe and clean water. The Water Subcabinet will build upon the President’s progress by exploring ways to best support our most vulnerable communities, improving water storage in agriculturally-rich regions like Kern and Tulare

Counties, and creating new jobs by expanding our water workforce. I am grateful for the President's leadership on this issue and look forward to working with the Water Subcabinet."

Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney (WY-AL): "Today's action by the Trump Administration to modernize water resource management further demonstrates its commitment to putting the needs of America's ranchers, farmers, and families first. For too long the regulatory process for constructing new water infrastructure projects has been a bureaucratic maze including different federal, state, and local agencies. Reducing burdensome red tape will mean greater access to clean water for communities across Wyoming which will lead to more economic growth and jobs in our state."

Ranking Member Rob Bishop (UT-01), House Committee on Natural Resources: "This Administration continues to take critical steps toward promoting water infrastructure projects. This executive order will ensure protection against water shortages, access to clean drinking water, and improve processes of coordination between agencies. I look forward to more expedited solutions to water issues and the cutting of unnecessary red tape."

Ranking Member Sam Graves (MO-06), House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: "Our Nation's water resources and clean water are among our most vital resources, and we must ensure that they are effectively managed for the continued health and safety of our communities, businesses, farmland, and environment. I commend the Administration and the White House Council on Environmental Quality for today's action to enhance Federal agency coordination and integrated planning. Streamlining frequently duplicative regulatory activities and processes will equip our Nation to better utilize and protect the quality and availability of this precious natural resource, and better manage it for improved water supply, drought resiliency, flood control, and navigation."

Ranking Member Ken Calvert (CA-42), Defense Subcommittee, House Committee on Appropriations: "President Trump's executive order lays out a vision for a unified approach to water resources and management policy across the country, focusing on increasing supplies, developing and maintaining infrastructure, and improving water quality. I look forward to working with the Water Subcabinet on developing solutions to enhance water supply reliability for Californians."

Ranking Member Don Young (AK-AL), National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands Subcommittee, House Committee on Natural Resources: "Safe, reliable water infrastructure is vitally important to Alaska, particularly in our Native villages and remote communities. Access to clean water is critical to the health and well-being of families across our state, and this is especially true in light of this pandemic. I am grateful to President Trump for recognizing this great need and taking action on behalf of Alaskans. I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to secure federal water infrastructure investment that will serve our state and country well into the future."

Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (AR-04), Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: “Safe, clean, reliable water supplies are essential to both urban and rural communities across America. As Ranking Member of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, I’ve worked with my congressional colleagues on a variety of bills that would ensure water access for all, but we will always benefit from more engagement, involvement, and coordination. I’m pleased to see President Trump instituting a Water Subcabinet of administration officials who can coordinate with state and local officials, Congress, and each other. I look forward to working with them on water policy.”

Congressman Paul Gosar (AZ-04), Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus: “Water is a necessity for life and nowhere is that truer than in the West. Water infrastructure powers our homes, ensure farmers have water to irrigate their crops, and ensure our communities of enough to drink. This Executive Order ensures that the expertise is in place to bring our water infrastructure into the 21st century by eliminating duplication amongst agencies, creating a national water strategy, and job training for a modern water workforce. I thank President Trump for putting water infrastructure at the forefront of his agenda.”

Congressman Andy Biggs (AZ-05), Vice Chairman for Regulatory Reform, Congressional Western Caucus: “I thank President Trump for his efforts to reform America’s water resource management and water infrastructure. Streamlining water policy will help secure a safe and reliable supply of water for Arizonans. President Trump continues to keep his promises by improving the livelihood of every American.”

Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Vice Chairman for Agriculture and Chief Business Officer, Congressional Western Caucus: “A clean water supply is essential for our agriculture, environment, and economy. The West has struggled to increase and modernize our water storage and infrastructure, consistently being held up by the previous Administration and environmental groups. President Trump has taken bold action by establishing the Water Subcabinet to bring experts and policymakers together to bring much needed attention to improving America’s water management and supply. I’m confident this coordination across the federal government can deliver on the promise of a reliable water supply for America’s increasing needs.”

Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-04), Vice-Chairman for Departments of the Interior and Energy, Congressional Western Caucus: “One of my highest priorities since coming to Congress has been strengthening and modernizing the federal water infrastructure that makes our way of life possible in Central Washington and across the West. The establishment of the Water Subcabinet by President Trump is a monumental step toward meeting the water supply, storage, and infrastructure needs of rural communities across the United States. From continuing to build upon the incredibly collaborative efforts in the Yakima River Basin to fulfilling the federal government’s commitment to the completion of the Columbia Basin Project, I will continue to

work with federal agencies to secure this vital resource for Central Washington. President Trump's Executive Order will go a long way in successfully doing so."

Congressman Paul Cook (CA-08): "I applaud the administration's continued commitment to managing our water resources in an effective and efficient way. Establishing the Water Subcabinet will streamline the management of our water supply, and that is a win for everyone."

Congressman Rick Crawford (AR-01): "I applaud President Trump for taking this bold step to improve Federal water policy. Our farmers, ranchers, and the American people need dependable access to clean water, and the Water Subcabinet will ensure that regulations meet the needs of the Nation."

Congressman Bob Gibbs (OH-07): "As a farmer, I've been on the front lines of the fight to improve our nation's water quality, and I applaud the Trump Administration's work to prioritize clean water access. Whether it's clean drinking water, safe agricultural practices, or responsible management of water infrastructure projects, we are all a part of the effort to maintain one of our most precious natural resources. Like so many responsibilities of the federal government, agency overlap and mission creep often hampers our ability to prevent and respond to water quality problems. The creation of the Water Subcabinet will bring together the necessary agencies and stakeholders to ensure they are all working together in a complimentary and streamlined fashion."

Congressman Roger Marshall (KS-01): "I am committed to ensuring the long-term viability of Kansas farms, ranches and communities and applaud the Administration for prioritizing such an important and impactful issues for current and future generations of Kansans. Water is vital to the prosperity of our state and through increased collaboration of Federal agencies, improved government efficiency and reduced bureaucratic red tape, we can ensure that our nation will have a water policy that allows for continued access to safe and reliable water and water infrastructure."

Congressman Adrian Smith (NE-03): "Reliable water supply administered through sound water infrastructure is essential for Nebraska's farmers, producers, and consumers alike. We saw that first hand with the Gering-Ft. Laramie irrigation tunnel collapse last year, which impacted 100,000 acres of Nebraska farmland. I commend President Trump for establishing a streamlined, dedicated Water Subcabinet to address such a critical issue for Western states."

Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08): "Northern Minnesota has some of the cleanest water in the world due to the strong stewardship of our sportsmen and women and mining communities. However, our work is far from over. Therefore, I applaud President Trump, Secretary Bernhardt, and Administrator Wheeler for building on our success by modernizing America's management of our water resources instead of tying up projects with red tape. In fact, this Administration announced an unprecedented investment into the St. Louis River Estuary and Lake Superior just

last month. I look forward to this Executive Order building on an already strong legacy of water stewardship.”

Congressman Chris Stewart (UT-02): “Water is essential to Utah and the most limiting factor for future growth. Unfortunately, water projects take years and years to permit and complete. Not only are the delays frustrating but they are also expensive. This modernizing of the process will relieve the burden that water projects put on local governments. I applaud this move to make safe and reliable water supplies more secure.”

State Government Officials

Florida

Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection: “The President’s creation of a Water Subcabinet is a major step forward in protecting America’s water resources. I applaud the President for making water a focus of his Administration. In Florida our economy and natural resources depend on the protection of our water supply - just one of the reasons Governor DeSantis has made the environment a top priority for the state.”

Stakeholders

California Agricultural Irrigation Association, Jane Townsend, Executive Director: “President Trump’s Executive Order on 'Modernizing America’s Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure' once again shows evidence of this administration’s bold vision with regard to water policy. Under the leadership of Interior Secretary Bernhardt and EPA Administrator Wheeler, the Water Subcabinet will continue to advance much-needed water conveyance system maintenance and repairs throughout the United States.”

California Farm Bureau Federation, Jamie Johansson, President: “Farmers cannot grow the food and farm products we all consume without water—and in California and much of the West, more must be done to secure adequate, reliable, and cost-effective supplies for farms, cities, and the environment. It’s time for agencies and elected officials at all levels to put aside differences and come together around this critical issue. Our aging water system needs concerted, coordinated work to assure it can provide safe water for drinking and irrigation and a healthy ecosystem.”

Family Farm Alliance, Dan Keppen, Executive Director: “An informal Water Subcabinet has been working together under this Administration for the past several years. We are already seeing improved coordination among the multiple Federal agencies who have jurisdiction over Western water matters. Formally establishing the Water Subcabinet with this executive order should further improve agency coordination and decision-making, necessary components to managing Western water resources and modernizing our aging water infrastructure.”

Friant Water Authority, Jason Phillips, CEO: “Over the past few years, the Water Subcabinet has increased the effectiveness and collaborative support for timely water policy decisions at the top of federal water management agencies. By working closely together and streamlining decision making involving multiple agencies, the formation of the Water Subcabinet has proven to be good public policy.”

Idaho Water Resource Board, Roger Chase, Chairman: “On behalf of the Idaho Water Resource Board, I applaud President Trump’s Executive Order on ‘Modernizing America’s Water Resource Management and Water Infrastructure’. Over the past few years, the Water Subcabinet has proven to be a catalyst in improving federal integration and effectiveness on important water issues, especially here in the West. By codifying the Water Subcabinet, I know Idahoans will benefit from this coordination and collaborative federal policy making on water resource issues for many years to come.”

National Water Resources Association, Christine Arbogast, President: “Water infrastructure is of critical importance to our nation, the economy, and the environment. This order recognizes that importance, and will benefit America's water users by coordinating actions of the numerous federal agencies that are involved in water management by formally establishing the Water Subcabinet. The order reflects the underlying policies of the National Water Resources Association, and recognizes the importance of expanding water supply solutions to meet the needs of this and future generations.”

U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Chuck Chaitovitz, Vice President of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability: “The business community has long supported improved interagency coordination on water policy issues. The U.S. Chamber applauds the administration's leadership in formalizing this effort and looks forward to working together to advance modern, resilient water infrastructure in communities across our nation.”