Food and Agriculture Priorities for the Next Administration

National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
September 13, 2016
Western Land and Water Challenges

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Executive Director

San Luis Reservoir
Los Banos, California  August 4, 2016
About the Alliance
SO WHAT CAN Washington do to protect against drought and ensure we have clean drinking water?

Our respondents weren’t impressed with how the 2016 presidential candidates have proposed addressing these issues. In fact, they haven’t heard much at all.

“It would be nice to have it even mentioned.”

Dan Keppen, executive director of the Family Farm Alliance.
Stressors to Agricultural Water

- Drought
- Urban Development
- Aesthetics / Recreation
- Environmental Demands
2015 Farm Water Drought Impacts to California Agriculture

- 21,000 Lost Jobs = $2.7 Billion in Lost Economic Activity
- 15% Increased Prices to Consumers
- $2 Billion Direct Farm Losses
- 542,000 Acres of Farmland Fallowed
Death by two dozen regulatory cuts

Long Term Average, CVP S. of Delta Ag Service Contract Allocation

- State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1485 (Implemented 1978)
- Endangered Species Act - Winter Run Salmon Temperature Control
- Central Valley Project Improvement Act - Refuge Supply Increase (Level 2) / Refuge Supply Shortage Provision
- Endangered Species Act - Delta Smelt Biological Opinion
- Water Quality Control Plan (Adopted as D1641 in 2000) / Clean Water Act
- Anadromous Fish Restoration Program - CVPIA B2
- Trinity River Restoration Plan
- Delta Smelt Biological Opinion
- Salmon Biological Opinion

* Allocation projections derived from pre 2007 CalSim studies and more recent CalSim studies associated with the 2008 OCAP BA and Biological Opinions
How have delta smelt populations responded?
REGULATORY DROUGHT: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words
What the new Administration can do

- Improve ESA implementation re: transparency and species recovery
- Require fish and wildlife agencies to inject some reality, set priorities and be accountable in their effort to manage the environmental share of the water pie
WGA ESA Initiative Common Themes

- Incentivizing Proactive Voluntary Conservation
- The Role of State and Local Governments in Species Conservation and ESA Implementation
- Landscape Level Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- Investment in Science and Measurable Outcomes:
What the new Administration can do

• Encourage accurate measurement & portrayal of water use & beneficial use data.

• Find ways to streamline regulatory hurdles assist in developing new storage projects & other necessary infrastructure improvements.
What the new Administration can do

• Provide additional funding to support programs that provide incentive-driven cost share money for new water conservation projects.
What the new Administration can do

• Protect and respect water rights
• Provide alternative financing mechanisms to give water users tools to address aging and insufficient water infrastructure needs
### U.S. Total Food Expenditures, 1929-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of Disposable Private Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
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<td>1980</td>
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<td>1990</td>
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**1945-2013 Period of U.S. Ag. Expansion and Productivity+**

- U.S.: 6.6%
- U.K.: 9.3%
- Germany: 12.0%
- Japan: 13.6%
- Brazil: 15.7%
- Greece: 16.6%
- Iran: 25.0%
- China: 26.1%
- India: 29.6%
- Russia: 30.5%
- Egypt: 37.4%
- Pakistan: 48.1%

**Income Impacts to Consumer Economy?**

**What the new Administration can do**

**Underscore the Economic Significance of Agriculture**
Other Ways to Improve Decision Making

• Bring the question of U.S. food security into the economic analysis of irrigation projects.

• Make sure the issue is recognized by decision makers.
The World Food Supply “GAP”

Source: Farm Foundation, NFP calculations (2010) based on USDA ERS data.
A New Paradigm

- We would like to see water policy officials run another scenario: one that assumes that irrigated acreage will not be diminished, and may, in fact, need to be expanded.
Concerns

- We cannot continue to downplay or ignore the negative implications of reallocating more agricultural water supplies from Western watersheds to meet new urban and environmental water demands.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, 2016 — By: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

“….it's good news that in all corners of rural America, we're seeing real, positive change take hold for the first time in the years since the Great Recession.”
Extreme poverty in rural Oregon persists amid broader recovery

September 2, 2016
Oregonian – Front Page
Climate change is driving up temperatures and increasing wildfire risk.

- Temperatures are rising: Average annual temperatures in the Western U.S. have increased 1.8°F since 1970.
- Snow melts sooner: Winter snowpack melts up to 4 weeks earlier than in previous decades.
- Forests are drier longer: Conditions are primed for wildfires to ignite and spread.
Disconnects

Lessons on Climate Change and Poverty From the California Drought
By Wendy Ortiz  August 2015

Central Valley Regulatory Drought
Journal Article
Published in 2015
Op-Ed: Rural America Is Back In Business

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, 2016 — By: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

“....it's good news that in all corners of rural America, we're seeing real, positive change take hold for the first time in the years since the Great Recession.”
Reactions

“Wow, oh wow; are you kidding me? Clearly he hasn't visited "our" rural areas of multiple food bank deliveries to many "prosperous" people he's encountered.”

_Fresno County, California_

“Imagine how much worse it could have been from the double digit unemployment, overwhelming need for social support, billions of lost economic activity, ignored socio-environmental damage and broken dreams, with absolutely no benefit for fish species? Apparently we’re not rural enough.”

_Los Banos, California_

“He doesn't have a land loan an equipment loan and an operating loan trying to make a profit to feed a family and repay loans with very little or no water to grow a crop.”

_Yuma, Arizona_
Conclusion

- The new Administration must clearly understand the importance of Western irrigated agriculture and the implications associated with drying up land currently producing food in the West.

- We’ll do our best to advocate towards that end.