

A large concrete dam is situated in a deep, narrow canyon with reddish-brown rock walls. Water is flowing through the dam's spillways, creating a white, frothy cascade. The sky is clear and blue. In the background, more of the canyon and some distant structures are visible.

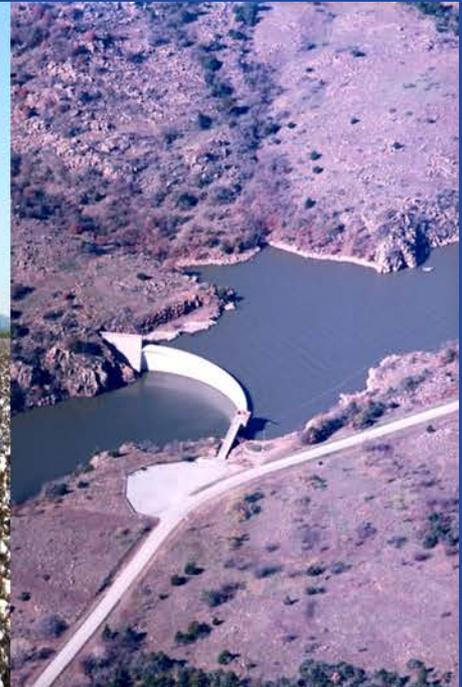
**RECLAMATION**  
*Managing Water in the West*

# Drought Response Program

FY 2018 Informational Webinar  
January 24, 2018

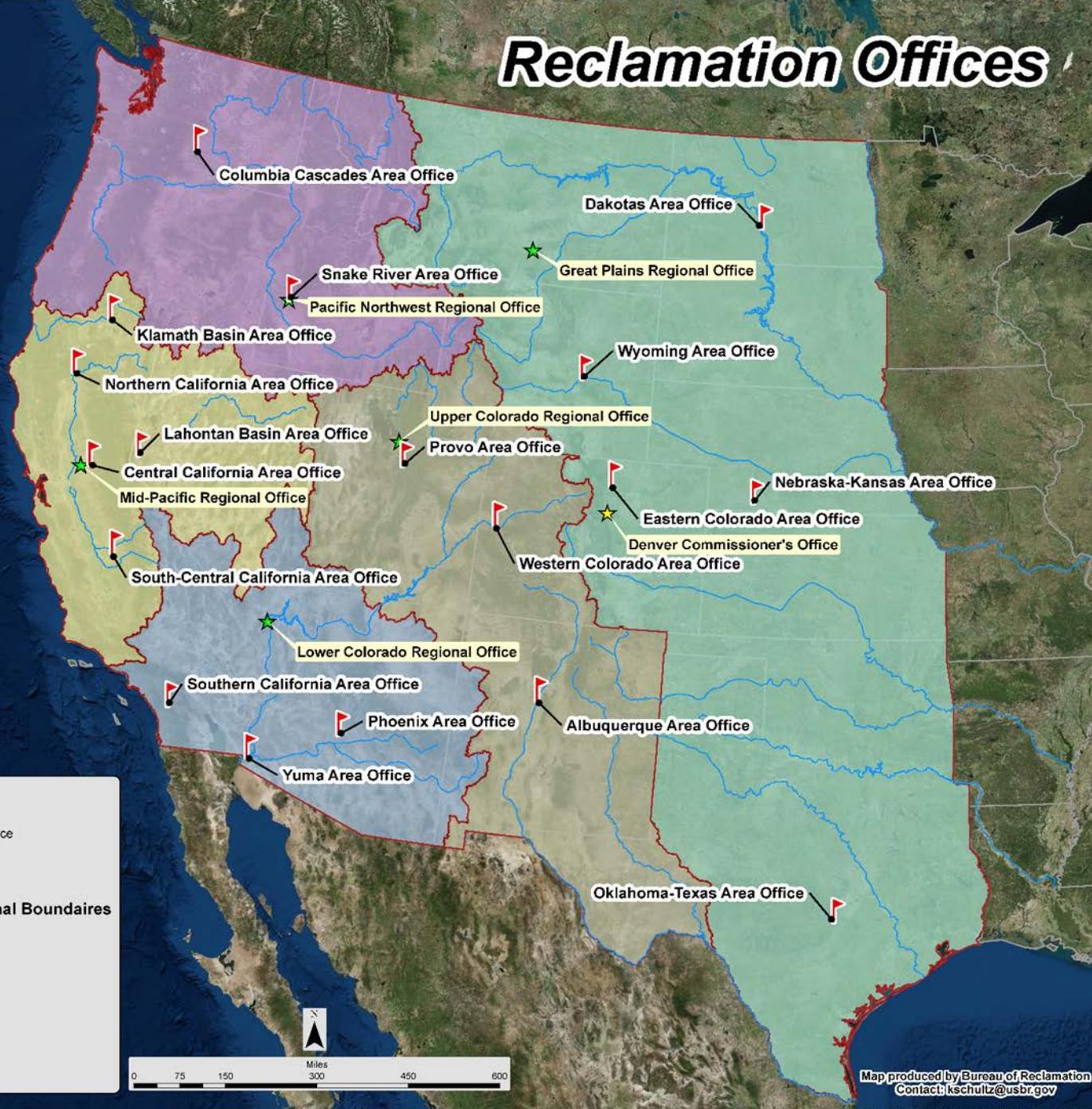
# Reclamation's Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.





# Reclamation Offices



 Area Offices  
 Commissioner's Office  
 Regional Offices  
 Western Rivers

**Reclamation Regional Boundaries**

**Region**

-  Great Plains
-  Lower Colorado
-  Mid-Pacific
-  Pacific North West
-  Upper Colorado
-  States



Map produced by Bureau of Reclamation  
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# Reformulation of Drought Program

- Historically, most funding used for emergency response actions
- Program reformulated in 2015 to support a proactive approach for non-Federal partners to prepare for and respond to drought
- Planning ahead is more efficient and effective than taking measures in a crisis

# Reformulation of Drought Program

- **Drought preparedness to:**
  - **Identify vulnerabilities and mitigation actions to reduce risks**
  - **Improve coordination and cooperation among key entities, and development of procedures for monitoring, assessing, and responding to drought**
  - **Reduce impacts of drought, and conflicts between water users**
- **Included under Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program**

# WaterSMART Program

Supports Reclamation's mission through collaboration with stakeholders to improve water management, increase conservation, and stretch scarce water resources



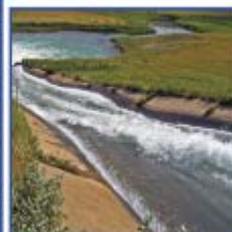
**Basin Study Program**

Collaborative Planning



**Title XVI Program**

Water Reclamation and Reuse



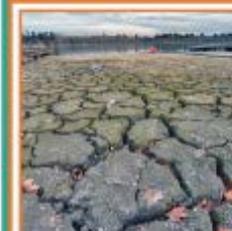
**WaterSMART Grants**

Water Conservation and Efficiency



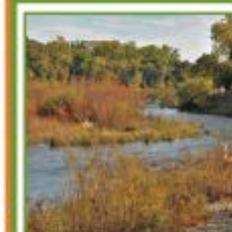
**Water Conservation Field Services Program**

Water Conservation Planning and Design



**Drought Response Program**

Planning and Building Resiliency



**Cooperative Watershed Management Program**

Watershed Management and Restoration

# Drought Response Program



**Drought  
Contingency  
Planning**



**Drought  
Resiliency  
Projects**



**Emergency  
Response Actions**

# Drought Response Program Program Requirements

## Eligible Applicants

- **States, Indian Tribes, Irrigation Districts, Water Districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority**

## Cost Share

- **50% non-Federal cost-share required**

## Drought Plans

- **Up to \$200,000 per plan, completed within 2 years**

## Drought Projects

- **Funding Group I: Up to \$300k and completed within 2 years**
- **Funding Group II: Up to \$750k and completed within 3 years**

# Drought Response Program Drought Contingency Plans

The **East Bay Municipal Utility District** and other regional water management agencies within the Bay Area in California will develop a drought contingency plan

The **Washington State Department of Ecology** will update its drought contingency plan, last published in 1992.

The **Dolores Water Conservancy District in Colorado** will develop a drought contingency plan with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise, and the Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company.



# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 1. Drought Monitoring

- Establish a process for monitoring near and long-term water availability, and a framework for predicting the probability of future droughts or confirming an existing drought.
- Process for collection, analysis, and dissemination of water availability and other drought-related data (e.g., precipitation, temperature).
- Explain how data will be used to predict or confirm droughts, including identifying metrics and triggers that will be used to define stages of drought and to trigger response actions.

# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 2. Vulnerability Assessment

- An assessment of the risks to critical resources within the planning area and the factors contributing to those risks.
- Will drive the development of potential mitigation and response actions.
- The assessment must be based on a range of future conditions, including uncertainties related to changing hydrologic conditions.

# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 3. Mitigation Actions

- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize mitigation actions and activities that will build long-term resiliency to drought and that will mitigate the risks posed by drought.
- Mitigation measures are actions, programs, and strategies implemented before drought to address potential risks and impacts.

# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 4. Response Actions

- Identify, evaluate, and prioritize response actions and activities that can be implemented during a drought to mitigate the impacts.
- Response actions are different than mitigation measures in that they are specific actions that are triggered during specific stages of drought to manage the limited supply and decrease the severity of immediate impacts.

# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 5. Operational and Administrative Framework

- Identify who is responsible for undertaking the actions necessary to implement each element of the drought contingency plan, including communicating with the public about those actions.
- At a minimum, the drought contingency plan must identify roles, responsibilities, and procedures necessary to: conduct drought monitoring; initiate response actions; initiate mitigation actions; and update the plan.

# Drought Contingency Planning Elements

## 6. Plan Development and Update Process

- Describe the process that was undertaken to develop the plan, including how stakeholders were engaged and how input was considered.
- In addition, the drought contingency plan must also include a process and schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the drought contingency plan.

# Drought Contingency Planning Steps

- **Establishment of a Drought Planning Task Force**
  - The Task Force must be made up of interested stakeholders within the planning area that want to actively participate in developing the drought contingency plan.
  - The Task Force must have diverse membership representing multiple interests in the planning area.
  - Reclamation reviews the Task Force membership and provides feedback as necessary to support and encourage a diverse and inclusive Task Force.

# Drought Contingency Planning Steps

- **Development of a Detailed Work Plan**
  - Describes in detail how the various tasks will be accomplished, along with a detailed work schedule.
  - Reclamation must review and accept the detailed work plan before substantive work on the drought contingency plan begins.
- **Development of a Communication and Outreach Plan**
  - Explain how stakeholders and the public will be involved in the planning process.

# **Drought Contingency Planning Evaluation Criteria**

- Need for a Drought Contingency Plan or Plan Update (40 points)**
- Inclusion of Stakeholders (30 points)**
- Project Implementation (20 points)**
- Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)**

# Drought Response Program

## Drought Resiliency Projects

### Eligible Projects Include:

- **Infrastructure Improvements**
  - Modifying surface water intakes
  - New conveyance system components
  - Additional water storage
  - Aquifer Storage and Recovery
  - Capture and treat alternative supplies
- **Decision Support Tools & Modeling**
  - Tools to support water marketing
  - Tools to convey water supply information
  - Measurement
- **Environmental Protection**
  - Improve habitat
  - Install fish screens and ladders



Projects build resilience to drought

Projects supported by a drought plan are more competitive

Funding Level I: \$300k  
Funding Level II: \$750k

# **Drought Resiliency Projects Evaluation Criteria**

- Project Benefits (40 points)**
- Drought Planning and Preparedness (20 points)**
- Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project (20 points)**
- Project Implementation (10 points)**
- Nexus to Reclamation (10 points)**

# WaterSMART Data Visualization Tool

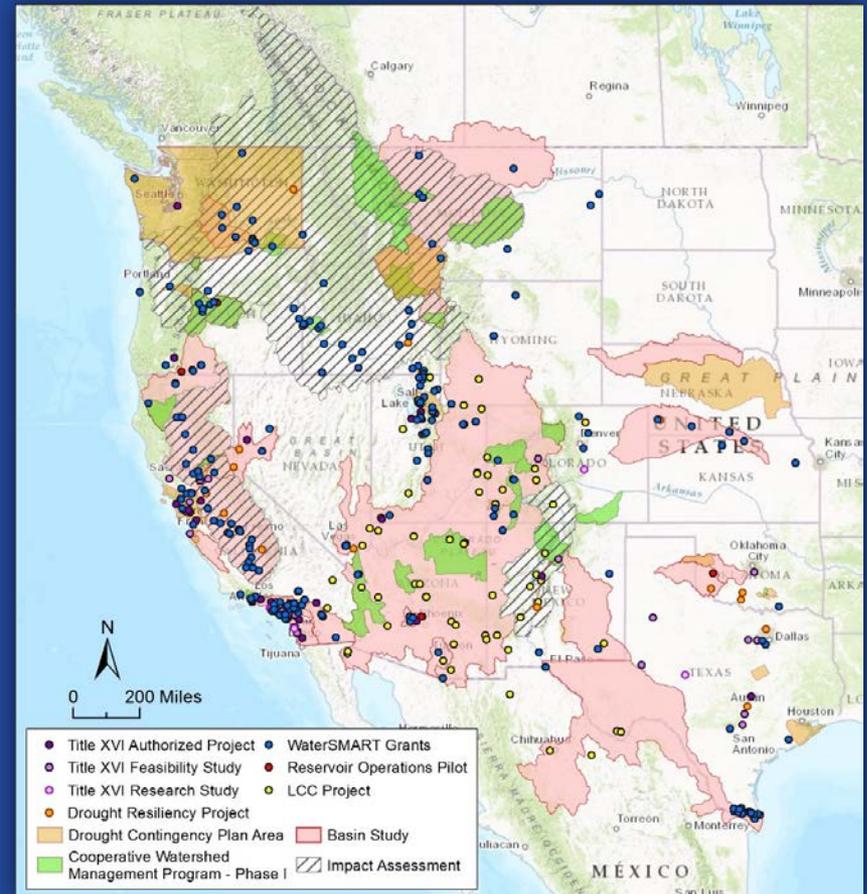
Data visualization site is an interactive companion to this report:

- Interactive maps
- Featured project tours
- Program growth over time

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

Data Visualization Tool:

[arcg.is/1TcT68S](https://arcg.is/1TcT68S)



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