

Statement 2021-02-WP

ICWP Principle Statement on Facilitating Disaster Preparedness and Resiliency in Water Planning

Adopted by the ICWP Board of Directors on November 4, 2021; Sunset/Review December, 2024

Statement of the Issue:

Federal programs which advance preparation and pre-disaster mitigation can be valuable support to the water resources planning activities of ICWP members and possible inclusion in state/interstate water planning efforts. As one of many natural disasters facing water managers, drought should be recognized by federal agencies in same way as other natural disasters such as flooding or hurricanes.

Why Important to ICWP membership:

In most states, the responsibilities for water planning are not in the same agency as state emergency response. ICWP can provide information on the various federal programs related to pre-disaster planning and resiliency to the water planning community, and encourage their coordination with emergency response agencies.

By providing additional funding, technical assistance, and other benefits, states, organizations and communities are encouraged to include pre-disaster mitigation, such as green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions into their water planning program products. The goal is for all communities to be better prepared for natural disasters which can impact water infrastructure, whether from too much or too little water. Lack of sufficient water (drought conditions) should also qualify for pre-disaster planning assistance. Disadvantaged communities should be identified and resiliency efforts prioritized in those areas.

Coordination must occur among the relevant emergency response and water resources agencies to ensure appropriate selection of effective pre-disaster mitigation projects, alignment with existing disaster recovery and post-disaster mitigation efforts, current and future workforce needs and capabilities, and integration with various funding sources.

ICWP Recommended Action/Position:

--ICWP will continue to participate in the Resiliency Coalition facilitated by the US Chamber of Commerce.

--ICWP supports funding for the provisions of the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act, which passed congress in 2020.

--ICWP will continue to alert the membership of funding opportunities and other pertinent aspects of programs such as Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and urge FEMA to provide the full 6% funding for BRIC.

--FEMA and Homeland Security pre-disaster programs should be aware of the Drought/Water Supply programs within the Bureau of Reclamation and assure there is no conflict among these federal programs.

--ICWP will continue to participate in the NIDIS Executive Council to be alerted to new drought prediction tools that can aid ICWP members in their drought preparedness and response.

Final 10/26/21