

(1) adequate and safe supplies of water are fundamental to the health, economy, security, and ecology of the United States;

(2) systematic data-gathering with respect to, and research and development of, the water resources of the United States will help ensure the continued existence of sufficient quantities of water to support—

- (A) increasing populations;
- (B) economic growth;
- (C) irrigated agriculture;
- (D) energy production; and
- (E) the protection of aquatic ecosystems;

(3) global climate change poses a significant challenge to the protection and use of the water resources of the United States due to an increased uncertainty with respect to the timing, form, and geographical distribution of precipitation, which may have a substantial effect on the supplies of water for agricultural, hydroelectric power, industrial, domestic supply, and environmental needs;

(4) although States bear the primary responsibility and authority for managing the water resources of the United States, the Federal Government should support the States, as well as regional, local, and tribal governments, by carrying out—

- (A) nationwide data collection and monitoring activities;
- (B) relevant research; and
- (C) activities to increase the efficiency of the use of water in the United States;

(5) Federal agencies that conduct water management and related activities have a responsibility—

- (A) to take a lead role in assessing risks to the water resources of the United States (including risks posed by global climate change); and
- (B) to develop strategies—
 - (i) to mitigate the potential impacts of each risk described in subparagraph (A); and
 - (ii) to help ensure that the long-term water resources management of the United States is sustainable and will ensure sustainable quantities of water;

(6) it is critical to continue and expand research and monitoring efforts—

- (A) to improve the understanding of the variability of the water cycle; and
- (B) to provide basic information necessary—
 - (i) to manage and efficiently use the water resources of the United States; and
 - (ii) to identify new supplies of water that are capable of being reclaimed; and

(7) the study of water use is vital—

- (A) to the understanding of the impacts of human activity on water and ecological resources; and
- (B) to the assessment of whether available surface and groundwater supplies will be available to meet the future needs of the United States.

(Pub. L. 111-11, title IX, §9501, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1329.)

§ 10362. Definitions

In this section:¹

(1) Administrator

The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) Advisory Committee

The term “Advisory Committee” means the National Advisory Committee on Water Information established—

- (A) under the Office of Management and Budget Circular 92-01; and
- (B) to coordinate water data collection activities.

(3) Assessment program

The term “assessment program” means the water availability and use assessment program established by the Secretary under section 10368(a) of this title.

(4) Climate division

The term “climate division” means 1 of the 359 divisions in the United States that represents 2 or more regions located within a State that are as climatically homogeneous as possible, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) Commissioner

The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(6) Director

The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(7) Eligible applicant

The term “eligible applicant” means any State, Indian tribe, irrigation district, water district, or other organization with water or power delivery authority.

(8) Federal Power Marketing Administration

The term “Federal Power Marketing Administration” means—

- (A) the Bonneville Power Administration;
- (B) the Southeastern Power Administration;
- (C) the Southwestern Power Administration; and
- (D) the Western Area Power Administration.

(9) Hydrologic accounting unit

The term “hydrologic accounting unit” means 1 of the 352 river basin hydrologic accounting units used by the United States Geological Survey.

(10) Indian tribe

The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 450b of title 25.

(11) Major aquifer system

The term “major aquifer system” means a groundwater system that is—

- (A) identified as a significant groundwater system by the Director; and
- (B) included in the Groundwater Atlas of the United States, published by the United States Geological Survey.

¹ So in original. Probably should be a reference to this chapter.

(12) Major reclamation river basin**(A) In general**

The term “major reclamation river basin” means each major river system (including tributaries)—

- (i) that is located in a service area of the Bureau of Reclamation; and
- (ii) at which is located a federally authorized project of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(B) Inclusions

The term “major reclamation river basin” includes—

- (i) the Colorado River;
- (ii) the Columbia River;
- (iii) the Klamath River;
- (iv) the Missouri River;
- (v) the Rio Grande;
- (vi) the Sacramento River;
- (vii) the San Joaquin River; and
- (viii) the Truckee River.

(13) Non-Federal participant

The term “non-Federal participant” means—

- (A) a State, regional, or local authority;
 - (B) an Indian tribe or tribal organization;
- or
- (C) any other qualifying entity, such as a water conservation district, water conservancy district, or rural water district or association, or a nongovernmental organization.

(14) Panel

The term “panel” means the climate change and water intragovernmental panel established by the Secretary under section 10366(a) of this title.

(15) Program

The term “program” means the regional integrated sciences and assessments program—

- (A) established by the Administrator; and
- (B) that is comprised of 8 regional programs that use advances in integrated climate sciences to assist decisionmaking processes.

(16) Secretary**(A) In general**

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(B) Exceptions

The term “Secretary” means—

- (i) in the case of sections 10363, 10364, and 10369 of this title, the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Commissioner); and
- (ii) in the case of sections 10367 and 10368 of this title, the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director).

(17) Service area

The term “service area” means any area that encompasses a watershed that contains a federally authorized reclamation project that is located in any State or area described in section 391 of title 43.

(Pub. L. 111–11, title IX, §9502, Mar. 30, 2009, 123 Stat. 1330.)

§ 10363. Reclamation climate change and water program**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall establish a climate change adaptation program—

- (1) to coordinate with the Administrator and other appropriate agencies to assess each effect of, and risk resulting from, global climate change with respect to the quantity of water resources located in a service area; and
- (2) to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that strategies are developed at watershed and aquifer system scales to address potential water shortages, conflicts, and other impacts to water users located at, and the environment of, each service area.

(b) Required elements

In carrying out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

- (1) coordinate with the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the program, and each appropriate State water resource agency, to ensure that the Secretary has access to the best available scientific information with respect to presently observed and projected future impacts of global climate change on water resources;

(2) assess specific risks to the water supply of each major reclamation river basin, including any risk relating to—

- (A) a change in snowpack;
- (B) changes in the timing and quantity of runoff;
- (C) changes in groundwater recharge and discharge; and
- (D) any increase in—
 - (i) the demand for water as a result of increasing temperatures; and
 - (ii) the rate of reservoir evaporation;

(3) with respect to each major reclamation river basin, analyze the extent to which changes in the water supply of the United States will impact—

- (A) the ability of the Secretary to deliver water to the contractors of the Secretary;
- (B) hydroelectric power generation facilities;
- (C) recreation at reclamation facilities;
- (D) fish and wildlife habitat;
- (E) applicable species listed as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);
- (F) water quality issues (including salinity levels of each major reclamation river basin);
- (G) flow and water dependent ecological resiliency; and
- (H) flood control management;

(4) in consultation with appropriate non-Federal participants, consider and develop appropriate strategies to mitigate each impact of water supply changes analyzed by the Secretary under paragraph (3), including strategies relating to—