

## **Two Climate Articles**

### ***Climate Change: Federal Efforts Underway to Assess Water Infrastructure Vulnerabilities and Address Adaptation Challenges, Government Accountability Office, GAO-14-23, Nov. 2013.***

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/659024.pdf>

The effects of climate change on water resources have already been observed and are expected to continue. The Corps and Reclamation own and operate key water resource management infrastructure, such as dams and reservoirs. Adaptation—adjustments in natural or human systems to a new or changing environment that exploits beneficial opportunities or moderates negative effects—can be used to help manage the risks to vulnerable resources. In 2009, a law—commonly referred to as the SECURE Water Act—and a presidential executive order directed federal agencies to address the potential impacts of climate change.

### ***Clean Water Act: Changes Needed If Key EPA Program Is to Help Fulfill the Nation's Water Quality Goals, Government Accountability Office, GAO-14-80, Dec. 2013.***

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/659496.pdf>

GAO was asked to examine the TMDL program, specifically (1) EPA's and states' responsibilities in developing and implementing TMDLs, (2) what is known about the status of long-established TMDLs, (3) the extent to which such TMDLs contain features key to attaining water quality standards, and (4) the extent to which TMDLs exhibit factors that facilitate effective implementation. GAO asked water resource experts to review a random sample of 25 long-established TMDLs and surveyed state officials who are responsible for implementing a representative sample of 191 long-established TMDLs.