

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

The Honorable Ed Pastor  
Vice Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
House Committee on Appropriations

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Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project Completion Act  
Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request  
April 14, 2010

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Good afternoon. Today, the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development meets to hear testimony on the fiscal year 2011 budget request for the Department of the Interior's water agencies in the Western states, including the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Project Completion Act Office.

The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for providing agricultural, municipal and industrial water supply in the West. Economies, ecosystems, and communities all rely on the availability of clean water at a time when demand is increasing and many regions have been hit by extended drought. The Bureau is being asked more and more to provide solutions to the West's water needs while being good stewards of our natural resources, and I hope to hear how the fiscal year 2011 budget request reflects this expanded responsibility.

Every day, we hear examples where state, local, and federal agencies as well as Tribal governments have to spread limited water

resources across competing demands, including use for water supply, power generation, and ecosystem restoration in our river and delta systems. These challenges have been particularly difficult in California, where water is pulled between an agricultural sector with high unemployment in some regions, municipal and industrial water supply for growing populations, and an overstressed Delta ecosystem. I look forward to hearing Reclamation's strategy to help all interests when water demand is increasing and supplies continue to be scarce.

I also note the Bureau of Reclamation's roots in building and maintaining dams and other water structures that protect Americans. Much of this infrastructure was built nearly a century ago—in fact, over half of the Bureau's dams are more than 60 years old. It is critical that Reclamation maintain this aging infrastructure, and I hope today to explore how the budget request provides funding levels that meet the Bureau's responsibility to keep Americans safe while maintaining America's dams in proper working order.

The Bureau of Reclamation plays a vital role in delivering water to tribes and rural communities that could not otherwise access clean water. The Bureau's rural water budget request is significantly below the fiscal year 2010 level, and today I look to our witnesses to shed

light on how the Administration's proposal addresses our water supply commitments to tribes and meets the needs of rural communities.

We have before us Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Anne Castle, to present the Department of the Interior's water strategy and how that strategy is reflected in the budget request. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor will address the Bureau of Reclamation's fiscal year 2011 budget request, including the Bureau's activities related to water supply, water recycling and reuse, ecosystem restoration, rural water delivery, dam safety, and other programs. Finally, Program Director Reed Murray will give testimony on the Administration's request for the Central Utah Project Completion Act.

Welcome to you all. I ask each of you to ensure that the hearing record, questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to the Subcommittee no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. Members with additional questions for the record will have until close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee.

With those opening comments, I would like to yield to our ranking member, Mr. Frelinghuysen, for any opening comments that he would like to make.