



**RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
in support of the
WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTES
and the
USGS WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT PROGRAM**

**Reno, Nevada
May 24, 2023**

WHEREAS, in the West, water is a vital and scarce resource the availability of which has and continues to circumscribe growth, development, our economic well being and environmental quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the wise use, conservation, development and management of our water resources is critical to maintaining human life, health, safety and property; and

WHEREAS, water resources research, the dissemination and application of research results or research to operations (R2O) and technology transfer are increasingly important to meeting our present and future water needs; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 authorized a program that included the establishment of state water resources research institutes (WRRIs) or centers in each state to address our water resources challenges; and

WHEREAS, today's institutes and centers provide a research infrastructure that uses the capabilities of universities to greatly assist and provide important support to western state water agencies in long-term planning, policy development and management of the increasingly complex challenges associated with water in the West; and

WHEREAS, these challenges are exacerbated by the uncertainty surrounding population growth, climate, and economic and environmental water demands; and

WHEREAS, the Council and its member states continue to work with the institutes/centers and the academic community to ensure research investments are relevant to our most pressing water problems and allow each state to solve its problems by methods most appropriate to its own situation; and

WHEREAS, the institutes/centers' outreach and information transfer services and activities are very valuable to the water communities in the various western states; and

WHEREAS, this is a very worthwhile federal-state partnership that promotes collaboration, cooperation and the conservation of limited physical, financial and personnel resources; and

WHEREAS, funding for Water Resources Research Act programs and WRI assistance falls within the Department of the Interior's Water and Science budget, under the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); and

WHEREAS, the USGS Water Resources Research Act program promotes, facilitates, and conducts research that helps resolve state and regional water problems; promotes technology transfer; facilitates dissemination and application of research; trains scientists through participation in research; and awards competitive grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western States Water Council asks the Administration and the Congress to maintain the federal authorization and financial support for the state water resources research institutes and Water Resources Research Act program – requesting and appropriating funds as appropriate.

(See also Position #452, 7/22/20; #409, 6/29/17; #368, 7/18/14; #334, 7/29/11; and #305, 7/11/08)