



July 13, 2026

Adam Telle, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Andrea Travnicek, Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, Department of the Interior
Colton Buckley, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA
Jessica Kramer, Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental Protection Agency
Karen St. Germain, Director, Earth Sciences, National Aeronautics & Space Administration
Matt Grosso, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Technology, Department of Energy
Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, & Deputy Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

Dear Members of the Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure
("Water Policy Committee"):

On behalf of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) and the Western States Water Council (WSWC), thank you for participating in the Water Policy Committee (WPC) panel during our Washington, D.C. Roundtable on April 22, 2026. Our members appreciated the candid discussion, the willingness of agency leaders to take questions directly from state, interstate, regional, tribal, and local water managers, and the clear commitment to improved federal coordination on water policy and infrastructure. We were especially encouraged to learn that the WPC is being convened regularly, with support from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Given this important development, our primary request is straightforward: **ICWP and WSWC would welcome an opportunity to engage more directly with the WPC's ongoing work.** That could include periodic participation in WPC discussions, opportunities to observe or brief relevant portions of future meetings, or a defined process for elevating priority agenda topics from state and interstate water managers for the WPC's consideration.

We believe this would be directly aligned with the WPC's charge under section 13 of the FLOODS Act to improve interagency coordination, promote integrated planning for federal investments, strengthen water-related infrastructure resilience, improve water data and forecasting, and support the workforce needed to operate and maintain essential water systems.

With our members facing mounting water management challenges in the face of federal funding and staffing constraints, the need for improved coordination is more urgent than ever. Examples raised during the Roundtable and by our members include:

- Maintaining and modernizing critical water data networks, including USGS streamgages, remote sensing, Landsat continuity, monitoring, modeling, and forecasting tools needed for drought, flood, water supply, and infrastructure decisions;
- Coordinating federal investments in water supply reliability, drought resilience, flood resilience, aging infrastructure, hydropower, water reuse, desalination, drinking water, wastewater, and watershed-scale projects; and
- Addressing federal staffing and capacity constraints that affect program delivery, permitting, technical assistance, cultural resource reviews, engineering support, and field-level implementation.

We are not asking the Committee to create another burdensome process. Rather, **we hope to help make the existing process more useful by providing timely input from state and interstate water managers**, identifying cross-agency challenges before they become more difficult to solve, and helping federal partners understand where coordination, funding, staffing, or policy alignment would produce the greatest benefit. The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) has long served as an important conduit for state-federal communication and problem-solving across the western landscape and could prove a useful liaison here.

We respectfully request a follow-up conversation with the Committee's co-chairs, CEQ staff, or designated agency representatives to discuss how ICWP and WSWC can most effectively provide input to the Committee's work going forward. We would welcome the opportunity to help identify priority agenda topics, share specific examples from our members, and support practical coordination across federal, state, interstate, tribal, regional, and local partners.

Thank you again for your participation in the Roundtable and for your continued work to improve coordination on the nation's most pressing water management challenges.

Sincerely,



Beth Callaway
Executive Director
Interstate Council on Water Policy



J.D. Strong
Executive Director
Western States Water Council

cc: Principal Members of the Water Policy Committee
Western States Federal Agency Support Team