



**RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
regarding
The *Dividing the Waters* Program
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 20, 2017**

WHEREAS, the *Dividing the Waters* Program of the National Judicial College has served western judges overseeing complex water litigation for more than 20 years, providing information and training resources on water law and water conflicts to state, tribal, and federal judges; and

WHEREAS, five judicial officers with extensive experience in water adjudication lead *Dividing the Waters* for the benefit of their colleagues in the judiciary, making it a program by judges for judges; and

WHEREAS, the Program includes participating judicial officers from 12 western states who adjudicate a wide range of water cases, from statewide water right adjudications to conflicts over endangered species and water quality; and

WHEREAS, *Dividing the Waters* has received funding from public interest foundations for 22 years but foundation funding for education programs has dwindled in recent years and its current funder, the Stephen J. Bechtel Foundation, closes its doors at the end of 2016; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the executive branch water agencies of the western states to ensure that the judicial officers who adjudicate water cases in their states have an understanding of the fundamentals of western water law and the latest information on water adjudication; and

WHEREAS, the recent recession has resulted in limited state funding for judicial branch education in many states, particularly for water and related natural resource topics; and

WHEREAS, *Dividing the Waters* provides a critical link between the executive branch water agencies and the judicial branch that adjudicates water conflicts in the western states;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Western States Water Council supports *Dividing the Waters* and urges public interest foundations and other interested entities to provide funding for the program.