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Research for People and the Planet

National (2009-10) Budget Priorities for Water Resources

Following up on the “[Water: Threats and Opportunities – Recommendations to the Next President](#)” released in October 2008, the Pacific Institute offers a set of priority budget suggestions for addressing water-related challenges facing the United States. The budget amounts below are suggested **first-year additions to base year** funding, with additional recommendations for modest ramp-ups.

Department of the Interior: U.S. Geological Survey:

Expand National Water Quality Assessment Program	\$30 million initial; annual increase 10% /yr p
Create National water use assessment program	\$5 million initial; ramp up to permanent \$10 million/yr by 2012
Expand national advanced streamflow gage program	\$10 million per year; steady funding
National Assessment of Climate and Water (2 yr program)	\$1 million first year; \$1 million second year.

Department of the Interior: Fish and Wildlife

Environmental science program; to work with states on implementation of instream environmental flows:	\$10 million initial; ramp up to \$15 million/yr by 2012
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Department of the Interior: Bureau of Reclamation

National reservoir reoperation climate change studies in conjunction with USACoE, TVA, Bonneville (split)	\$7 million annually for three years
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Environmental Protection Agency

State Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds	\$500 million additional (program back to 2007 levels)
Water Sense/Efficiency Program	+\$10 million initial; to \$15 million by 2012

Department of Agriculture

Expand water conservation/efficiency grants: “Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):”	+\$285 million to bring to level of Farm Bill request
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Department of Defense

Water-related security workshops, and in house expertise on water.	Reallocation; no new funds
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Department of Defense: US Army Corps of Engineers

National levee, seawall, coastal infrastructure assessment	\$10 million each year for three-year program
Implementation of Mississippi River flood recommendations from Galloway Report	\$250 million first year for “shovel-ready” levee removal; wetland restoration; land use modifications; 10% annual increases.

State Department

Fully fund “Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act”	+\$200 million (?) for small water systems
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Department of Energy

Integrated water-energy regional assessments	Reallocation; no new funds
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