



# **The Americas Regional Process - Mobilizing the Actors**

## **The US Water Policy Dialogues**

**March 17, 2009**



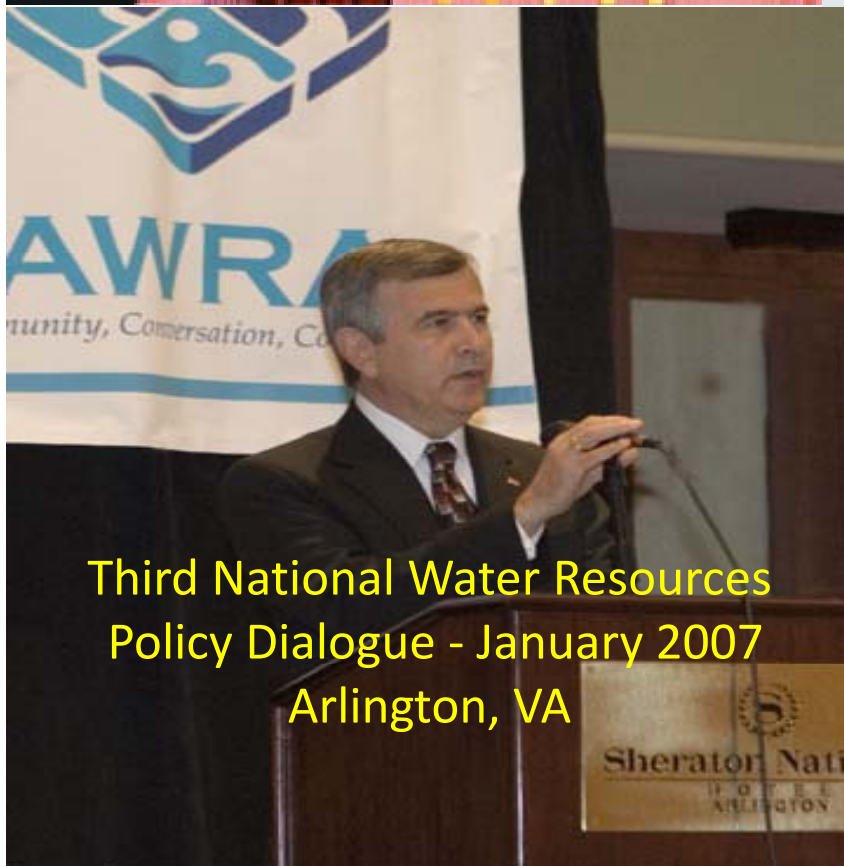
**Idaho National Laboratory**  
**Environmental Stewardship and Water Management Program**  
**President, AWRA**

# The Dialogues

- Sponsored/proposed by ten federal agencies
- Purpose: Identify policy issues and possible actions; provide input to WWF Regional Process (Dialogue 4)
- Outcome: Letters to President and senior leaders; summary reports



**American Water Resources Association's  
National Water Resources Policy Dialogue  
Washington, D.C.  
September 17-18, 2002**



**Third National Water Resources  
Policy Dialogue - January 2007  
Arlington, VA**

**AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES  
ASSOCIATION  
Second National Water Resources Policy Dialogue**

Tucson, Arizona

February 14-15, 2005

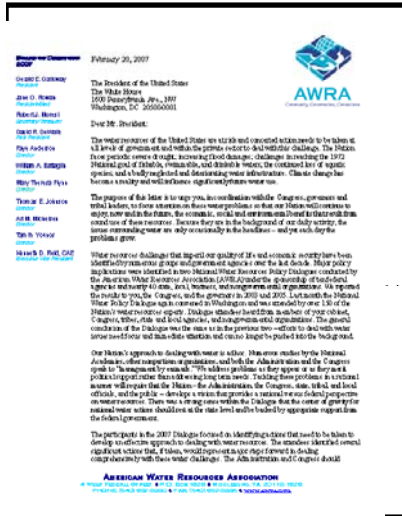


## **2002/2005/2007 Dialogues**

- **Develop a national [not federal] water vision:**
- **Formulate policy principles for translating the vision into action**
- **Insist on appropriate coordination and cooperation among federal agencies**
- **Develop formal coordination and cooperative relationships**
- **Create watershed organizations and use incentives to encourage local watershed organizations and grass-root involvement.**
- **Clearly focus the Nation's superb scientific capabilities**

# American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

*Letter to the President, Congress and Governors  
Feb 2007*



Stewardship of the Nation's water resources is being neglected and the manner in which we deal with water issues is dysfunctional

The center of gravity for national water actions is shifting to the state level and should be backed by appropriate support from the federal government.



# American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

## Dialogue 4

- **Washington DC at Congressional Office Building**
- **Sponsored by AWRA, Environmental and Water Resources Institute of ASCE, National Wildlife Federation**
- **Identify Key Current Issues for New President**
- **Provide Input to WWF5**



## American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

### **Conclusion 1**

- **There is an immediate need for an assessment of the Nation's water resources to include the current status of the resource, the future needs for water and identification of gaps that exist in fulfilling these needs**

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## American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

### Conclusion 2

- The federal government, in cooperation with state and local agencies, needs to develop **a national vision and overarching principles** to guide water resources development activities supported by the federal government

## Conclusion 3

- There is increasing need for mechanisms that will better coordinate the water related activities of federal agencies and among congressional committees. The absence of effective coordination is apparent in the conflicts and overlaps that exist in legislation, programs, and agency activities



## American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

### Conclusions 4

- **The relationship among the federal government, states and local communities is changing and must be addressed. The federal government's role in water resources, long seen to be a driving force, must be reevaluated in light of growing state attention and direction of water resource activities**
  - **Defining the Integrator**
  - **Resting on National (not federal) Policies**

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## American Water Resources Association's National Water Resources Policy Dialogue

### **Conclusions 5**

- **Federal actions with regard to water resources must be taken in a watershed context where the underlying planning is conducted in partnership with the states and local entities**

**Thank You**



**AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES  
ASSOCIATION**

*COMMUNITY, CONVERSATION, CONNECTIONS*