

Congressman Juan Ciscomani (AZ-06)

Energy and Water Member Day Remarks

Wednesday, April, 10th 2023

Thank you, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, and subcommittee members for allowing me to testify today. Today I want to speak in support of a program that is crucial to my state and every other Western state that relies on the Colorado River for water.

As you may know, Arizona is facing an unprecedented drought and desperately needs the federal government's support for its water conservation needs. The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) is a unique federal resource that provides critical funding to local stakeholders for the development, planning, and design of watershed management programs.

In Arizona, dozens of water projects have been made possible by this program; these projects bring together a variety of local stakeholders and improve water quantity and quality in areas that need water security the most. While the program has been incredibly successful so far, the demand for capacity-building water projects is immense and with its current funding levels, many worthy projects are left unfunded.

The CWMP is authorized at \$20 million annually but has never received regular appropriations close to that level. With the West's current water shortage, I believe it is high time that we invest in this program and other drought-related programs before the situation becomes even more dire.

Further, Mr. Chairman, as you and your staff work hard to form this year's Energy and Water appropriations bill, I would urge you to put drought resiliency efforts on your priority list. In Arizona and the broader West, water is our most important and threatened resource and we need the support of Congress in fighting this drought and securing a strong water future for all. Thank you and I yield back.