STATE and TRIBAL CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL WATER PROGRAM

CHARTER

Climate change poses significant challenges for clean water and drinking water programs. Program managers at State, Tribal and Federal levels recognize the significant consequences of climate change for water programs and are taking actions to respond to these challenges. This Charter establishes a State and Tribal Climate Change Council made up of State and Tribal water program managers and the EPA National Water Program to exchange information on and discuss climate change matters.

Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the State and Tribal Climate Change Council (The Council) is to encourage and enhance communication between State, Tribal and EPA water program managers on climate change and water quality issues.

Key goals of the Council are to:

- inform EPA of the views of individual States and Tribes relating to climate change and water resources, and issues affecting water program management;
- disseminate information to State and Tribal governments concerning implementation of the *National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change Strategy* and engage States and Tribes in this implementation process;
- exchange information concerning EPA, States, and Tribal activities related to climate change;
- support education of State, Tribal and EPA water program managers on climate change and water issues;
- facilitate development of cooperative State, Tribal and EPA projects related to climate change and water; and

- respond to any needs or issues related to climate change and water that the group may identify.

The State and Tribal government engagement with EPA on climate and water issues will reflect individual opinions of State and Tribal governments, and will not reach consensus on or provide any group recommendations to EPA. This panel will not operate under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Membership

The Council includes members nominated by the five major national organizations of State and Tribal clean water and drinking water program administrators, and appointed by EPA:

- the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA);
- the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA);
- the Association of State Wetlands Managers (ASWM);
- State members of the Ground Water Protection Council; and
- the National Tribal Water Council.

Other representatives may be added as needed.

EPA recognizes that climate change impacts on water resources are likely to be very different in different geographic areas of the country. National assessments of the impacts of climate change on the United States have identified six distinct regions of the contiguous U.S. plus Alaska, Islands and Coasts that face different climate change impacts (see 2009 report by the US Global Change Research Program titled *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States)*; these regions are indicated on the attached map.

Each of the five State and Tribal organizations has the option to nominate up to six State/Tribal representatives. This approach allows for the various needs and interests of States and Tribes in all climate change regions to be represented on the national group and facilitates sharing of climate change impact information about each climate region among the State and Tribal representatives from each region.

The Executive Directors of each national organization will also be members of the Council in order to facilitate their support of State and Tribal governments. EPA members will include the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, the Office Directors in the EPA Office of Water, and the Water Division Directors for the EPA Lead Region for Water the EPA Lead Region for Tribes.

The members of the Council will name a chair and a co-chair from among the members, one selected from the State members and one from the Tribal members, who will serve a one year term.

Management

The EPA Office of Water will provide staff support for the operation of the State and Tribal Climate Change Council. Staff to the Council will develop agendas, schedule meetings and calls, report meeting minutes and results, and perform such other support and administrative duties as the Council determines to be appropriate.

The Council will meet on approximately a quarterly basis by conference call. If the Council finds that "in-person" meetings would be useful, it may hold such meetings once a year, or more frequently if needed, to review key issues related to climate change and water. EPA will support "in-person" meetings to the extent resources allow.

The Council may establish a Steering Committee to address management topics and to respond to issues on a short-term basis, and may also establish subcommittees and workgroups. The Steering Committee, subcommittees, and workgroups may convene conference calls or other meetings as needed.

EPA Regional Offices will work with State and Tribal organizations, including the State and Tribal representatives from the applicable climate change region, to address in greater detail some specific issues of most pressing importance on a regional basis.

The State and Tribal Climate Change Council may adopt such operating rules and guidelines as it determines to be appropriate.

Establishment

The State and Tribal Climate Change Council of the National Water Program is hereby established:

Michael Shapiro — 10/2/09

Michael H. Shapiro — Date

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water

ATTACHMENT: Map of Major Climate Change Regions

Map of the Major Climate Change Regions

Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States (USGCRP; 2009, modified)*

* map modified to include Puerto Rico