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A personal response to JOIN THE DIALOGUE: America's Water Resources Challenges for the 21st Century

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Dear Colleagues: Thank you very much for opening the DIALOGUE. I expect that there are many questions and solutions in this great session. To save time, I write my response to you so that it can be examined at the meeting and/or later.

There are 6 items listed in the Want List. I feel that aside the 1st item: "A strong marine transportation system that can accommodate increased demand," all the rest can be enhanced by involving the water users.

Rain/ precipitation waters are the gift from God, the mother nature becomes alive when these gifts occur. When the gift is too much, we have the flood (item 2). On the otherhand, if it is too little, we have drought (water shortage is one of the natural disasters (item 6). Here is my suggestions to address these wanted items:

WE SHOULD CATCH THE RAIN/PRECIPITATION WATERS

If all of us retain rainwater that falls on our house/property during a storm, we can collectively reduce the flood water volume that will flow into the storm drains. The City of Denver has established the rule of stormwater retention for new building permit. This is one of the many arrangements that we can reduce flooding impacts. This rule implies that the private sector can be a partner of the public sectors to address flooding problems. Private sector must be participants in public works development and in the planning stage. They cannot solve flooding problems entirely but they can make flooding problems bearable.

Retained storm waters can be used during the fair weather days to enhance the environment for the benefit of humans, plants and animals.

Precipitation waters can be a new source to provide clean water in our communities. During the great railway westward pioneering era, rainwater was treasured by homestead house wives for cleaning cloths. Let us bring back this old tradition of water uses with our new technology. If we collect and use rainwaters, We can help the public sector greatly. First, we can slowdown the water demand on the public water supply systems (as pointout in item 4, the national investment in water resources has not kept pace with economic and social expansion). Second, the potentials of private sectors' participation in water resources can be generated greatly by the private rainwater catchment systems: a) Water users will conserve water by controlling their stored water. They will manage their water as money in their bank account. In otherwords, they don't like to get the storage tank DRY! b) It's an educational tool, to educate water users in a family to conserve their water as well as money in their bank account because parents will have an easy example to show younger generation how to manage water and money. Third, provide diversified water source for emergency (item 6).

I PROPOSE THAT A NATIONAL POLICY FOR RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO HELP THE NATION TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF WATER RESOURCES IN 21st CENTURY.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER