

## THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

### RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE PRODUCTIVE LIVES OF WATER RESERVOIRS

#### Resolution Summary

Water reservoirs provide drinking water supplies directly and indirectly to significant portions of the United States population. Many of these reservoirs were constructed throughout the United States by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Bureau of Reclamation with anticipated productive lives of 50 to 100 years. A significant percentage of these reservoirs are now approaching 50 years of age and are showing signs of age, such as increased sediment levels that contribute to the loss of storage capacity for drinking water and drought-prevention purposes, as well as the loss of water quality for drinking water supply purposes and the loss of access to recreational opportunities.

In order to save money, it is advisable to address the loss of water storage and increased sediment in water reservoirs before these conditions constitute a crisis.

The Council of State Governments encourages the United States Congress, United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation to form partnerships with the states to extend the productive lives of reservoirs.

#### Additional Resource Information

The US Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

The United States Bureau of Reclamation : <http://www.usbr.gov/>

#### Management Directives

**Management Directive #1:** CSG staff will send copies of this resolution to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, and the leadership of each state legislature's congressional delegation.

**Management Directive #2:** CSG staff will post this resolution on CSG's Web site and make it available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the entire state government and policy community.

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS**  
**RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE PRODUCTIVE LIVES OF WATER**  
**RESERVOIRS**

**WHEREAS**, reservoirs provide drinking water supplies directly and indirectly to significant portions of the United States population; and

**WHEREAS**, reservoirs were constructed throughout the United States by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Bureau of Reclamation with anticipated productive lives of 50 to 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, many of those reservoirs are approaching 50 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, sediment levels in the reservoirs contribute to the loss of storage capacity for drinking water and drought-prevention purposes, as well as the loss of water quality for drinking water supply purposes and the loss of access to recreational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be less expensive and less technically challenging to address the loss of water storage and increased sediment in each reservoir before such conditions constitute a crisis for the people of the United States:

**BE IT THEREFORE NOW RESOLVED**, that The Council of State Governments calls upon the United States Congress, United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation to form partnerships with the states to extend the productive lives of reservoirs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of these partnerships shall enter into suitable arrangements with each state to jointly develop and implement plans to sustain the reservoirs beyond their original design lives. Such plans shall consider the need for future flood protection, water supply and reasonable recreational opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of these partnerships shall determine needed amendments to statutory and regulatory requirements and procedures in order to meet the objectives necessary to sustain threatened reservoirs beyond their original design lives and shall report needed amendments to the respective state legislatures and the United States Congress by January, 2009; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation make pre-eminent the sustainability of existing reservoirs in perpetuity for flood control, drought management, drinking water supplies and reasonable recreational opportunities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of these partnerships shall determine needed amendments to statutory and regulatory requirements and procedures to permit payments by the states for water storage and the operation and maintenance of existing reservoirs. Other similar

payments shall be made directly to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation to fund programs that sustain and rehabilitate reservoirs in the states and shall report needed amendments to the respective state legislatures and the United States Congress by January, 2009; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that payments made by the states to the United States Army Corps of Engineers or United States Bureau of Reclamation to fund reservoir sustainability or rehabilitation, shall constitute payments for their share of operations and maintenance costs and principal and interest on the original contractual obligation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of these partnerships shall identify and amend statutory and regulatory prohibitions against the management of reservoirs as systems, rather than individually; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The Council of State Governments be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, and to the leadership of each state legislature's congressional delegation.

Adopted this 31<sup>st</sup> Day of May, 2008 at the  
CSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
in Lexington, Kentucky

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Governor M. Jodi Rell, and the signature on the right is for Representative Kim Koppelman. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Representative Kim Koppelman

2008 CSG President

2008 CSG Chair