

Statement Of Policy

Our Purpose

The Groundwater Management Districts Association is a non-profit organization established to provide groundwater management districts, groundwater developers, users, owners, and other individuals and organizations concerned with the management, development, conservation and protection of groundwater, the opportunity to exchange ideas, develop or influence programs for the development, utilization, conservation, protection and management and control of groundwater; and in furtherance thereof the Association shall endeavor:

- TO BE INFORMED of and exchange ideas on current trends and problems as they affect groundwater, including those which have, or may have, technical, legal, administrative and economic implications.
- TO REVIEW and analyze methods and techniques employed by members and their associates in conducting studies and research on management of groundwater, and in designing and obtaining solutions to problems associated therewith.
- TO REVIEW, analyze, propose, and influence legislation and policy as they affect groundwater.
- TO EVALUATE activities and plans of governmental bodies, and other organizations and associations as they relate to groundwater and to take appropriate action.
- TO DEVELOP and propose joint or coordinated plans of action to meet national, interstate and regional groundwater problems and needs.
- TO ASSESS and encourage, as appropriate, the conjunctive use and management of both surface and

groundwater supplies with due consideration for the unique and limiting properties of each resource.

- TO FOSTER the general public's knowledge and appreciation for the economic advantages of the private enterprise and development of groundwater.
- TO PROMOTE orderly and equitable development, conservation and management of groundwater through local government.

Our Policy

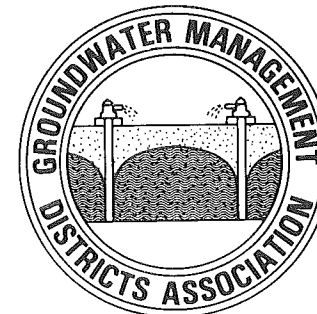
- WE SUPPORT efforts to preserve, promote and defend non-Federal primacy and administration of all laws and regulations involving water rights, quality, and utilization.
- WE SUPPORT efforts to educate and encourage the private sector in water conservation, which includes the development and prudent uses of all available water resources as well as the elimination of waste.
- WE ENCOURAGE provision of adequate supplies of water for all beneficial uses at the lowest practical cost.
- WE ENCOURAGE all levels of government to support the development of necessary water resources to enhance the expanding state and national needs.
- WE SUPPORT the development of specific projects and legislation affecting water resources, which are technically and environmentally sound, economically feasible, and are compatible with each state's and the nation's well being.
- WE ENCOURAGE recognition of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to water conservation and development.

We Urge The Federal Government To:

- (1) Adopt water policies that enhance development of water storage and groundwater recharge projects in the West.
- (2) Recognize that severe droughts in the West would have and could be terrible disasters of the greatest magnitude without existing water storage projects.
- (3) Recognize water policies that enhance state and local efforts of groundwater management.
- (4) Encourage the consolidation and streamlining of federal agencies, where possible, and reduce federally required paperwork and mandates associated with water resource projects and water management.
- (5) Fully recognize the right of each state to enact and enforce its own laws, rules and regulations without undue federal intervention.

To Best Serve The Public Interest We Support Action Which Would Urge And Encourage:

- (1) The U.S. Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to authorize funding, and permit hiring, for the data collection functions of the USGS.
- (2) The Secretary of Commerce and the Economic Development Administration to establish, and maintain the High Plains Study Council, and to allow that Council to conduct and coordinate all work as set forth in Section 193, PL94-587 which directs the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer Study, and further to include groundwater management districts in this process.



- (3) The Congress to pass legislation reserving only that water naturally occurring beneath or upon federal reserve lands for federal government and interests, and to restrict and limit federal powers only to that water, and to prohibit inequitable confiscation of groundwater without compensation.
- (4A) The Congress to amend PL 92-500 (Clean Water Act) in order to obtain a realistic approach to irrigation return flows, including:
 - (1) Treat irrigation return flows as nonpoint ag runoff, allowing local people to develop strategies and procedures for enforcement.
 - (2) Make time schedules of the Act more reasonable and realistic.
 - (3) Eliminate wasteful economic burden on individuals not discharging pollutants from a point source.
 - (4) Require executive agencies to provide "due process."
- (4B) The executive agencies to revise regulations so that the national pollution discharge elimination system shall only

apply to point sources with substantial water quality problems found to exist by a state or "208" studies.

(5) Each state to accept responsibility, and implement, in a reasonable and prudent manner, the Safe Drinking Water Act (PL-93523); and urge the environmental protection agency to insure that responsible and practical implementation can be accomplished by the states, within guidelines acceptable to the states and their residents.

(6) Individual states to foster and develop local groundwater management districts, and further, take full advantage of cooperative development of groundwater studies, research, protection and management.

(7) The federal government to recognize the advantage of irrigated agriculture in the national interest, and general public welfare, by establishing price and production incentives that will foster and maintain the nation's irrigated ag production.

(8) That congressional hearings be held at locations throughout the nation, in addition to Washington D.C., in order to provide public input to major legislation from areas potentially affected by such legislation.

(9) That federal and state governments give equal, equitable, and logical consideration to all factors of the nation's environment, a major part of which is the general welfare and freedom of its people - before enacting and enforcing laws that give biased consideration to the forces opposing reasonable energy development programs.

(10) Congress to adequately define intent in any legislation to provide a better guide for, and to prevent misapplication by federal agencies, and further that agency rules and regulations be reviewed and

approved by congress prior to enactment.

(11) Congress, the executive branch, and all federal government agencies having responsibility for establishing energy and fuel priorities and allocation, to give the highest priority to agricultural production and related industries in making such allocations.

(12) The environmental protection agency's thermal pollution standards be revised to recognize that standards applied to the humid eastern states do not fit the western and midwestern irrigation states, and that power plant designs minimize water consumption.

(13) Federal legislation that spells out an absolute right of individual states to veto water use in coal slurry pipelines, on a case by case basis.

(14) Federal and state legislation that exempts agricultural groundwater irrigation use from the effect of the principles and standards as revised by the Water Resources Council in 1979.

(15) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Corps of Engineers to withdraw the definition of "navigable water" under PL 92500 and continue with an appropriate common sense definition.

(16) The storage of water for beneficial projects, and further to urge and encourage all interested parties to work together to support and obtain funding for these beneficial projects.

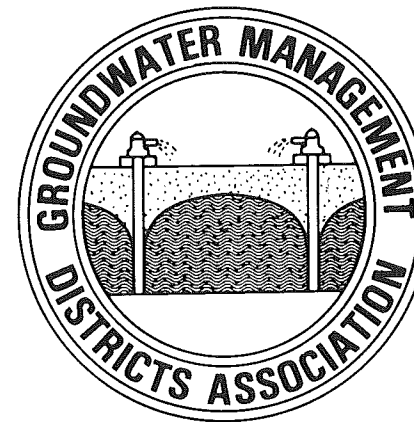
(17) The U.S. Internal Revenue Service to respond to the request by the U.S. Department of Justice to make a ruling governing a tax depletion allowance for all taxpayers irrigating out of the Ogallala formation in the High Plains region.

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