

RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
urging the
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS
TO SUPPORT WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
at the
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES
Stateline, Nevada
July 23, 2010

WHEREAS, the Western States Water Council (the Council) has long recognized the importance of protecting and wisely managing our national water resources for the benefit of our present and future generations, including our environment; and

WHEREAS, one purpose of the Council is to accomplish effective cooperation among western states in the conservation, development and management of water resources; and

WHEREAS, a second purpose of the Council is to maintain vital state prerogatives, while identifying ways to accommodate legitimate federal interests; and

WHEREAS many watersheds are already over-appropriated, and new stresses are emerging from climate, population growth, land use changes and water needs for energy development and in-stream uses; 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, most state, local and tribal water managers and water providers have a limited ability to undertake the necessary research to understand and develop climate adaptation strategies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western States Water Council urges the Administration and the Congress to support Department of Energy hosted energy-water programs conducted at National Laboratories and other collaborative water programs, including but not limited to work at: the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and its Mountain West Water Institute; Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in California; Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico; the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Colorado; and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Washington, that provide an essential link between federal energy research programs and water issues of concern to the western states.