

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED  
FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT**

2011 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ralph Okerlund**

House Sponsor: Michael E. Noel

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges continued federal funding of the Central Utah Project.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▸ strongly expresses to the United States Congress and the United States Secretary of the Interior the Legislature's and Governor's continuing support of the Central Utah Project; and

▸ urges continued federal funding to complete the project.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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

WHEREAS, in 1964, people of vision and foresight created the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to administer the development of the various proposed units of the Central Utah Project;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project was, and continues to be, the development of ~~the~~ **portion of**

Utah's ~~the~~ **[portion] allocation** of the upper Colorado River water for the benefit of counties in central and

south-central Utah and the people of the entire state;



28 WHEREAS, since 1965 ~~§~~ **Salt Lake, Wasatch, Uintah, Summitt, Duchesne, Sanpete,**  
 28a **Piute, Garfield,** ~~§~~ Juab ~~§~~ , ~~§~~ and Utah County citizens have been paying property taxes  
 29 into the Central Utah Water Conservancy District in anticipation that they would receive  
 30 irrigation water from the Central Utah Project, one of several original purposes of the project ~~§~~ ,  
 30a **as well as water to be used for municipal purposes** ~~§~~ ;

31 WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation realizes the importance of Colorado River  
 32 water to the people of Utah and has fought for the authorizations and appropriations necessary  
 33 to build the project;

34 WHEREAS, completion of the Central Utah Project and delivery of ~~§~~ **a portion of** ~~§~~  
 34a Utah's ~~§~~ **[portion] allocation** ~~§~~ of  
 35 the Colorado River water is vital to the continued, long-term prosperity of the state;

36 WHEREAS, Congress approved the Central Utah Project Completion Act in 1992;

37 WHEREAS, the 1992 Completion Act began a new era in the process by which these  
 38 projects are constructed by requiring, as a condition to the federal government's further  
 39 participation, that those who receive the benefits of the project contribute a significant  
 40 percentage, from 35% to 50%, of the up-front design and construction costs on a concurrent or  
 41 "as needed" basis;

42 WHEREAS, the 1992 Completion Act became a model for similar projects throughout  
 43 the country as an example of state and federal governments acting as partners in a cooperative  
 44 effort to not only complete the project but to mitigate environmental damage;

45 WHEREAS, the 1992 Central Utah Project Completion Act created the Utah  
 46 Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, which has developed and implemented  
 47 a mitigation and conservation plan to address mitigation and conservation projects within the  
 48 Central Utah Project that restore fish and wildlife habitats and species populations and that  
 49 provide related outdoor recreation opportunities;

50 WHEREAS, the district developed a federal prepayment plan that generated  
 51 \$117,000,000 in savings for district taxpayers and obtained special legislation in order to  
 52 implement the plan;

53 WHEREAS, the prepayment plan has enabled the district to meet its local cost share  
 54 requirements for the completion of the project without raising the district's tax rate;

55 WHEREAS, the district has determined that each of the project features is wanted and  
 56 needed and meets the test of economic and environmental viability;

57 WHEREAS, although in recent years, the annual budget allocation for the Central Utah  
 58 Project has averaged \$40,000,000, the United States Secretary of the Interior has reportedly