



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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U.S. Conference of Mayors' Urban Water Council to Hold Southwest Regional Watershed and Water Resources Seminar in Waco

Meeting to Address Solutions to Reducing Drought and Pollution

Washington, DC – The U.S. Conference of Mayors will hold an Urban Water Council Regional Training Seminar from September 6-7 in Waco, Texas to discuss water resources and water management issues in the Southwest to include drought and pollution. The meeting will be led by Waco Mayor Linda Ethridge and Co-Chairs of the Urban Water Council Trenton (NJ) Mayor Douglas Palmer and Augusta (GA) Mayor Bob Young.

The two-day forum will focus on the local government role in handling drought, managing watersheds, and leading the charge for cleanup of non-point and point source pollution in our rivers, streams, and water supplies. The meeting will emphasize how cities, the agricultural community, and the private sector can develop cooperative solutions to water quality problems. There will also be a discussion of USDA "Conservation" programs which will center on new funding under the 2002 Farm Bill.

What: Urban Water Council Southwest Regional Watershed and Water Resources Seminar

When: September 6-7, 2002

Where: The Hilton, 113 South University Parks Drive, Waco, Texas

National and state leaders will speak during the program including: Leona Dittus, Executive Director of the Interim National Drought Council; Jeff Saitas, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and Mack Gray, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Programs.

Facts about drought: As of the end of July, 49% of the contiguous U.S. was in a state of moderate to extreme drought, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Facts about water pollution: More than one-third of the nation's freshwater bodies assessed by the US EPA are impaired by nonpoint and point source pollution.

For a complete copy of the program, please visit <http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/urbanwater>.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Its chief elected official, the mayor, represents each city in the Conference. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information about the Conference is available at www.usmayors.org.