Resolution by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District to Seek Federal Legislation for an Update of the 1982 Six-State High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study and to Solicit Federal Support to Implement the Import of Surface Water into the High Plains Region

RECITALS

1. The Ogallala aquifer is the primary water source for one of the most fertile regions of the world.

2. Groundwater withdrawals continue to outpace recharge, causing depletion of the Ogallala aquifer.

3. In 1976, Congress authorized the Six State High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study of depleting water supplies in the region.

4. The study was completed in 1982 and was updated in 2015 (collectively, the "1982 Study").

5. The 2015 update identified alternative concepts for water transfer to the six states (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico) included in the 1982 Study.

6. The Missouri River has a history of severe flooding.

7. Diverting Missouri River flood water, available seasonal water, other excess water or purchased water could be an effective strategy to mitigate Missouri River flooding and depletion of the Ogallala aquifer.

8. Approximately $35 Billion in crops are grown each year on the High Plains.

9. Farmland in the region produces nearly 1/5 of the wheat, corn and cotton in the United States each year; and nearly 1/2 of the sorghum and cattle in the United States each year.

10. Despite aggressive efforts to conserve water in the region, depletion continues and, without a new source of water, the region will eventually be without a source of water, particularly for irrigation.

11. The Missouri River watershed is the longest drainage basin in the United States.

12. As early as 1967, water transfer plans were proposed to divert flood water to supply the foregoing High Plains states.

13. The 1982 Study further examined the feasibility of water transfer from the Missouri River basin to the High Plains.

14. A project of this nature could help solve the Missouri River basin flooding by diverting the flood water to the High Plains and, thereby mitigate the High Plains aquifer depletion issues.

15. Such a project is important to North Plains Groundwater Conservation District ("NPGCD") because, if determined to be feasible, moving water from the Missouri River Basin to the High Plains will help ensure the continued economic and social viability of the Ogallala region and, specifically, the area served by NPGCD.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved, and it is hereby resolved, for NPGCD to expend funds and staff resources to seek federal legislation to update the 1982 Study, and if determined to be feasible, to seek federal funding to implement a surface water import project for the High Plains.

APPROVED by the majority vote of the Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District in a Meeting held on the 13th day of August, 2021.

Issuer:

North Plains Groundwater Conservation District

Bob B. Zimmer, Board President

ATTEST:

Zac Yoder, Board Secretary