



Carpe Diem

WESTERN WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE

A PROJECT OF EXLOCO – PATHFINDING IN THE NEW WEST

June 25, 2009

Dear Kimery,

One of the biggest challenges the [Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change](#) project has been addressing over the past two years is the lack of public policy attention to climate change impacts on rivers and water supply.

Earlier this month, a significant benchmark was reached when [Mike Connor](#), the new Commissioner for the United States Bureau of Reclamation clearly stated that the agency must take a lead role in climate change adaptation.

In his first public speech as Bureau Commissioner, Connor told the audience at the annual [Natural Resources Law Center conference](#) in Boulder "Our water supply is going to be changing. The way water comes to us is going to be changing. That's absolutely one of the key challenges we need to be preparing for."

As Sarah Bates, Carpe Diem project team member, commented in her post [Cool Head in a Hot Seat](#) last week, "It would be a laughable understatement to say that Commissioner Connor has his work cut out for him." She goes on to say in the post "Connor's reputation as a calm but persistent problem-solver, his experience with complex federal water disputes, and his ever-present sense of humor will serve him well as he assumes the reins of an agency beset by the sorts of 'wicked' problems that call for solutions shaped around uncertain future considerations and require cooperation of parties bearing scars of historical battles."

At the Carpe Diem project's [federal policy convening](#) earlier this year, Connor, then Counsel for the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, commented on the need for 'strange bedfellow' coalitions to bring western water solutions to Congress and the Administration. This month at the Boulder conference, Connor further emphasized this point calling for western water interests to build coalitions, to "seize the opportunity to solve big problems."

As the Carpe Diem project moves forward incubating new 'strange bedfellows' alliances, the Bureau of Reclamation will be a welcomed and pivotal voice at the table.

Regards,
Kimery Wiltshire

About the Carpe Diem Project

The **Carpe Diem - Western Water & Climate Change** project is an alliance of experts and decision makers committed to addressing the unprecedented challenge of climate change impacts on western water resources. By linking leaders and incubating new initiatives and approaches, the Project seeks sustainable water management practices and policies that provide security for people, ecosystems, industry and food production, incorporating state-of-the-art climate change science and the needs of all stakeholders.

The Project is led by a team of western water and policy experts and a diverse advisor group. Support for the Project is provided by foundations, western water and public agencies, individuals and corporations. Launched in Fall 2007, the Project is housed at [Exloco](#), a nonprofit organization that incubates new solutions to sustainability challenges in the western United States.

Please join supporters of Exloco's Carpe Diem project - your tax-deductible contribution will provide the critical support needed for this pioneering work. www.exloco.org/support