

ADAPTING WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Briefing for the
Climate Change Adaptation Task Force
by the
Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup



Council on Environmental Quality

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Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

On October 14, 2010, the Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, co-chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), [released its interagency report](#) outlining recommendations to President Obama for how Federal Agency policies and programs can better prepare the United States to respond to the impacts of climate change. The report recommends that the Federal Government implement actions to expand and strengthen the Nation's capacity to better understand, prepare for, and respond to climate change. These recommended actions include:

- **Make adaptation a standard part of Agency planning** to ensure that resources are invested wisely and services and operations remain effective in a changing climate.
- **Ensure scientific information about the impacts of climate change is easily accessible** so public and private sector decision-makers can build adaptive capacity into their plans and activities.
- **Align Federal efforts to respond to climate impacts that cut across jurisdictions and missions**, such as those that threaten water resources, public health, oceans and coasts, and communities.
- **Develop a U.S. strategy to support international adaptation** that leverages resources across the Federal Government to help developing countries reduce their vulnerability to climate change through programs that are consistent with the core principles and objectives of the President's new Global Development Policy.
- **Build strong partnerships to support local, state, and tribal decision makers** in improving management of places and infrastructure most likely to be affected by climate change.



Water Resources Workgroup

- ❖ Established September 2009
- ❖ Co-chaired by USGS, EPA, CEQ
- ❖ Includes NOAA, USDA, DOE, ACE, CDC, USBR, State, NASA, others
- ❖ Listening sessions Fall 2009
- ❖ Internal report to Task Force 12/2009



Climate change & water resources

- ❖ Air and water temperatures increase
- ❖ Rainfall amounts decline in some areas and increase in other areas
- ❖ Portion of precipitation falling as snow declines
- ❖ Rainfall/storm events more intense
- ❖ Sea levels rise
- ❖ Coastal / ocean waters changes



Challenges for Water Resource Managers

- ❖ Assure adequate water supply
- ❖ Protect life, health, and property
- ❖ Protect quality of freshwater resources
- ❖ Protect coastal and ocean resources



Initial Recommendations: June 2010

- ❖ Interagency Teams: 5 Priority Areas
 - ❖ Data and Information
 - ❖ Vulnerability
 - ❖ Water Use Efficiency
 - ❖ Integrated Water Resources Management
 - ❖ Education
- ❖ Create Organization/Planning Structure
- ❖ Teams Identified Over 50 Proposed Actions



Progress Report of the Task Force October 2010

- ❖ Selected Three Key Recommendations:
 - ❖ Strengthen Data and Information
 - ❖ Improve Water Use Efficiency
 - ❖ Develop a National Action Plan: Climate Change and Freshwater Resources



Workgroup Report to the Task Force: December 2010

- ❖ Builds on *Progress Report*:
 - ❖ Two Major Goals:
 - Strengthen Organization and Planning
 - Promote Program/Policy Actions in 5 Priority Areas
 - ❖ Seven Recommendations (see next slide)
 - ❖ 30 Supporting Actions



Seven Major Recommendations

- ❖ Develop a National Action Plan
- ❖ Establish an Organizational Framework
- ❖ Improve Water Resources/Climate Change Data
- ❖ Strengthen Assessment of Vulnerability
- ❖ Expand Water Use Efficiency
- ❖ Support Integrated Water Resources Management
- ❖ Educate Water Resource Managers



Next Steps:

- ❖ Workgroup Report to Task Force (12/'10)
- ❖ Develop Detailed Workplan (early '11)
 - ❖ Begin Implementation of Water Elements of October Report
 - ❖ Work with Agencies to Implement “No Regrets” Actions and Further Develop More Complex Actions
 - ❖ Describe Process and Schedule for National Action Plan
 - ❖ Expand Outreach to Stakeholders at National and Regional Levels
 - ❖ Coordinate with Related Climate Adaptation Plans (e.g.: coastal, fish/wildlife)
 - ❖ Support Drafting of Water Data and Climate Change Report to Congress (due: 3/'11; including Task Force review; SECURE Water Act Sec. 9506)
 - ❖ Support Development of Task Force Progress Report (due: 10/'11)



Questions?

