



## Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution 08-22

### *Watershed Restoration Through Partnerships*

#### **A. BACKGROUND**

1. In keeping with the Governor's Enlibra Principles and Park City Principles calling for neighborhood solutions to national problems, increasingly, Governors are looking to watershed councils and broad stakeholder, community-based groups within basins to reach consensus on solutions to complex water problems. In this manner, solutions are tailored to the site specific situation and localities take ownership of those solutions.
2. Water storage is a critical, expensive and long term problem. To solve water storage issues it is imperative to have a strong working relationship and commitment from all stakeholders to a mutually productive process with the goal of streamlining (not shortcutting) planning, implementation, and regulation.

#### **B. GOVERNORS' POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Water quality restoration is essential for economic and environmental sustainability of forestry, agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing, recreation and public water supply.
2. The Western Governors favor collaborative, incentive driven, locally based solutions to environmental and natural resource problems such as water quality restoration.
4. Implementing water management principles consistent with the Park City Principles and Enlibra Principles can be expensive and beyond the ability of some states to fund. However, the benefits of managing the resource in this manner are significant. Therefore, the Western Governors encourage federal agencies to look for opportunities to use existing authority to provide funding, flexibility in funding, and/or shared or loaned personnel to states to help them address specific watershed problems. Further, the Governors urge Congress to provide funding for watershed approaches to water management.
5. The Governors urge the federal government to work with states on a host of water management issues, including studying the storage permit process and improving water efficiency and water recycling programs.

6. The Governors urge the federal government to take into consideration the views, opinions and input of all stakeholders within individual basins, including community-based groups and local governments.

**C. GOVERNORS' MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE**

1. This resolution is to be posted on the Western Governors' Association website and it should be referenced and used as appropriate by Governors and staff.
2. WGA is to monitor any related legislation and implementing regulations and to work with the appropriate public policy organizations in support of the Governors' policies.

*This resolution was originally adopted as Policy Resolution 98-011 in 1998, was readopted in 2001 as Resolution 01-12, and was readopted in 2004 as Policy Resolution 04-08.*

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