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Statement 2024-04-WD&S

ICWP Principle Statement on Federal Support of Drought Planning and Resilience Activities

Adopted by the ICWP Board of Directors on January 3rd, 2024; Sunset/Review December, 2026

Statement of the Issue:

ICWP supports the continued authorization and funding for the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS), the U.S. Drought Monitor Map, and as well as federal drought planning and response activities that directly benefit state and regional water management tools, resources, and capabilities.

Why Important to ICWP membership:

ICWP member organizations are involved in various aspects of drought planning and response, including drought monitoring, hydrological and drought impact assessments, support for state or regional drought condition declaration processes, and communicating with water managers stakeholders, and the general public. In addition, there is a growing public acceptance and reliance on the U.S. Drought Monitor as the national standard for drought definition.

Furthermore, there are numerous federal agencies involved in activities that directly impact these drought-related programs and processes. Many of these agency activities and initiatives are detailed in a report by the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) entitled "*Priority Actions Supporting Long-Term Drought Resilience*" that was released in 2019.

According to that report, the NDRP member agencies recognize the authority of the States to manage water resources and therefore emphasize the need to work in partnership with state and regional agencies to help ensure water sustainability and improve drought resiliency through six major goals:

- Goal 1. Data Collection and Integration (*Interoperability rather than necessarily combining systems or databases*)
- Goal 2. Communicating Drought Risk to Critical Infrastructure
- Goal 3. Drought Planning and Capacity Building
- Goal 4. Coordination of Federal Drought Activity
- Goal 5. Market-Based Approaches for Infrastructure and Efficiency
- Goal 6. Innovate Water Use, Efficiency and Technology

ICWP should continue to seek opportunities for input and guidance to help ensure the activities and initiatives discussed under each of these goals are designed and implemented to provide the most effective benefit to ICWP members.

ICWP Recommended Action/Position:

- ICWP will actively seek opportunities to support efforts to provide funding to those programs and initiatives that benefit state and regional capabilities. These efforts will include serving on the NIDIS Executive Council and periodic updates to ICWP members on the status of funding needs and program input opportunities for individual states and organizations.
- ICWP will advocate for Congressional appropriations that: 1) authorize funding to finish NIDIS Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) rollout, 2) fund resources to build out ecological drought research grant opportunities, and 3) support/build out flash drought capabilities including early warning, impact assessment, damage prevention and mitigation.
- ICWP Committees will integrate the coordination and input of specific programs and initiatives into individual committee workplans to help ensure active engagement with appropriate federal agency staff and program managers.