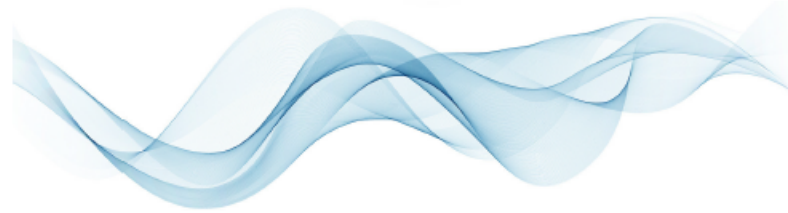




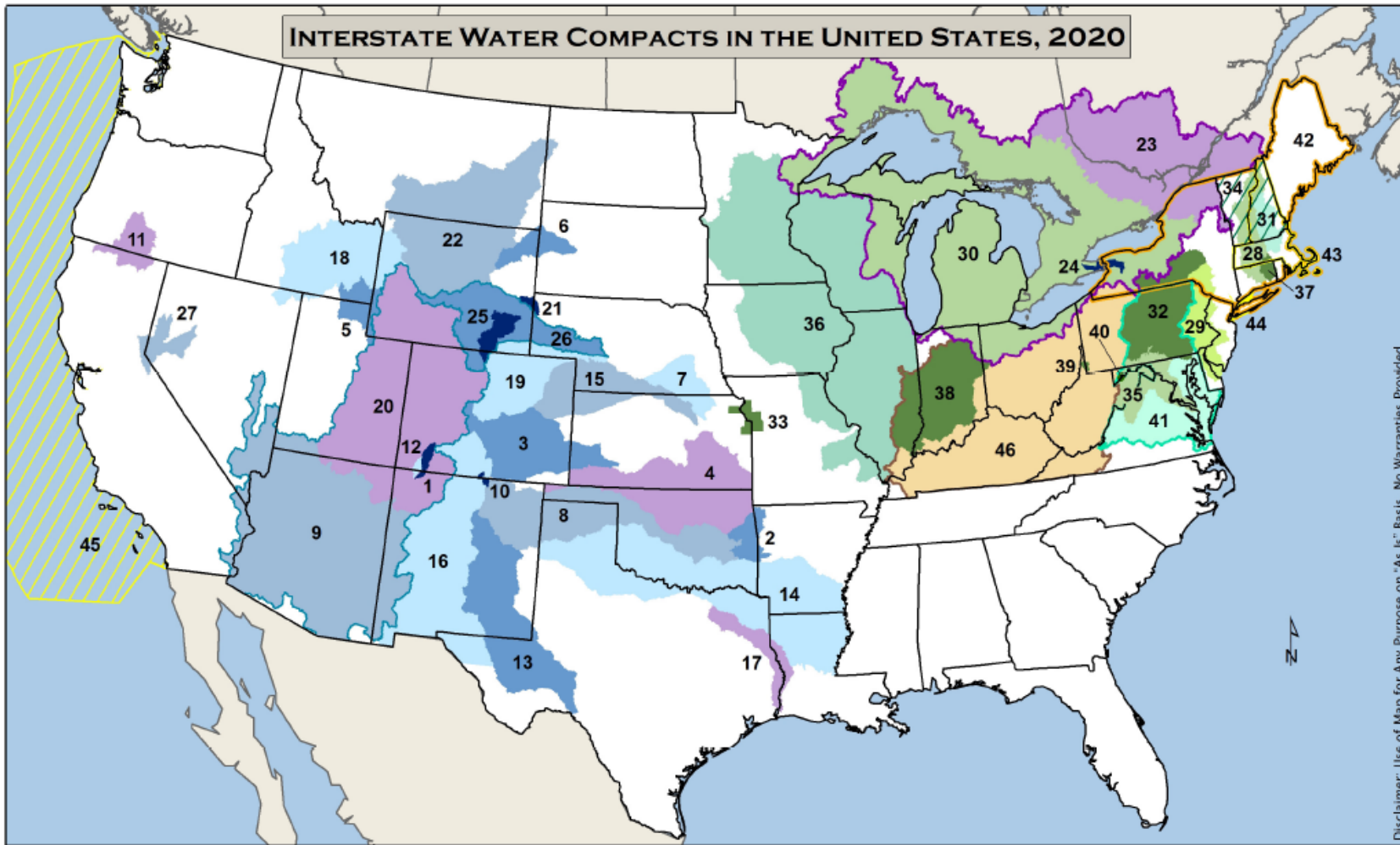
**Interstate Water Solutions:  
Lessons from the Past and  
Recommendations for the Future  
A Look toward 2050**



September 2020

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# INTERSTATE WATER COMPACTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 2020



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| WATER APPORTIONMENT COMPACTS AND SCOTUS DECREES |                      |  | WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD CONTROL                    |                                    |  | WATER POLLUTION CONTROL |  |  |
|---|----------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Animas-La Plata Project                      | 10. Costilla Creek   | 19. South Platte River                     | 28. Connecticut River Valley                         | 37. Thames River                   | 42. New England Interstate             |                         |  |  |
| 2. Arkansas River - AR, OK                      | 11. Klamath River    | 20. Upper Colorado River Basin             | 29. Delaware River Basin                             | 38. Wabash Valley                  | 43. NH-MA Interstate                   |                         |  |  |
| 3. Arkansas River - CO, KS                      | 12. La Plata River   | 21. Upper Niobrara River - WY, NE          | 30. Great Lakes Basin                                | 39. Wheeling Creek                 | 44. Tri-State Sanitation               |                         |  |  |
| 4. Arkansas River - KS, OK                      | 13. Pecos River      | 22. Yellowstone River                      | 31. Merrimack River                                  | 40. Jennings Randolph Lake Project | 45. Pacific Ocean Resources            |                         |  |  |
| 5. Bear River                                   | 14. Red River        | 23. Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin   | 32. Susquehanna River Basin                          | 41. Chesapeake Bay Commission      | 46. Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation |                         |  |  |
| 6. Belle Fourche River                          | 15. Republican River | 24. Niagara River Water Diversion Treaty   | 33. KS-MO Flood Prevention & Control                 |                                    |  |                         |  |  |
| 7. Big Blue River                               | 16. Rio Grande       | 25. Laramie River Decree; Orig. No. 3      | 34. NH-VT Interstate Public Water Supply             |                                    |  |                         |  |  |
| 8. Canadian River                               | 17. Sabine River     | 26. North Platte Decree; Orig. No. 6 & 108 | 35. Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin |                                    |  |                         |  |  |
| 9. Colorado River                               | 18. Snake River      | 27. Truckee River Operating Agreement      | 36. Upper Mississippi River Basin Association        |                                    |  |                         |  |  |

## A PRIMER

# Interstate Water Resource Management Agreements and Organizations

### Introduction

Interstate, watershed-based management organizations have flourished over the past seventy years, and the role of these organizations has evolved considerably. These organizations address problems that transcend political boundaries and functional responsibilities. Water supply crises and disagreements, complex point- and non-point source pollution problems, ecological restoration, public health threats, protection of commercially significant resources, and climate change are among the growing number of cross-boundary challenges that suggest a growing role for interstate organizations with significant third party authority.

At their most basic level, these institutions provide an opportunity to overcome the parochialism and boundaries that can inhibit traditional agencies whose responsibilities are defined by geo-political boundaries and a "stovepipe" approach to the assignment of resource management issues. Whether national policies or priorities are clear or ill-defined for a given issue, watershed and interstate organizations typically follow a collaborative, ecosystem approach that infuses local values and innovative methods, along with additional sources of funding.

A variety of widely divergent forms, functions and authorities have evolved to meet specific needs, including interstate compacts, interstate associations, federal-state partnerships, and federal-interstate compacts. The interstate and watershed organizations in existence today range from low budget, ad hoc arrangements without regulatory authority, to treaty- or legislative-based commissions with large staffs, significant funding, and a range of planning, regulatory and financing authorities. They represent an adaptive means for ensuring cooperative action among the states.

This primer provides an overview of five types of interstate arrangements that are organized according to levels of authority and defined purposes in water resource management between member states:

1. Interstate Compacts: Water Supply
2. Interstate Compacts: Water Quality
3. International Organizations: Interstate Water Resource Issues
4. Interstate Successor Organizations
5. Interstate Organizations: Resource Recovery

