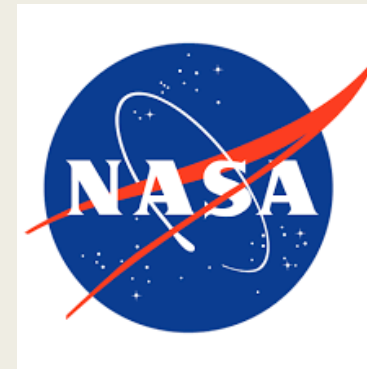
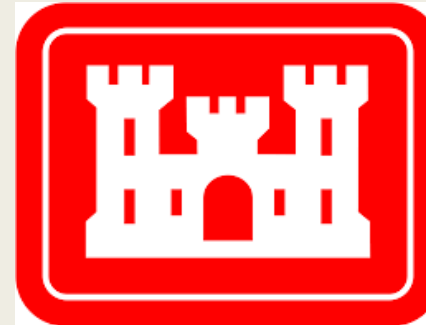




WESTFAST UPDATE

Patrick Lambert, WestFAST Chair
Deborah Lawler, Federal Liaison Officer
October 2019

The Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST) is a collaboration between 12 Federal agencies with water management responsibilities in the West. WestFAST was established to support the Western States Water Council (WSWC), and the Western Governors Association (and Western Partners in general) in coordinating Federal efforts regarding water resources.



Membership and Executive Leadership Committee

- 19 Members
- Executive Committee
 - *Patrick Lambert (USGS) – Chair*
 - *Vacant – Vice Chair*
 - *Kevin Werner – Former Chair/Advisor*
- WestFAST Liaison – Deb Lawler

New WestFAST Members

- **USFWS - Mike Higgins**, Water Resources Coordinator
National Wildlife Refuge System
- **USACE - Jeff Arnold**, Lead Climate Scientist, Climate
Preparedness and Resilience Program
- **NOAA - Ed Clark, Director**, National Water Center & Deputy
Director Office of Water Prediction
- **USGS - Timothy McHale**, Senior Science Advisor, Office of
the Associate Director for Water

“... promote and facilitate coordination among federal agencies, and between the states and federal agencies and to help plan and implement collaborative efforts.”

Concerning goals of proactive collaboration...

“Despite efforts to meet the agreed-upon needs and described goals for collaboration, gaps persist between expected and actual engagement.”

“Both State and Federal entities, including member agencies of WestFAST, are interested in strategies to improve the effectiveness of Federal/State working relations and meet collaboration requirements and expectations.”

From WestFAST Report – “Review of Policies, Perspectives, and Expectations for Federal/State Collaboration in Western Water Resource Management” (2019)

WestFAST Priorities

- Continue to develop and enhance lines of communication, awareness of the need for and opportunities for proactive collaboration, and to develop effective working relationships
- Open and Integrated Data
- Drought resilience and infrastructure
- Facilitating workplans from Presidential Memorandum on Water in the West (and previous NDRP action plans)
- Enhanced communication from State partners to WestFAST to WestFAST Agency Principals
- WestFAST governance and sustainable funding model

WestFAST Webinars Series

- Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West – The Federal Response (Multiple Agencies)
- New USGS Observation and Water Assessment Programs in the West (USGS)
- August 24-Month Study & Projection Triggering Lower Basin DCP Contributions (Reclamation)
- Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Fall 2019)

WestFAST Webinars Series

- WRP DOD Water Challenges, Threats, and Recommendations - Building Resilience thru Military Readiness and Disaster Preparedness (DOD)
- Water Emissions Dashboard (Julian Fulton)
- Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center - WIFIA and SRF
- Coordinated Federal activities on snowpack - Improving S2S (Seasonal to Sub-seasonal) Precipitation Forecasting (NASA, NOAA and NRCS)

Infrastructure Symposium Part II

- Engagement with Water Policy Committee (formerly Water Subcabinet), states, and others
- April 2019 – Water Infrastructure Forum, Washington, DC
- Feedback
 - *Good first step*
 - *More substantive dialogue and planning desired*
- Forum, Part II, December 17, 2019, Washington, DC
- Forum, Part III, April 1, 2020, Washington, DC

Questions

