



USSD Position - Securing Future Water Supplies – Planning and Permitting of Multipurpose Water Storage Reservoirs

Summary of USSD Position

Surface water storage reservoirs are a significant component of our country’s water supply infrastructure; complementing groundwater storage, water recycling, desalination, and, in some cases, reuse. All of these components are critical to ensuring water supply security, which is also essential for energy generation, agricultural development, and economic growth. The planning and permitting of water storage reservoirs is central to water supply resilience and dealing with potential climate change impacts. Efficient compliance with federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations helps deliver additional water resource infrastructure in a more timely and cost-effective manner.

USSD supports the development and implementation of efficient and transparent planning and permitting processes for projects involving new reservoirs and/or expansion or reoperation of existing reservoir systems. USSD encourages compliance with all applicable federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations and pro-active multi-stakeholder involvement in alternatives identification, development and evaluation. The streamlined planning and permitting processes should result in the selection of a preferred alternative(s) that, where possible: 1) provide multipurpose benefits; 2) maximizes water supply security, sustainability, resiliency and the health of communities, businesses, farms, and the environment; 3) minimizes social, environmental and economic impacts and 4) incorporates sustainable sediment management strategies to ensure long-term reservoir function and capacity.

Prepared by the USSD Environment and Sustainability Committee