

ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN STATE ENGINEERS

2009 POSITION STATEMENT

**FUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
COOPERATIVE WATER PROGRAM AND THE NATIONAL STREAMFLOW INFORMATION
PROGRAM**

The surface water and ground water in the United States are of strategic importance to the health and security of the nation's people, agriculture, industry and ecology. Increased demands for these resources increase the need for wise planning. Information on water supplies of the country is essential to any water supply management effort. However, as the need has increased, the capacity to meet the need for basic data has decreased.

The United States Geological Survey traditionally has had the primary responsibility for collecting, compiling, and publishing basic water data for surface and ground water throughout the nation. Recent shifts in priorities, changes in funding mechanisms, and higher administrative costs and budget cuts within the U.S. Geological Survey have decreased the number of collection sites and adversely affected its ability to meet the current and future needs of the water measurement program. Studies that rely on the data from this program have been proportionally impacted. The Association of Western State Engineers strongly urges Congress and the President to fully fund the National Streamflow Information Program and the Cooperative Water Program, and to adequately fund other data collection efforts while restoring cost efficiency by:

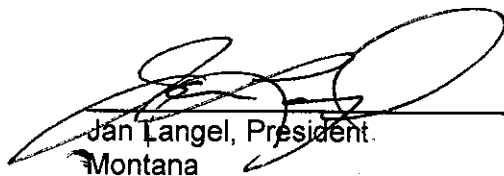
Directing the U.S. Geological Survey to return to the historic 50-50 cost-share funding policy for cooperators.

1. Encouraging the U.S. Geological Survey to assist state data collection programs through cost sharing, establishing standards, providing training, and research to improve data collection methods.
2. Encouraging the consistency, integrity, and long-term viability of surface and ground water data collected under the Cooperative Water Program by directing that the collection, compiling and publishing of data continue to be undertaken consistent with U.S. Geological Survey standards.
3. Ensuring that data collected consistent with standard methodologies is made available on a real time basis and is properly archived so as to be available to the western states in the future.

Further, the Association of Western State Engineers opposes efforts by Congress to mandate that the U.S. Geological Survey privatize data collection and data management efforts.

Adopted this 7th day of October, 2009.

Association of Western State Engineers



Jan Langel, President
Montana