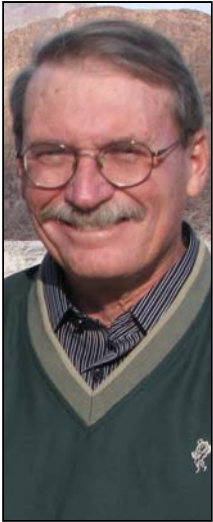


# Monthly Briefing

*A Summary of the Alliance's Recent and Upcoming Activities and Important Water News*



## Climate Change And The West

Debate Heats Up And Will Affect Other Vital  
Policy Questions; Alliance Readies Water Report

*Family Farm Alliance President Patrick O'Toole*

**A**s evidenced by the number of congressional committees focusing on global warming and nearly stifling media coverage on the same topic, it is clear that climate change discussions will provide the forum for many other important policy issues to be addressed in the near future.

"The climate debate will be one where many interests will try to force their agendas," said Patrick O'Toole (WYOMING), President of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance). "Those who have a balanced, practical and effective approach to dealing with climate change impacts will be viewed as reasonable parties."

**THE APPROACH ENDORSED** by O'Toole will be evident in a final climate change report recently completed by the Alliance. That document – entitled "Water Supply in a Changing Climate: The Perspective of Family Farmers and Ranchers in the Irrigated West" – will be publicly released and distributed later this month. The report was prepared by a climate change subcommittee, Advisory Committee members, and water resources experts from around the West. O'Toole recently provided the Alliance perspective on climate change

during a panel discussion hosted by the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) in Monterey (CALIFORNIA).

**'Irrigators and agricultural consultants have identified several impacts to crops and livestock – both good and bad – that climate change may generate in the coming decades'**

—PATRICK O'TOOLE, *Alliance President*

**HE WAS ALSO** invited to testify on this matter before the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in June.

"Irrigators and agricultural consultants have identified several impacts to crops and livestock –

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Alliance's Climate Change Priorities

*(Continued from Page 1)*

both good and bad – that climate change may generate in the coming decades,” said O’Toole.

“Working with farmers has made us incredibly sensitive to the big picture ramifications facing the future of Western agriculture, and the critical role reliable water supplies play in that big picture,” said O’Toole. “We must immediately begin to address the critical challenges we face.”

**THE REPORT** recommends a practical, prioritized approach to addressing these challenges:

- Prioritize research needs and quantify projected West-wide hydrologic impacts.
- Implement a balanced suite of conservation and supply enhancement actions.
- Streamline the regulatory process to facilitate development of new infrastructure.
- Make self-sufficiency in food production a national priority.
- Find ways to protect farmland.

Also on the Monterey panel with O’Toole were federal, state, urban and private sector water interests, including Commissioner of Reclamation Robert Johnson. Barry Nelson, senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) provided an overview of a recent climate change report released by his organization.

**THE NRDC REPORT** is entitled “In Hot Water: Water Management Strategies to Weather the Effects of Global Warming.” Its forward was prepared by Pat Mulroy of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Not surprisingly, NRDC concludes that water use efficiency is the solution, and “old-fashioned dams, diversions and groundwater pumping” are dismissed.

“These recommendations, of course, are the exact opposite of what we think should be done,” said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen.

The NRDC report suggests traditional approaches may perform more poorly in the future.

“Increasingly, traditional dams are no longer realistic or financially feasible solutions,” said Nelson. “The thousands of dams across the West have already captured most of the water. There are

so few rivers left, and the cost of building dams is so high that the result is very expensive water. And global warming is likely to reduce the potential water supplies from new dams even further.”

However, the NRDC report concludes that “global warming may increase the risk of floods,

## What The Alliance Sees As Big Climate Change Water Effects

The Family Farm Alliance’s new report on climate change identifies hydrologic impacts in the form of a “triple threat” that will mean less water to work with and higher water needs in the future. They include:

- Increased evaporation of snowpack and surface water.
- Increased crop evapotranspiration and consumptive use.
- Decreased groundwater recharge and surface runoff.

which means water strategies must include ways to keep people and property out of harm’s way.”

**ROSS BORBA**, who farms near Riverdale (CALIFORNIA) in the San Joaquin Valley, is just one reader of the NRDC report who was struck by these apparently contradictory findings.

“You can’t have it both ways,” says Borba. “Either there’s no more water to be captured behind dams, or there’ll be a lot more water from ‘the risk of floods’ caused by ‘global warming’.”

“Which is it?” he asks.

**THE ALLIANCE HAS BEEN** getting positive attention on its efforts to address climate change impacts. In addition to the Monterey appearance, Keppen will present the Alliance climate change perspective at upcoming conferences of the Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment, the Nevada Water Resources Association, and the California Agricultural Irrigation Association

The president of the Family Farm Alliance has been invited to participate in an upcoming conference on Western water and growth hosted by the Western Governors' Association (WGA).

Patrick O'Toole (WYOMING) will represent irrigated agriculture in the opening panel discussion at the conference, set for October 10-12 in Salt Lake City (UTAH).

**O'TOOLE WILL ADDRESS** the concern many Western rural communities have toward the emphasis placed by some on transferring water currently used by agriculture towards newer water demands.

"For some, the answer is to regard agriculture as 'the reservoir' that will provide all the water necessary to meet urban and environmental needs," said O'Toole. "Water currently used for agriculture can be freed up for other uses by buying out farmers or forcing them to surrender their supplies through regulatory means. Best of all, some will say, this water can be 'developed' without building dams.

"This approach will destroy irrigated agriculture in the West."

**A 2006 WGA WATER** report (downloadable at [www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org).) states, "States and local governments should consider the impacts of continued growth that relies on transfers from agricultural and rural areas, and identify feasible alternatives to those transfers."

The Salt Lake City conference will address this

recommendation, and others associated with growth and water resources planning and management in the West.

O'Toole will join the opening panel at the conference, which will study the role water policy and planning play in dealing with sustainable growth.

**"GIVEN THE POPULATION GROWTH** trends for the West, this panel will discuss their perspectives on what role water resources allocation, management and protection policies and

planning should play in dealing with growth for a sustainable future," said Craig Bell.

Bell is Executive Director of the Western States Water Council (WSWC), an organization that sees itself as being accountable to the WGA.

"We think this will be a productive and interesting exercise in furtherance of the WGA recommendations in their water report," said Bell.

"Craig Bell and the folks at the Western States Water Council have been great to work with," said Alliance executive director Dan Keppen. "The Salt Lake agenda is shaping up to be a fantastic program."

This meeting will have the attention of the governors, and Utah Governor Huntsman will deliver the opening keynote address. For more information and to see a brochure on this important conference, please go on line and visit: <http://www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/water07.pdf>

## Alliance's President to Represent Irrigated Ag At Governors' Conference

# Saluting And Thanking The Alliance's Members

## RECENT DONOR SUPPORT

July 4-August 9

<b>Champion</b> <i>(\$5,000 or more)</i>	San Luis Water District
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### **Advocate** *(\$1,000 - \$5,000)*

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## Join the Family Farm Alliance...

Your membership will allow the Alliance to continue to work with Congress, federal agencies and other interested parties to improve the regulatory process and to show that new water supply projects are ready and waiting to be developed. We will continue to ensure that Bureau of Reclamation operates in the most cost-effective way possible. We will continue advocating for the importance of preserving our food production capability. Our activities will ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers. Visit us at [www.familyfarmalliance.org](http://www.familyfarmalliance.org) or call (541) 850-9007.

**...Your Involvement and Support Make the Difference!**



# Burman Named To Fill Interior Position

Brenda W. Burman (ARIZONA) has been appointed as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

She fills the post vacated by Jason Peltier, who earlier this summer took a policy position in Sacramento (CALIFORNIA) with Westlands Water District.

In this position, Ms. Burman will act as the Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, focusing her attention on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation issues. Ms. Burman had been serving as Deputy Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**MS. BURMAN BRINGS A WEALTH** of experience to her new position, having served previously as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as a staff member to United States Senator Jon Kyl (ARIZONA), a private practice natural resources attorney and a National Park Service Ranger.

“I am looking forward to new challenges in the Assistant Secretary’s office, where I will be largely concentrating on the Reclamation issues that have become so important to me,” Ms. Burman told the Family Farm Alliance and MONTHLY BRIEFING.

“**I WANT TO LET** your members know that I remain committed to your issues and look forward to continuing to work with my friends at the Family Farm Alliance in my new position,” Ms. Burman said.

Ms. Burman graduated from Kenyon College in Gambier (OHIO) and earned her law degree from the University of Arizona’s College of Law.



Brenda W. Burman

Watch your e-mail near the end of most months as the Family Farm Alliance brings you its

## *Water Review*

An in-depth report on one of the many issues and activities that affect water users in the West!

[www.familyfarmalliance.org](http://www.familyfarmalliance.org)

# Mid-Pacific Regional Director Rodgers Retires

Kirk C. Rodgers has retired from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation after 35 years of federal service.

Mr. Rodgers has served as the Mid-Pacific Region's Regional Director since February 2002. He joined Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region in July 1973 and came to the Mid-Pacific Region in 1981. He was selected as Deputy Regional Director in 1996.

**ALTHOUGH MR. RODGERS** will step down as Regional Director, he will continue working for the Region, focusing on several highly critical Regional issues that include drainage in the San Joaquin Valley, restoration of the San Joaquin River and many complex matters centered in the Sacramento/San Francisco Bay-Delta. A Bureau statement said Mr. Rodgers' continued involvement in these challenging areas would help ensure a smooth transition for the new Regional Director.

“My proposal is succession planning with a twist,” said Rodgers. “But I truly believe that making a smooth transition during these challenging times is important.”

“Words cannot properly express the satisfaction I have felt in serving as Regional Director for these past few years,” Mr. Rodgers stated. “Reclamation has been good to me. I'm very loyal to the mission and purpose. It is for these and other important reasons that I look forward to a continued relationship in the water and power community for some years to come.”

**MR. RODGERS HAD A POSITIVE** relationship with water and power customers in the Mid-Pacific region.

“Kirk was part of a team that helped return Reclamation to its original purpose: supplying water



Family Farm alliance / J. Randall McFarland

‘I look forward to a continued relationship in the water and power community for some years to come’

—KIRK RODGERS, *Retiring Regional Director*

and power to meet the needs of farms, cities and industry,” said Tom Birmingham, general manager of Westlands Water District (CALIFORNIA). “He viewed water service contractors as his customers,

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Senate Hears Aging Infrastructure Bill

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on July 26 conducted a hearing on S. 1477, the Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Bill.

As noted in an alarming number of other aging water facilities in the West, significant potentially catastrophic problems have been identified that threaten the future working life of this important project. This bill would authorize the Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Project.

**THE JACKSON** Gulch Dam and Reservoir is a key feature of the 55-year old Mancos Project, located in southwest Colorado. The greater part of the distribution system was constructed by local interests prior to 1900. Facilities constructed by the Reclamation furnish supplemental water to 13,746 acres of agricultural lands and provide a domestic water supply for Mesa Verde National Park, Mancos Rural Water Company and the town of Mancos.

“The people of Montezuma County have shown great patience on the Mancos Project, but the situation is turning dire,” said Senator Salazar, who co-sponsored this bill with fellow Colorado Senator Allard. “Washington must not forget the needs of people in rural areas, and in the rural areas of the West, water is one of the most important needs they have.”

If the Mancos Project’s canals were to experience a catastrophic failure, it could leave Mesa Verde National Park without water, the Town of Mancos suffering a severe municipal water shortage and the possible loss of up to \$1.48 million dollars of crop production and sales annually.

**THE SALAZAR-ALLARD BILL** would authorize \$6.4 million to pay an 80% federal cost-share for rehabilitation.

Gary Kennedy, general manager of Mancos Water Conservancy District (District), testified in support of the bill. Larry Todd, Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner, relayed the Bush Administration’s opposition.

“Project rehabilitation is currently the contractual obligation of the District to fulfill pursuant to its standing O&M contract,” said Mr. Todd. “Relieving the District of this obligation would set a precedent for other projects across the country in need of rehabilitation. For these reasons, the Administration opposes this bill.”

Despite the Administration position, District representatives are pleased with progress so far. “The hearing ended very promising” Mr. Kennedy told the Alliance’s MONTHLY BRIEFING.

## Mid-Pacific Regional Director Rodgers Retires

*(Continued from Page 7)*

rather than as adversaries, and under his leadership the Region achieved significant successes, including renewal of numerous long-term water service and settlement contracts.”

“**BECAUSE OF THE WIDE** range of his experience, Kirk knew the ins and outs of how Reclamation worked,” said Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen (OREGON), who worked as Mr. Rodgers’ special assistant in 2001. “That knowledge helped him effectively manage some of the most contentious water challenges in the country.”

“Kirk initiated programs, like the further integration of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, which will significantly improve water supply reliability and adequacy,” added Mr. Birmingham.

Sandy Denn, who grows rice in the Sacramento Valley (CALIFORNIA), worked with Mr. Rodgers for several years on agricultural water issues.

“He is a man of great integrity and in my estimation has been a real asset to the Bureau of Reclamation in the West,” said Mrs. Denn, who sits on the Family Farm Alliance Board of Directors.

**RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER** Robert W. Johnson has asked John Davis, the Mid-Pacific Region's Deputy Regional Director, to serve as the Acting Regional Director for the next three months.

The Mid-Pacific Regional Director oversees Bureau projects in the northern two-thirds of California, most of northern Nevada, and a portion of southern Oregon. The Regional Director is also responsible for California's Central Valley Project, the largest irrigation project in the nation.



# Semanko Represents Western Water Interests At Clean Water Act Hearing

A member of the Family Farm Alliance Advisory Committee told a Congressional subcommittee last month in the nation's capital that proposed legislation revising the Clean Water Act (CWA) will create more problems rather than solving a wide range of issues that already exist.

Norm Semanko, Executive Director of the Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA), testified on behalf of the Family Farm Alliance and National Water Resources Association (NWRA).

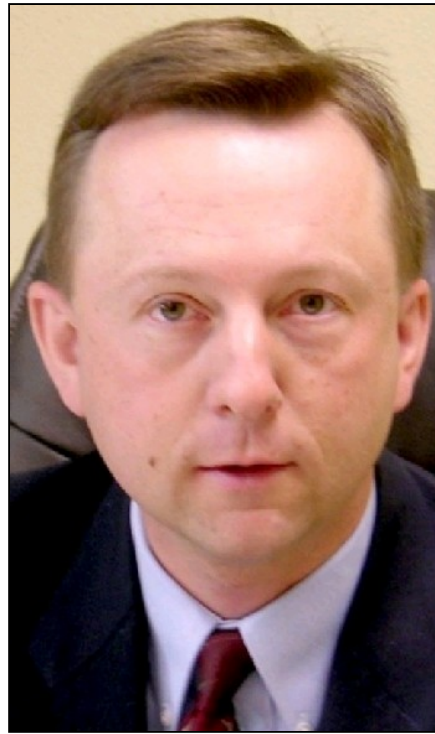
**HE TOLD THE HOUSE** Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure that passage of the proposed Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 (CWRA) would seriously erode a well-established, long-respected right of states to manage their water and protect water quality.

Rep. James Oberstar (MINNESOTA), who chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, has reintroduced his legislation from the 109th Congress (H.R. 1356) to redefine the CWA term "Waters of the United States."

Senator Feingold (WISCONSIN) and others last month introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

**SEMANKO'S TESTIMONY** puts the NWRA and the Alliance squarely on the Congressional record as opposing the legislation.

"Significant problems are already being encountered by water providers with the existing Act and



Idaho Water Users Association

Norm Semanko

these challenges are expected to continue," said Mr. Semanko, whose written testimony is available on the Family Farm Alliance web site: [www.familyfarmalliance.org](http://www.familyfarmalliance.org).

**MR. SEMANKO** cited a variety of crucial reasons why the proposed CWA revision should be blocked.

The bill is supposed to reaffirm the original CWA intent, to end legal wrangling about what Congress meant in approving the CWA in 1972, and to prevent the judicial branch from rewriting or redefining the law. Mr. Semanko believes the CWRA fails to accomplish any of these goals.

"CWRA ignores the Congress-

ional intent underlying the CWA and will give rise to more litigation, not less," said Mr. Semanko.

**AGRICULTURAL WATER** users fear that the proposed legislation would have disastrous impacts on agricultural and municipal water supply activities.

"The CWRA will extend jurisdiction to virtually all agricultural irrigation facilities, subjecting them to water quality standards the facilities were not designed for and are not operated to support," said Dan Keppen (OREGON), Alliance Executive Director. "Such a jurisdictional extension will paralyze the ability of water users to efficiently operate and maintain these facilities."

**A STATED CWRA** purpose is to "clearly define" the scope of CWA jurisdiction. To do this, the bill proposes to assert jurisdiction over "all interstate and intrastate waters."

"The proposed bill does not clearly define jurisdiction, introduces new uncertainties and ambiguities that will ultimately need to be resolved through more, not less, litigation," said Mr. Semanko. "We urge clarity, not expansion of the Clean Water Act."

The Democrats do intend to consider H.R. 2421 but have yet to set a timeline.

"We will continue to work with NWRA, Partnership for America, and others to monitor this matter," said Mr. Keppen.



## ‘Crisis of Confidence’ Hearing Sputters

With the new Congress having conducted over 600 oversight hearings so far, even dead fish are getting pulled into the political arena.

On July 31, the House Natural Resources Committee conducted an oversight hearing entitled “Crisis of Confidence: The Political Influence of the Bush Administration on Agency Science and Decision-Making.”

**THE HEARING’S** focus was originally intended to address claims made by Democrats that Vice President Dick Cheney allegedly over-rode scientists to give Klamath Project (CALIFORNIA-OREGON) farmers water in 2002, thereby killing over 30,000 fish in the lower Klamath River that fall. However, other topics of interest to Western water users were also discussed. These included allegations of political interference on California Bay-Delta water decisions, the Preble’s Meadow jumping mouse, and the role of peer-reviewed science in water resources decision-making.

Government witnesses discussed a recent, initial Interior Department Office of Inspector General (OIG) report that supports allegations made by environmentalists regarding political interference exerted by Julie MacDonald, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. However, as noted by Rep Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WASHINGTON) and Rep. Chris Cannon (R-UTAH) at the July 31 hearing, both suggested that the entire story has not yet been heard.

“(Julie MacDonald) has been unfairly called a future “convict” by a senior member of this Committee already, but there’s no basis for such irresponsible talk, especially when the Inspector General found that she did nothing illegal,” said Mrs. McMorris-Rodgers, Ranking Member of the House Water and Power Subcommittee

There are apparently unanswered questions regarding MacDonald’s ability to address the OIG

charges, and how her input was factored into the OIG report.

**THE HEARING DID** nothing to strengthen accusations and claims made by critics of the Bush Administration and its handling of Klamath matters. Those who claimed that Mr. Cheney somehow used his influence to roll the National Academy of Sciences and kill fish on the Klamath River in 2002, and the witnesses who testified towards this end, offered up no evidence linking the Vice President or any other high-level Bush Administration appointee to alleged political skullduggery on the Klamath.

However, environmental activists and their allies in Congress quickly found a way to put a positive spin on things. A press statement released after the hearing by Chairman Nick Rahall (D-WEST VIRGINIA) suggests further investigation into Mr. Cheney’s Klamath involvement is justified because an earlier, 2002 OIG report only focused on Karl Rove.

Future hearings could potentially invite calls for more oversight of Interior Department decision making on water issues in the Klamath Basin and elsewhere. It is unclear whether

further investigation of Mr. Cheney’s alleged Klamath involvement will take place. However, given the nature of Chairman Rahall’s statement after the hearing, the Committee may ask the Inspector General to conduct another investigation.

**REP. EDWARD J. Markey** (D-MASSACHUSETTS) announced on the day of the hearing that he would introduce legislation to require increased transparency for Interior Department decisions made regarding endangered species.

“As reports of political interference with scientific Endangered Species Act decisions within the Bush Administration continue to surface, increasing the transparency of the decision-making within the Interior Department will help ensure that politics do not trump science,” said Mr. Markey. The legislation will be formally introduced shortly.



Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers

# House Passes Farm Bill

## Regional Water Program Remains Intact

The House of Representatives late last month passed a new farm bill that was criticized by many for preserving the existing system of subsidies for farmers and adding billions of dollars for conservation, nutrition and new agricultural sectors.

However, a regional watershed program endorsed by the Family Farm Alliance and a broad coalition of conservation, water agency and agricultural

'We have been working with a coalition of conservation and agricultural water groups since last spring to advocate for the issues we think this legislation should address'

—DAN KEPPEM, *Executive Director*

organizations was included in the final 741-page House-passed bill.

The measure has a price tag of almost \$286 billion and passed by 40 votes along party lines. The bill is built around price guarantees and direct payments totaling about \$7.5 billion going mainly to corn, wheat, cotton, rice and soybean growers in a few Midwestern and Southern states.

**IT ALSO INCLUDES** elements of the Bush Administration's proposed cooperative conservation plan,

called the Regional Water Enhancement Program (RWEPP), aimed at improving water quality and water conservation on working agricultural lands on a regional scale.

Notably, the RWEPP would target concerted cooperative efforts on working agricultural landscapes and other high priority areas identified by locally-driven partnerships. Recipients, including irrigation districts, local government, or farming groups, would administer funds to achieve clear water quality and conservation goals. On April 13, the Alliance Board of Directors voted to support RWEPP.

**"WE HAVE BEEN** working with a coalition of conservation and agricultural water groups since last spring to advocate for the issues we think this legislation should address," said Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen (OREGON). "Most of those issues have been addressed in the bill passed by the House."

Important to Western irrigators is news that the specific language "conversion of irrigated lands to less water-intensive agricultural commodities or dry-land farming" was deleted from the list of activities that could be funded by RWEPP.

This position was strongly advocated by Family Farm

Alliance representatives in the coalition.

The Alliance in recent weeks has participated in several teleconference calls with national water and conservation representatives, legislative advisors, and others to focus on next steps related to advocating for the RWEPP concept.

"On the Senate side, we are hearing encouraging signs that the coalition RWEPP language is



being seriously considered for inclusion in the Ag Committee conservation title," said Mr. Keppen.

**THE FARM BILL PASSED** by the House does not contain money for a permanent disaster program, which is a concern for many storm and drought-prone irrigators in the West.

Western and Midwestern lawmakers have fought for emergency disaster aid several times in the recent years to assist

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## Next Managing For Excellence Workshop Set

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled its next public workshop on *Managing for Excellence* to take place in Portland (OREGON) in late September.

Reclamation's *Managing for Excellence* Project seeks to identify and address specific 21st Century challenges the Bureau must meet to fulfill its mission to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner.

**THIS PROCESS PROVIDES** an important opportunity for Western water users to find further ways to improve transparency in Reclamation decision-making, provide improved accountability, and make the organization as efficient as possible.

The Family Farm Alliance has spent considerable time and resources in the past two years working with a National Research Council Committee and Reclamation as the Committee developed *Managing Construction and Infrastructure in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Bureau of Reclamation*, which was finalized in 2006.

### Portland Meeting Details

- September 25-26, 2007
- Holiday Inn-Portland Airport Hotel, 8439 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97220
- Reservations: (888) 465-4329 or at [www.holidayinn.com/portland-i205](http://www.holidayinn.com/portland-i205)

To receive a room rate of \$98, inform the hotel that you are attending the Bureau of Reclamation Conference. The cutoff date is September 10, 2007.

In June 2005, the Alliance completed its own collection of case studies, and presented its final report to the Committee. The Alliance has testified twice in the past two years to Congressional committees on this issue and has engaged in previous workshops hosted by Reclamation.

Reclamation is currently preparing a document that will provide a description of a preferred organizational structure and start working toward final deliverable: policy revisions that will enhance the customer's ability to participate in Reclamation decision-making processes.

## Farm Bill Tax Hikes Are Opposed By White House

(Continued from Page 10)

farmers affected by weather-related disasters. But they continue to push for a permanent fund that could be tapped when losses reach a certain threshold.

Senator Kent Conrad (NORTH DAKOTA) and other Senators are looking for ways to find money for the program. One idea being studied is to include a program that operates as part of crop insurance.

**MAJOR HURDLES** remain before the massive legislation becomes law, including a potential veto by the President.

Among other things, the Bush Administration claims that proposed reforms of the subsidy system are insufficient.

Many Republicans are incensed by the last-minute inclusion of billions in tax hikes to pay for extra spending on social programs unrelated to farming.

Democrats said the provision merely closes a loophole that allows a limited number of U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies to avoid taxes.

According to *The Washington Post*, the defection of Republicans over this and other issues forced Democratic leaders to scramble to strike deals with urban liberals to assure the final majority.

**THE WHITE HOUSE** is adamantly opposed to the tax increase/loophole closure and editorials from across the political

spectrum give the Administration further backing for a veto.

For example, the *The Wall Street Journal* in a July 31 editorial intoned "The overstuffed farm bill now waddling through Congress – toward a possible veto by President Bush – has attracted so much waste that everyone with a genuine interest in agriculture is feeling disheartened."

**THAT SAID**, the farm bill that will eventually come out of the Senate should be quite different from the House version and a tax provision similar to the House version will be difficult to get past the Senate due to the very thin Democratic majority. No bill markups are expected in the Senate until mid-September.

# Water 2025 Projects

## Interior Approves \$9.2 Million In Challenge Grants

### Some Successful Applicants

- **San Luis Canal Company** (CALIFORNIA) will install a SCADA system bay station to eliminate spills. The project is estimated to save 23,100 acre-feet of water per year.
- **Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No.2** (KANSAS): The district will replace 9.3 miles of open lateral with buried pipe and install meters on turnouts. The project is estimated to save 2,000 acre-feet of water per year.
- **The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District** (NEBRASKA) will automate three gates to reduce spills and improve water level control. The project is estimated to save 750 acre-feet of water per year.
- **Klamath Irrigation District** (OREGON) will replace the Miller Hill Pump station with electric variable speed pumps and install SCADA in new pumping plant. The project is estimated to better manage 12,500 acre-feet of water per year.
- **Madera Irrigation District** (CALIFORNIA) will create a groundwater bank; which will better-manage up to 20,000 acre-feet per year.
- **Weber Basin Water Conservancy District** (UTAH) will create a new water bank utilizing groundwater recharge. Additional improvements include development of 3 acres of recharge basins, fencing, one monitoring well and flow meter. The project is estimated to save 3,650 acre-feet of water per year.
- **The Wyoming State Engineer's Office** will install real-time monitoring and control systems on 43 diversion sites. The project is estimated to save 11,000 acre-feet of water per year.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne late last month approved \$9.2 million in Water 2025 Challenge Grants for water conservation projects across the West.

The grants will help fund 44 projects in 11 states. Including the matching contributions of non-federal partners, the selected projects represent a combined investment of more than \$32 million in water management improvements.

**AWARDED BY** the Bureau of Reclamation, these grants fund a variety of projects that will improve the efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation, efficiency and water market projects. The Challenge Grant Program focuses on meeting the goals identified in *Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West*. Since 2003 this program has aimed to deal with chronic water supply problems in the West. Water 2025 helps communities predicted to experience conflicts over water during the next two decades.

The agencies and groups that proposed the 44 projects will now work with Reclamation to secure cooperative agreements and complete regulatory processes. Groundbreaking on the projects is expected by the end of September. They must be completed within two years.

More information on Water 2025 is at [www.doi.gov/water2025](http://www.doi.gov/water2025).

**Keep up with Alliance activities and breaking water news**



## Around The Family Farm Alliance And The West

### For Your Calendar: Next Winter's Alliance Annual Meeting

- Break out your 2008 calendar and add these dates — February 27-29 — for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Family Farm Alliance Annual Meeting and Conference. The Alliance has entered into a contract with the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, which will again be the Annual Meeting's venue.

#### Public Attitudes Survey Funded

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has funded the joint Colorado State University (CSU) – Family Farm Alliance proposal to conduct a survey on public attitudes toward agriculture in the West. This was one a recommendation the Alliance proposed in a white paper presented to a USDA research advisory committee last fall in Washington.

#### NCWA Gets New Executive Director

- The Northern California Water Association

(NCWA) Board of Directors last month announced the appointment of Ryan Broddrick as the association's new executive director. Broddrick, NCWA's fourth executive director, has been the director of the California Department of Fish and Game since January 2004. Broddrick replaces former Executive Director David Guy, who is now the chief executive officer for the Yosemite Association in El Portal (CALIFORNIA).

#### Solano Manager Steps Down

- After 15 years of service, General Manager Suzanne Butterfield last month left Solano Irrigation District (CALIFORNIA). She is going to work for the California Delta Protection Commission for a year. Then she and her husband are moving to Bend (OREGON), where she intends to stay active in the water arena.

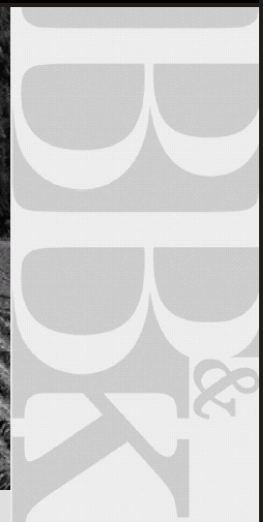


**BEST BEST & KRIEGER** covers the broad spectrum of legal needs for its agriculture clients. Our firm is widely recognized for its expertise in environmental and water issues, including ESA, water rights and quality, and federal reclamation and grazing laws. Our attorneys also assist our agricultural clients with matters such as land use, valuation and purchases; crop damages; business transactions and regulations; governance and succession planning; and organic crop certification and pesticide regulations.

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## Saluting And Thanking The Alliance's Members

### Champion

(\$5,000 or more)

**CALCOT, Ltd. (California)**

**Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (California)**

**Friant Water Authority (California)**

**Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Colorado)**

**Southwestern Water Conservation District (Colorado)**

**Jack Stone (California)**

**Valmont Industries, Inc. (Nebraska)**

### Advocate

(\$1,000-\$5,000)

Agri-Business Council of Arizona • Colorado Department of Agriculture • Elephant Butte Irrigation District • Firebaugh Canal Water District • Four States Irrigation Council • Fremont-Madison Irrigation Company • Garrison Diversion Conservancy District • Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District • Idaho Water Users Association Inc. • Imperial Irrigation District • Kings River Water Association • Klamath Irrigation District • Loup Basin Reclamation District • Meyers Farms • Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District • Nebraska State Irrigation Association • Northern California Water Association • Northwest Horticulture Council • Orange Cove Irrigation District • Patterson Water District • Santa Cruz Water and Power Districts Association • Southeastern Colorado Water Conservation District • Spain Family Ranches • Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District • Washington State Potato Commission • Washington State Water Resources Association

### Defender

(\$500-\$1,000)

Agri-Valley Irrigation Inc. • Best, Best & Krieger • Burley Irrigation District • Carlsbad Irrigation District • Circle G Farms • Colorado River Water Conservancy District • Enterprise Irrigation District • Glide Water District • Kenneth Groefsema Ranch • Heart Mountain Irrigation District • Kanawha Water District • Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard • Lost River Ranch • Lower Tule River Irrigation District • Doug Mellon Farms • Minidoka Irrigation District • North Fremont Canal systems Inc. • Oregon Water Resources Congress • Parreira Almond Processing Company • Perez Farms • Pioneer Irrigation District • Pixley Irrigation District • David Salopek 6U Farms • Don Schwindt • Tualatin Valley Irrigation District

### Partner

(\$250-\$500)

ERO Resources Corporation • B.E. Giovannetti & Sons • Harlan Family Foundation • Helena Chemical Company • Jackrabbit • Kansas-Bostwick Irrigation District • Klamath Water Users Association • Mancos Water Conservancy District • Mason, Robbins, Gnass and Browning • Midland Tractor • Milner Irrigation District • Ogawa Farms • Ryan Family Farms • Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 • Spiering Farms • Thomason Tractor Company • Turlock Irrigation District • West Extension Irrigation District

### Supporter

(\$100-\$250)

Bolen, Fransen & Russell, LLC • Britz Fertilizers Inc. • Campbell Brothers Farms • Columbia Basin Development League • Lyle and Vory Evelo • Falls Irrigation District • Hermison Irrigation District • Kings County Water District • Kirwin-Webster Irrigation District • Mancos Water Conservancy District • Martinez and Curtis • North Loup River Public Power & Irrigation District • North Side Canal Company • Paul R. Orme • Schroeder Law Offices • Sidney Snyder • Southtowne Commerce Center • Stanfield Irrigation District • T&L Enterprises • Texeira Sons • The Water Agency Inc. • Wright Ranch • Washington State Potato Commission • Yuma Irrigation District