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Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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March 19, 2009

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chairwoman, Water and Power Subcommittee
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Napolitano:

As you know, there are numerous questions over how the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will prioritize and spend the \$1 billion appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With too many unanswered questions, a document pointing out that such funding could be used to purchase hybrid vehicles and other questionable items and the dire need to repair and improve our aging infrastructure, we respectfully request that you hold a subcommittee oversight hearing on this matter as soon as possible.

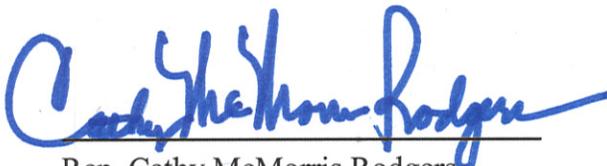
Each of our districts is impacted by Reclamation's projects. For over a century, these projects have provided water to millions of Westerners and food for Americans nationwide. In addition, Reclamation is the second-leading domestic producer of renewable and emissions-free hydropower. We want Reclamation's successes to continue, but it is necessary to keep a close watch on how this new funding is targeted and spent. We also want to examine what actions Reclamation will take to expedite construction by streamlining the regulatory process and reducing overhead, among other things. Above all, this entire process should be open and transparent for the American public.

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
March 19, 2009
Page 2

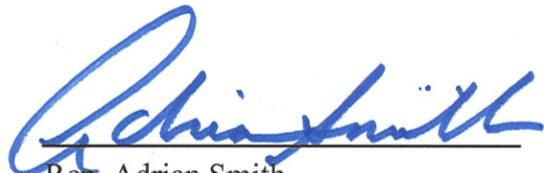
In short, a hearing will be an excellent opportunity to discuss these matters and perform more oversight. We hope that you will consider having water and power customers and others who work directly with Reclamation as witnesses. Their testimony will be helpful outside sources as a way of benchmarking Reclamation's success as it carries out its responsibilities under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
on Water and Power



Rep. Adrian Smith



Rep. Tom McClintock



Rep. Mike Coffman

cc: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall
House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Doc Hastings