

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE NARROWS WATER PROJECT IN
CENTRAL UTAH**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Bradley A. Winn

Senate Sponsor: Darin G. Peterson

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LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor 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



31 Water Project;

32 ▶ acknowledges the Narrows Water Project as the least expensive, most cost-
33 effective, and most environmentally sound means of storing water in Sanpete County;

34 ▶ recognizes that the water rights relative to the Narrows Water Project have been
35 legally defined; and

36 ▶ expresses support for the development of the Narrows Water Project in Central
37 Utah.

38 **Special Clauses:**

39 None



41 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

66 WHEREAS, a necessary component of the Narrows Water Project moving forward will
67 be National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and the likelihood of the
68 compliance will be enhanced by the support of the Legislature and the Governor; and

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

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
73 Governor concurring therein, express support for the Narrows Water Project in Central Utah.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Congress
75 and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to support the development of the Narrows Water
76 Project in Central Utah.

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

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-11-08 4:00 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note

**H.C.R. 8 - Concurrent Resolution Supporting the Narrows Water Project in
Central Utah**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.
