



RESOLUTION
of the
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL
urging the
CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION
TO PRIORITIZE FEDERAL PROGRAMS
THAT TRANSLATE SCIENCE ON CLIMATE AND WEATHER EXTREMES
TO WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Washington, D.C.
March 22, 2016

WHEREAS, climate and weather extremes have serious potential consequences for water resources planning and management, water rights administration, operation of state and local water projects, 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 droughts, floods, extreme storms, and other weather events; and

WHEREAS, climate and weather extremes, such as drought, cause billions of dollars in damages and present substantial obstacles and uncertainties to present and future water resources planning and management; 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 extreme climate and weather events; and

WHEREAS, the federal agencies participating in climate and weather research programs have historically concentrated heavily on basic scientific research, research that needs to be translated into decision support applications for water resources management and that needs to be communicated to water managers through technology transfer through institutions such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program; and

WHEREAS, important programs, such as NOAA's RISAs support research that addresses complex science issues of concern to water managers and administrators at the regional level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western States Water Council urge the Administration and the Congress to give a high priority to federal programs, such as NOAA's RISAs, that provide the translation function between basic scientific research on climate and weather extremes and the application of that research to real-world water management situations at the regional, state, and local levels.