



**RESOLUTION  
of the  
WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL  
urging the  
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS  
TO SUPPORT WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
at the  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORIES**

**Leavenworth, Washington  
July 18, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Western States Water Council (the Council) has long recognized the importance of protecting and wisely managing our national water resources for the benefit of our present and future generations, including our environment; and

**WHEREAS**, one purpose of the Council is to accomplish effective cooperation among western states in the conservation, development and management of water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, a second purpose of the Council is to maintain vital state prerogatives, while identifying ways to accommodate legitimate federal interests; and

**WHEREAS** many watersheds are already fully-appropriated, and new stresses are emerging from climate, population growth, land use changes and water needs for energy development and in-stream uses; 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 energy and 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 conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, electricity generation and other energy development is a significant driver of present and future water demands and the expertise and research of the national labs can supplement and enhance the ability of state, local and tribal water managers to understand and develop adaptation strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, water-related research at the Department of Energy and National Laboratories should be guided by State needs as expressed in state planning documents and through planning processes; and

**WHEREAS**, in the West, States in compliance with State law have exclusive authority over the appropriation and adjudication of water rights for all uses, and the allocation of water for energy development, including the determination of whether or not there is any unappropriated water available for use.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Western States Water Council urges the Administration and the Congress to recognize the primary role of the States in allocating water for energy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Western States Water Council urges the Administration and the Congress to recognize the value of Department of Energy hosted energy-water programs and research conducted at National Laboratories undertaken in collaboration with state water resources agencies, including but not limited to work at: the Idaho National Laboratory (INL); Lawrence Berkeley and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in California; Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico; the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Colorado; and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Washington, that collaboratively links federal energy research programs and water issues of concern to the western states.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Western States Water Council urges the Administration and the Congress to encourage collaboration and cooperation between the National Laboratories and other federal agencies, including but not limited to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to leverage federal expertise and resources (including supercomputing power; climate and precipitation site sensitivity analysis; systems analysis, integration, and security, etc.) in addressing the Nation's water related challenges.