

RESOLUTION  
of  
UPPER COLORADO RIVER COMMISSION

Re: Continued Funding for Weather Modification Research

WHEREAS, precipitation management, more commonly known as weather modification, is a potential nonstructural water augmentation tool to provide additional water supplies for water deficient regions such as the Colorado River Basin; and

WHEREAS, Federal and non-federal investments in theoretical studies, laboratory and field experiments, and controlled cloud seeding programs spanning about 40 years have matured into an internationally recognized applied research expertise residing within the Division of Atmospheric Resources Research of the Bureau of Reclamation; and

WHEREAS, centralized Federal management of applied research by the Division of Atmospheric Resources Research, aimed at further developing scientifically sound operational weather modification techniques for water production that have evolved or are evolving at this time into domestic and international cooperative programs, has provided program continuity and economic efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Congress, in the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act (Public Law 90-537), recognized that there was insufficient water in the Colorado River Basin to meet the long-term needs of the Basin States, authorized studies of measures to augment the water supplies of the Colorado River, and declared that satisfaction of the water delivery requirements of the Mexican Water Treaty from the Colorado River constitutes a national obligation which shall be the first obligation of any future augmentation project; and

WHEREAS, absent augmentation of the Colorado River, it is anticipated that water use in the Basin will exceed the long-term average flow of the River in the 1990's and shortages will have to be taken shortly after the turn of the century; and

WHEREAS, the necessary lead time required to implement any of the identified means of augmenting the River is such that the Secretary of the Interior should now have in place, pursuant to the 1968 Act, a well-defined program for confirming and initiating the most feasible and appropriate means of augmenting the Colorado River's annual water supply; and

WHEREAS, while much has been accomplished to demonstrate the effectiveness of cloud seeding technology as a means of increasing snowpack in the Colorado River Basin, considerable study and analysis remains to be done to demonstrate the feasibility of a Basin-wide program, including confirming and quantifying increases in snow pack, assessing social and environmental impacts, and investigating techniques for risk reduction; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation's Division of Atmospheric Resources Research is the logical and appropriate entity to both complete this work and implement and operate a Basin-wide cloud-seeding program to accomplish the

Secretary of the Interior's river augmentation responsibilities pursuant to the Colorado River Basin Project Act; and

WHEREAS, abandoning years of investment in development of the technology and expertise that may represent a feasible means for augmenting water supplies for water-short areas, just at the time this technology is needed, is wasteful, short-sighted, and unsound management; and

WHEREAS, the lack of Federal funding in the President's proposed 1989 budget for the continued development of applied research by the Division of Atmospheric Resources Research and the transfer of this technology to operational programs is of great concern to all of the Colorado River Basin States; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Governors of the Seven Colorado River Basin States have signed a "Joint Statement. . .in support of Maintaining and Improving Federal Capability in Applied Weather Modification Research and 1988-89 Funding of \$4 million for the Atmospheric Water Resources Management Program of the Bureau of Reclamation."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Colorado River Commission, at its Adjourned Regular Meeting in Denver, Colorado on April 28, 1988 authorized and directed its Secretary to prepare and transmit this Resolution urging Congress to provide \$4 million in Fiscal Year 1989 and appropriate funding thereafter for the Division of Atmospheric Resources Research of the Bureau of Reclamation to continue the development of applied research and to administer cooperative cost-shared programs in weather modification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Upper Colorado River Commission was directed to send copies of this Resolution to the congressional delegations of the Upper Colorado River Basin States, the Senate and House Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development of the Committees on Appropriations, and the Chief of the Division of Atmospheric Resources Research.

#### CERTIFICATE

I, GERALD R. ZIMMERMAN, Executive Director and Secretary of the Upper Colorado River Commission, do hereby certify that I was authorized and directed to prepare the above Resolution by the Upper Colorado River Commission at its Adjourned Regular Meeting held in Denver, Colorado on April 28, 1988.

WITNESS my hand this 18th day of May, 1988.

  
GERALD R. ZIMMERMAN  
Executive Director and Secretary