



**RESOLUTION 13-1
CONCERNING ASR and AQUIFER EXEMPTION**

WHEREAS, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is an established technology for the recharge and recovery of water from aquifers, and is a subset of a range of activities, called Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), used to store water underground to meet water resource needs and address management problems; and

WHEREAS, the storage of water resources underground is practical and beneficial, and can be financially attractive to planners and utilities as part of their climate ready water resource toolbox; and

WHEREAS, there may be a significant need for ASR projects to meet current and future water resource needs; and

WHEREAS, under some hydrogeologic conditions, injected water, when recovered from storage, can contain metals or disinfection byproducts that were not present in the water before injection; and

WHEREAS, the effects of such activities on stored water quality pose challenges for USEPA, as well as States and Tribes, with the delegated authority to regulate the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program and the Public Water Supply Supervision Program with the responsibility to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination; and

WHEREAS, cooperation of state and federal regulators is needed to find solutions to the issues that are limiting ASR use and are associated with the "non-endangerment standard" required to be met at the "point of compliance" for the injection of fluids into the subsurface; and,

WHEREAS, aquifer exemptions are a programmatic tool to allow for the injection of a variety of different fluids into an aquifer that is technically a USDW; and

WHEREAS, such exemptions have been granted in the UIC program for a range of activities in many states, contributing to important economic activities while protecting drinking water sources including in-situ mining of minerals, enhanced recovery of hydrocarbons, disposal of drinking water desalination treatment residuals, and wastewater injection; and

WHEREAS, State UIC Program delegation agreements with USEPA include aquifer exemption evaluation and approval procedures; and

WHEREAS, development and approvals of aquifer exemption petitions have become more controversial and time consuming in recent years with additional information required resulting in perceived unnecessary delays for new projects; and

WHEREAS, GWPC member states recognize the need to work with USEPA on the review process for aquifer exemptions and to find solutions that will allow the use of ASR within the current regulatory frame work;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the GWPC Board create a GWPC working group to examine these ASR and aquifer exemption issues and possible solutions and request technical assistance and participation from USEPA on the working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said working group shall present its recommendations to the Board at its meeting at the 2013 Annual Forum.

Certified To and Attested By: Corporate Seal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. Paque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "m" and a distinct "Paque" ending.

Michel J. Paque
Secretary
Ground Water Protection Council