



RESOLUTION 11-2
REGARDING USEPA PARTNERSHIP WITH STATES TO ADDRESS NUTRIENTS

WHEREAS, the Ground Water Protection Council uniquely brings together and represents states with regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act for groundwater protection, source water protection, underground injection control, and drinking water programs, and

WHEREAS, A task force of state and federal water quality administrators released the report: An Urgent Call to Action: Report of the State-EPA Nutrients Innovations Task Group (August 2009) – recognizing that more action is needed to address ongoing nitrogen and phosphorous pollution, and

WHEREAS, USEPA recognized the importance of nutrient management in issuing a memo dated March 16, 2011, to Regions 1-10 Regional Administrators from Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator, regarding *Working in Partnership with the States to address Phosphorus and Nitrogen Pollution through Use of a Framework for State Nutrient Reductions*, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey has released *Circular 1350: Nutrients in the Nation's Streams and Groundwater*, which found that concentrations have remained the same or increased in many surface and groundwater sources across the Nation, and

WHEREAS, Circular 1350 concluded that nitrate contamination of groundwater used for drinking water, particularly in shallow private wells, is a continuing health concern, and

WHEREAS, the USDA has established a High Priority Performance Goal for Water to apply conservation practices on 6 million acres of public and private lands and recognizes that private working lands can play a role with protecting sources of drinking water, and

WHEREAS, federal and state funding is limited and it is therefore important to work in a synergistic, efficient and cooperative effort between states, USDA, and USEPA, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that GWPC recommends and requests the USEPA Assistant Administrator for Water to:

- work cooperatively with the states' Clean Water Act Section 106 and 319 programs to utilize the findings from the USGS *Circular 1350* recognizing the role of both surface water and groundwater in nutrient management.
- consider the findings in the USGS *Circular 1350* to select appropriate Best Management Practices under the 319 and stormwater programs for specific geographic areas based on hydrogeologic setting.

- recognize that in some hydrogeologic settings, the contributions from base flow to surface water from both groundwater and shallow subsurface flow are sources of continued long term nutrient input.
- recognize and acknowledge states' authority for protection and management of state water resources, including groundwater, and provide flexibility to states in meeting mutual water quality protection goals.
- work cooperatively with the states, under the states' authority over groundwater resources, to consider potential impacts to groundwater in the larger context of the source water protection program.
- take a stronger leadership role in working synergistically with USDA and other federal agencies to address sources of phosphorus and nitrogen pollution.
- support and facilitate cooperative efforts with states and USDA to complement and enhance protection program activities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that GWPC stands ready to work with USEPA to address groundwater issues that contribute to elevated nutrients in the nation's streams and groundwater by helping USEPA facilitate the implementation of the *Recommended Elements of a State Framework for Managing Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution*.

Sept 25, 2011

Passed by the Board

Attest

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. Paque". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michel J. Paque, Secretary