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The Clean Water Action Plan

Sylvia V. Baca

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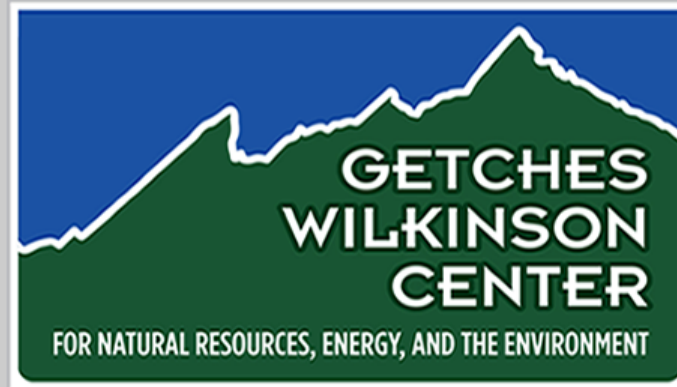
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THE CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN

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Strategies in Western Water Law and Policy:
Courts, Coercion and Collaboration
June 8–11, 1999

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OUTLINE OF STATEMENT OF SYLVIA V. BACA ON THE CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN

June 10, 1999

- I. Introduction
 - A. Brief background on Clean Water Act
 - B. The good news
 - C. The bad news
- II. The Vice President's Call to Action
 - A. The major goals of Clean Water Action Plan
 - 1. enhanced protection from public health threats posed by water pollution
 - 2. more effective control of polluted runoff
 - 3. promotion of water quality protection on a watershed basis
 - B. The guiding principles the Vice President provided
 - 1. promoting coordination and reduce duplication among federal, state, and local agencies and tribal governments wherever possible
 - 2. maximizing the participation of community groups and the public, placing particular emphasis on ensuring community and public access to information about water quality issues
 - 3. emphasizing innovative approaches to pollution control, including incentives, market-based mechanisms, and cooperative partnerships with landowners and other private parties
- III. The Clean Water Action Plan
 - A. The development process used to prepare the Clean Water Action Plan
 - B. The outreach activities used in preparing the Action Plan
- IV. The Need for Consensus
 - A. Establishing the consensus
 - B. Examples

V. Has the Action Plan Made a Difference?

- A. Action Plan is a guide, not a decision
- B. Action Plan has brought many interests together
- C. Examples
- D. The need for patience with collaborative approaches

VI. Key Thoughts in Closing

- A. Public participation and collaboration are essential in every step of the Action Plan
- B. The Action Plan is not a decision but the beginning of a process
- C. The Action Plan is making a difference