



**RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
regarding
THE TRANSFER OF FEDERAL WATER AND POWER PROJECTS
AND RELATED FACILITIES
Nebraska City, Nebraska
April 14, 2017**

WHEREAS, past and present proposals have been made to transfer ownership of various federal agencies' water and power projects and related facilities to non-federal entities; and

WHEREAS, such transfers may offer important benefits, but many are necessarily very complex and involve many different interests, including important public and third-party interests protected under various state and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, many of these projects serve multiple purposes and were built (and their capital costs are being repaid) under longstanding agreements with water, power, and other users; and

WHEREAS, some single-purpose projects might be appropriately transferred under an expedited review process to their non-federal sponsors/operators by mutual agreement; and

WHEREAS, the many potential public benefits and costs related to transfers involve state and local governments and other interests, in addition to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, present and potential benefits may be lost unless there is a careful analysis of the transfer of individual projects; and

WHEREAS, federal project transfers require a careful project-by-project analysis of expected costs and benefits; and

WHEREAS, states have the primary responsibility for the comprehensive development, administration, and protection of their water resources for all purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western States Water Council supports the careful evaluation of the transfer of federal water and power assets and urges the Administration and Congress to work together, with strong state involvement and protections for state water laws and water rights.