



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:

84-52000
ADM 1.10

JUL 17 2008

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Subject: *Water for America* Initiative, Proposed Implementation Plan – (Comments Requested by August 18, 2008)

Dear Interested Party:

Beginning in fiscal year 2009, the Bureau of Reclamation will partner with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to implement the *Water for America* Initiative (Initiative), aimed at addressing 21st century water challenges and ensuring secure water supplies for future generations. I am writing to tell you about Reclamation's proposed plan for implementing the Initiative and to ask for your input on the draft plan.

The Initiative is a multi-agency, Department of the Interior initiative that will help communities meet increasing demands on limited water supplies through collaborative projects, water conservation technologies, and expanded information sharing. Reclamation's efforts will focus on two of the Initiative's three strategies: (1) *Plan for Our Nation's Water Future*, and (2) *Expand, Protect, and Conserve Our Nation's Water Resources*. The third strategy – *Enhance Our Nation's Water Knowledge* – will be undertaken by the USGS.

The *Plan for Our Nation's Water Future* component of the Initiative includes Reclamation's long-standing Investigations Program and a new Basin Studies Program, which will focus on comprehensive water supply and demand studies to assess the impact of increased water demands on finite water sources. The *Expand, Protect, and Conserve Our Nation's Water Resources* component includes two existing programs, the Challenge Grant Program (formerly Water 2025) and the Water Conservation Field Services Program. Through these two programs, Reclamation will increase water conservation, improve efficiency and help secure future water supplies through competitive cost-shared grants and technical assistance. Also under this component of the Initiative, Reclamation will accelerate critical Endangered Species Act compliance activities to maintain and improve existing populations of listed or proposed species and critical habitat affected by Reclamation's projects and programs.

This spring, Reclamation has been working to develop a plan to implement the Initiative in fiscal year 2009. Enclosed is Reclamation's proposed implementation plan, describing specific details about the Initiative. I believe that it is critical to the success of this Initiative that we receive comments on our proposed implementation plan from you and the rest of the community of stakeholders that Reclamation serves. As such, we are inviting you to review the proposed implementation plan and to provide your comments through the *Water for America* Web site, available at: www.usbr.gov/wfa. Alternatively, you may mail your comments to:

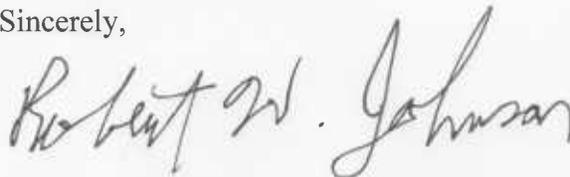


Bureau of Reclamation
Policy and Program Services
Attn: Avra Morgan
P.O. Box 25007
Denver CO 80225-0007

In order for your comments to be most helpful to Reclamation, please submit them by August 18, 2008. Reclamation will consider the comments received and will make adjustments to the plan, as appropriate, to ensure that the Initiative is implemented in the most effective way possible. Reclamation also invites you to visit the Web site periodically to follow our progress in preparing the Initiative.

If you have any questions about the Initiative or this request for your comments, please contact Ms. Avra Morgan at 303-445-2906 or wfa@do.usbr.gov. Thank you for your interest in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Robert W. Johnson
Commissioner

Enclosure