

**RESOLUTION**  
**of the**  
**WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL**  
**urging the**  
**CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION**  
**TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS**  
**TO STUDY THE WATER RESOURCES-RELATED IMPACTS**  
**OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE**  
**AND OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT**

**Washington, D.C.**

**March 23, 2010**

**WHEREAS**, climate variability and change have serious potential consequences for water resources planning and management, water rights administration, and future water use; and

**WHEREAS**, there is growing concern, particularly in the Arid West, over our ability to continue to supply water of adequate quality in quantities needed to sustain current and future uses, including environmental uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to provide for such needs would have significant regional and national consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, present water resources planning and sound future decision-making depends on our ability to understand, monitor, anticipate and adapt to changing climatic conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, climate variability and change present substantial obstacles and uncertainties to present and future water resources planning and management; and

**WHEREAS**, more frequent and severe droughts, storms, floods and other weather-related events and changes are predicted; and

**WHEREAS**, changing precipitation, snowmelt, runoff and streamflow patterns are expected, and are already evident, while the magnitude and consequences for society are not well understood; and

**WHEREAS**, most state, local and tribal water managers and water providers have a limited ability to undertake the necessary research to understand and develop adaptation strategies for future climate variability and change; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal agencies participating in the U.S Global Change Research Program have historically concentrated heavily on basic scientific research, research that needs to be translated into decision support applications for water resources management and needs to be communicated to water managers through technology transfer institutions such as NOAA's RISAs; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government, led by NOAA, has now begun developing a national climate service that would provide a central point of contact for users of climate information and would develop and provide climate science products to support decision-makers; and

**WHEREAS**, federal spending for many important programs, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program, support research that addresses complex climate sensitive issues of concern to water managers and administrators at the regional level; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Governors' Association's June 2006 report, "Water Needs and Strategies for a Sustainable Future," specifically refers to the importance of preparing for climate change impacts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western States Water Council urge the Administration and the Congress to give a high priority to funding for federal programs, such as the RISAs and national climate service activities that provide the translation function between basic scientific research on climate variability and change and the application of that research to real-world water management situations at the regional, *state*, and local levels.