



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

Executive Director Search Announcement

The Western States Water Council (WSWC) seeks an engaging and strategic leader with the experience and skill necessary to strategically guiding the organization into the future, while building value for its members and effectively managing its operations and staff. The ability to build relationships with members, key federal administrators, congressional staff, and other stakeholders is an essential part of this full-time position. The Executive Director will implement the strategic plan, with an emphasis on WSWC values, innovation, and member engagement.

About Western States Water Council

The Western States Water Council is a state government entity comprising representatives appointed by the governors of 18 Western states. Its vision is to ensure the West has an adequate supply of water of suitable quality to meet present and future needs. Since its creation, following the adoption of a resolution at the Western Governors' Conference in 1965, the Council has worked to fulfill its chartered purposes, including promoting cooperation among western states in the conservation and management of water resources; maintaining vital state prerogatives, while identifying ways to accommodate legitimate federal interests; providing a forum for the exchange of perspectives among member states; and assisting states in evaluating impacts and effectiveness of state and federal laws and programs.

Key Responsibilities

- **Fiscal and Operational Management:** Oversees all financial activities, supervision of staff and contractors, management of employee benefits and headquarters property.
- **Executive Support:** Holds regular briefings with the Executive Committee and officers to provide updates on operations, budget, projects, external collaborations, etc.
- **Member Engagement & Outreach:** Leads delivery of member meetings and workshops, member development, strategic planning, and comprehensive outreach.
- **Intergovernmental Relations:** Serves as the WSWC's point of contact with the Western Governors Association (WGA) and actively participates in the WGA-led Western Policy Network to advance priorities, in partnership with Congress and the Administration.
- **Partnership Development:** Builds and fosters professional relationships with key Congressional committee members, federal agency administrators, national, state, and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private interests to collaboratively address complex water resources issues.

Minimum Qualifications

Education: Bachelor's degree in water resources, public policy, environmental science law, public administration, or related field. An advanced degree is preferred.

- **Experience:** A minimum of 10 years of experience in non-profit, public, private sector in the area of water resources management and policy.
- **Leadership & Management:** Senior management experience with demonstrated skill in organizational management, fiscal and strategic planning, meeting facilitation, and effective collaboration.
- **Communication & Interpersonal Skills:** Excellent judgment along with strong interpersonal and communication skills. Experience in public relations, and public speaking is preferred.
- **Water Resources Expertise:** Strong understanding of the complex economic, environmental, physical, political, legal, and social issues related to western water resources challenges. Existing contacts and relationships within federal water resource agencies are strongly preferred.
- **Legislative & Regulatory Knowledge:** Familiarity with federal and state water programs, policies, regulations, legislative, and budget processes related to governmental operations.
- **Drive & Accomplishment:** A high degree of motivation and energy with a proven track record of accomplishments directly linked to an organization's mission.

Compensation & Location

The starting salary for this full-time position is up to \$140,000, commensurate with credentials and experience. Our comprehensive benefits package includes dental and health insurance, a defined contribution pension plan, generous vacation and sick leave, and hybrid remote work options. While the location is flexible, WSWC is headquartered in Murray, Utah, where our current staff and office building are located. Preference may be given to applicants who can work out of this location. Please note that frequent travel to Washington, D.C. and various locations across the country is integral to this position.

To Apply

To apply in confidence, please submit a cover letter, resume/CV, three professional references, and your compensation requirements to the WSWC Executive Director Search Committee, c/o Tamara Lilly at: tamara.lilly@owrb.ok.gov. Applications will be accepted through August 5, 2025. Please contact Ms. Lilly at 405.530.8807 with any questions you may have.