



**Partners in Conservation Awarded in Recognition
of Importance of Managing
Colorado River Water Supply and Demand**

October 18, 2012: The Pacific Institute is one of the recipients of the prestigious “Partners in Conservation Award” presented by U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on October 18. Michael Cohen, senior research associate of the Pacific Institute, contributed to the development of the “Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study” under the Bureau of Reclamation’s [Basin Study Program](#).

The full study, to be released in late November, defines current and future imbalances in water supply and demand in the Colorado River Basin and the adjacent areas of the Basin States that receive Colorado River water, analyzing adaptation and mitigation strategies to resolve those imbalances. The Study characterizes current and future water supply and demand imbalances in the Basin and assesses the risks to Basin resources. Resources include water allocations and deliveries consistent with the apportionments under the [Law of the River](#); hydroelectric power generation; recreation; fish, wildlife, and their habitats (including candidate, threatened, and endangered species); water quality including salinity; flow and water dependent ecological systems; and flood control.

“Water taken from streams and rivers and pumped from the ground within the nearly quarter-million-square-mile Colorado River basin now meets some or all of the needs of almost 35 million people,” said Cohen. “Understanding current and future imbalances in supply and demand is critical to the health of the region, for people, for the ecosystems, and for the economy.”

“Reclamation has done an excellent job of reaching out to many different groups, with very different perspectives on how the river should be managed for future generations,” said Cohen. “The Basin Study will ultimately demonstrate the effectiveness and importance of continuing and accelerating the many urban and agricultural water efficiency programs already found throughout the basin, to help bridge the widening imbalance between the growing demands placed on the desert river and the dwindling supply in the face of climate change.”

The Pacific Institute is a nonpartisan research institute that works to create a healthier planet and sustainable communities. Through interdisciplinary research and partnering with stakeholders, the Institute produces solutions that advance environmental protection, economic development, and social equity – in California, nationally, and internationally. www.pacinst.org