

**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**

**Sioux Falls, South Dakota
May 4, 2007**

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 Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) have 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, federal spending for many important programs, such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments

(RISA) program, in the Climate Program Office (CPO), support research that addresses complex climate sensitive issues of concern to water managers and administrators at the regional level;

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 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.