



## **Austin B. Ewell III**

**Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

Austin Ewell serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science in the U.S. Department of the Interior. In this capacity, Austin provides oversight and acts as the primary policy lead for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S Geological Survey. The USBR is the largest wholesale water supplier in the country and the USGS is the nation's premier natural science and information agency; these agencies each have a \$1B+ budget and over 5,000 employees. Austin represents Interior in key water matters including conservation, drought and infrastructure initiatives across the administration, and he directs Interior's WaterSMART initiative. He coordinates the Department's sustainable hydropower strategy and overall water policy with a specific focus on California.

Prior to joining the staff at Interior, Austin was President and General Counsel at the Ewell Group of Companies, Fresno, CA. In that capacity he managed water and land use projects including the coordination of consultants to ensure accountability of timelines and deliverables as well as managing the entitlement and regulatory processing of projects.

He lobbied state and local agencies regarding projects' land development and water acquisitions, transfers and exchanges; monitored the legal strategy and tactical decisions concerning the establishment of environmental preserves, real estate development, land use and water related matters.

Austin earned his BA in 2000 at the University of Southern California; in 2004, he earned his JD from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.