

HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE
NARROWS WATER PROJECT IN CENTRAL
UTAH

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution of the House of Representatives urges Congress and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to support development of the Narrows Water Project in Central Utah.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the need for adequate water storage for economic viability in the communities of Central Utah, and the decades-long effort to develop the Narrows Water Project;
- ▶ acknowledges the Narrows Water Project as the least expensive, most cost effective, and most environmentally sound means of storing water in Sanpete

34 County;
35 ▶ recognizes that the water rights relative to the Narrows Water Project have been
36 legally defined; and
37 ▶ expresses support for the development of the Narrows Water Project in Central
38 Utah.

39 **Special Clauses:**

40 None



42 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:*

43 WHEREAS, water is fundamental to the economic base of Central Utah communities
44 and reliable water storage is necessary for both agricultural and municipal development;

45 WHEREAS, agricultural and municipal interests in Central Utah, including Sanpete
46 County, suffer substantial economic hardship because of the lack of water storage facilities;

47 WHEREAS, in the early 1900s, local, state, and federal government officials
48 acknowledged the need for water storage in Sanpete County and began efforts to develop the
49 Narrows Water Project;

50 WHEREAS, reliable studies by multiple expert water engineering firms have
51 determined the Narrows Water Project to be the least expensive, most cost effective, and most
52 environmentally sound means of storing water for Sanpete County;

53 WHEREAS, various studies, including a recent independent study by Utah State
54 University, show Sanpete County to be among Utah's most effective users of modern
55 conservation methods to conserve the water that is presently available to the county;

56 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation recognized the need for water storage in
57 Sanpete County, and as early as the 1930s proposed a plan that would provide water storage
58 for both Sanpete and Carbon Counties;

59 WHEREAS, the component of the Bureau of Reclamation's plan that would provide
60 water storage for Sanpete County was never implemented, initially due to a disruption caused
61 by World War II, and more recently by various questions regarding ownership of the water;

62 WHEREAS, numerous judicial decisions have now clearly established and defined the
63 water rights involved in the Narrows Water Project;

64 WHEREAS, legal agreements between Sanpete County, Carbon County, the state of
65 Utah, and various federal entities have recognized Carbon and Sanpete County's water rights
66 from Gooseberry Creek; and

67 WHEREAS, the residents of Sanpete County, at great financial sacrifice, have waited
68 for almost a century for the Narrows Water Project water storage facility that was promised to
69 them:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
71 state of Utah expresses support for the Narrows Water Project in Central Utah.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges Congress and
73 the United States Bureau of Reclamation to support the development of the Narrows Water
74 Project in Central Utah.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Bureau of
76 Reclamation and to Utah's congressional delegation.