

Position No. 274
(See also Nos. 215, 230, and 249)
originally adopted March 14, 1997
revised and reaffirmed Mar 14, 2000 and Mar 21, 2003

POSITION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
on
PROTECTING GROUND WATER QUALITY
Washington, D.C.
March 29, 2006
(reaffirmed)

WHEREAS, ground water is a critically important natural resource, especially in the mostly arid West; and

WHEREAS, ground water management - the protection of its quality and its orderly, rational allocation and withdrawal for beneficial use - requires cooperation among all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, states recognize the importance and role of comprehensive ground water planning in overall water management; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has a longstanding policy of deferring to the states to develop and implement ground water management and protection programs; and

WHEREAS, most western states have legal systems to allocate ground water rights and all further have the responsibility for ground water quality protection.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any federal ground water quality strategy must reflect a true state-federal partnership, and provide adequate funding consistent with current federal statutory authorities.