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D. Craig Bell, Water in the West Today: A States' Perspective: Report to the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission

Karina Serkin

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Olinger concluded his report with comments made by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt on the last day of the Commission's meeting. As he began, Babbitt promised "to see if [he] can point towards some directions that can take us out of this season of obvious discontent, or frustrated expectations and, indeed, of uncertainty about where we go in the future." First, he discussed some history of Indian water settlements. He correlated this history to the current lack of tribal leverage in the settlement process. He also focused on monetary concerns (addressed on multiple occasions at the meeting) concluding that "we are all locked into a budget-reduction dance" and little can be done aside from seeking alternative funding sources. Lastly, he advised the Commission to use "imagination" in its final report because the Commission has the potential for great impact.

Melinda B. Barton

D. CRAIG BELL, WATER IN THE WEST TODAY: A STATES' PERSPECTIVE: REPORT TO THE WESTERN WATER POLICY REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, Western States Water Council, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA (1997); 58pp; Shipping List Number 97-0359-P, softcover.

Water in the West Today is a general description of the Western states' approach to water issues. Author D. Craig Bell, Executive Director of the Western States Water Council ("WSWC"), makes clear from the beginning that the book is an illustrative examination of Western water. WSWC posed five questions, at the request of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission, to individual Western states via questionnaire and telephone interviews. The five questions were asked in order to identify states' water concerns and programs adopted to address those concerns in the past decade. *Water in the West Today* is a culmination of the states' responses to those questions.

The report begins with an introduction to Western water management. Bell describes federal, state, and tribal roles in protecting water resources. The book also discusses the administrative process by which water is allocated among the states. Bell describes the past few decades as an "era of change," exemplified by the rise of public interest in water resources and the desire to preserve instream flows.

The first question asked the states to identify and describe current and anticipated significant water problems, and received the most uniform responses. As the most urbanized region in the country, the West faces serious problems with adequate water supply and distribution. Practically all of the states noted "growing and changing water supply demands for both offstream and instream needs." Areas

of concern also included poor distribution of supplies and difficulties providing rural and tribal communities with adequate resources. States also said that with the rise of environmental regulations and mandates at all levels of government, they struggle to balance these governmental initiatives with their own demands for water. Additionally, certain regions reported flood and drought planning as a primary concern. Finally, federal involvement in water management was observed as either "inadequate or inappropriate."

The WSWC intended the second question to help identify problems facing rural communities in relation to water supply, potable water treatment, and wastewater treatment. The question also sought responses about state programs providing assistance to these communities. The states' responses to this question were fairly uniform as well. Inadequate water supply for rural communities ranked highest on the list. Additionally, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act create financial burdens on rural communities often lacking funds necessary to meet the federal standards. Furthermore, states cited inadequate training of water and wastewater treatment facility operators as a major problem. In response to some of these problems, several states sell general obligation bonds and grants which provide funding for insufficient supplies. Technical assistance programs are also common.

The third question requested descriptions of state water needs, opportunities to augment existing supplies, and conservation. The states' responses varied due to differences in population growth development patterns. The majority of the states listed conservation as the primary method to augment existing supplies. Another method involved construction of surface reservoirs or new distribution facilities for existing sources. Several states cited development of groundwater supplies, management of groundwater recharge projects, reoperation and modification of existing storage facilities, and reallocation of water supplies as potential augmentation methods. Some states mentioned weather modification, recognizing that such a measure has not yet proven effective.

The fourth question asked about regional, state, and local innovations in water management, water use, water law, and other water-related areas. Many states commented on programs that fund water development. States also frequently mentioned water conservation as a method to "stretch" existing supplies and cited examples of conservation techniques, including water recycling, desalinization, reallocation of existing sources, conjunctive use, and changes in water rights permitting laws. Additionally, many states mentioned innovations used to meet environmental needs. For example, to increase instream flows, many states changed their laws and institutions. Furthermore, several states listed water quality protection and management of existing supplies as primary concerns. To more efficiently manage existing supplies, some states suggested better groundwater management plans, flood and drought planning, water conservation plans, and improvements in obtaining reliable

water availability data. Finally, meeting institutional challenges, such as local watershed coordination initiatives, generated a wide variety of state responses. Plans directed at solving these problems included basin water resource management, watershed planning efforts, regional water plans, advisory committees, and water rights settlements.

The fifth question asked the states to discuss the effect of federal water-related programs on each state and to explain their facilitation of these programs. In general, federal and state government initiatives cooperate regarding water use. Several states noted positive impacts of the federal programs, from meeting water resource needs of rural communities, to the success of the endangered fishery recovery program. Federal programs also provide economic and recreational benefits. However, states noted areas in need of improvement. One was federal funding. States have doubled their spending in order to implement federal regulations while the federal fiscal role has diminished. States seek greater flexibility in implementing federal programs and need more federal government cooperation.

Water in the West Today provides a comprehensive overview of Western water concerns. For a topic that is both broad and daunting, *Water in the West Today* offers a simple and clear look.

Karina Serkin

WATER IN THE WEST: CHALLENGE FOR THE NEXT CENTURY, REPORT TO THE WESTERN WATER POLICY REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, Springfield, VA (1998); National Technical Information Service; 387 pp.; Doc # PB 99100026, softcover.

This report was published as part of the Western Water Policy Review Advisory Commission's ("Commission") efforts to review and report present and future water resource problems and to determine methods to meet future water demands. The Commission also set out to address water allocation, water quality, water planning, and flood control issues.

In Chapter One, the Commission studied current trends and the status of water resources today, including an evaluation of climate, riverflows, precipitation, availability of groundwater, and storage methods in the West. It also gathered information on the federal government's contribution to irrigation and hydroelectric power and the benefits of those contributions. Additionally, the study examined current consequences of water development, including loss of wetlands and riparian zones, disruption of fish migration, and loss of native fish species.

Chapter Two addressed research regarding current demographics in Western cities. This research included a commentary on the