

HCR 1070

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 21, 2010

**House Concurrent
Resolution No. 1070**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1070 - By: ARMES of the House and BARRINGTON of the Senate.

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of adequate water supplies in southwestern Oklahoma; encouraging the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to request authorization for an updated study of the Cache Creek Basin Project; requesting the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to investigate water infrastructure needs and investments for southwestern Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

1 WHEREAS, Oklahoma has 1,400 square miles of water in lakes and ponds, 320
2 million acre-feet of water stored in major aquifers and 167,000 miles of rivers and
3 streams, making Oklahoma a state abundant in water resources; and

4 WHEREAS, clean, accessible water resources are vital to the welfare of Oklahoma,
5 of which more than 1.5 trillion gallons are used every day throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, water in Oklahoma is a unique and precious resource that binds all
7 Oklahomans to a rich past and promising future, due in large part to some of the
8 visionary leaders of the past such as Robert S. Kerr and W.C. Austin, who recognized the
9 significance of this vital resource early in the twentieth century and devoted the financial
10 resources necessary to developing the water infrastructure in the state in order to
11 provide Oklahoma with the rich water resources we enjoy today; and

1 WHEREAS, no significant investment in water storage infrastructure has been
2 made in recent decades to further protect and develop supplies of this vital natural
3 resource for future generations of Oklahomans; and

4 WHEREAS, the proper care and management of water resources is vital to
5 Oklahoma due to its value to industry and commerce, aquatic and wildlife species and
6 the vibrant tourism industry in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan serves as the roadmap for
8 water development and protection in the thirteen watershed planning regions of the
9 state, and the ongoing update of the Water Plan will serve as the primary guidance
10 document for numerous state and federal water agencies and organizations to use in the
11 management and protection of the water resources in these regions; and

12 WHEREAS, the southwest region of Oklahoma lies at the center of the Southern
13 Great Plains and normally experiences mild winters and hot summers which makes
14 stream and surface water sources relatively scarce in the region, but of those sources
15 Cache Creek, which flows through Caddo, Comanche and Cotton Counties, contains the
16 best stream water quality in the region; and

17 WHEREAS, provisional data compiled for the ongoing update of the Oklahoma
18 Comprehensive Water Plan indicate that the southwest region of the state is projected to
19 have approximately twenty-five percent of the overall statewide water demand for the
20 year 2060, with projected agricultural demand to be the second highest of any region of
21 the state; and

1 WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, the United States Congress authorized the United
2 States Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate present and
3 future needs and to develop plans for the Cache Creek Basin in southwest Oklahoma;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, a Reconnaissance Report for the Cache Creek Basin was completed in
6 April, 1971, by the United States Bureau of Reclamation which evaluated nine
7 alternative dam and reservoir sites in the Cache Creek Basin, primarily for the purpose
8 of providing municipal and industrial water supplies; and

9 WHEREAS, the Concluding Report on the Cache Creek Project was completed in
10 September, 1979, by the United States Bureau of Reclamation indicating that the Cache
11 Creek Basin was one of the few remaining sources of good quality water in southwest
12 Oklahoma and that the existing water supply in the area would be adequate only until
13 the year 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, after the completion of the Concluding Report, a feasibility study was
15 not undertaken and completed.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA
18 LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

19 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of adequate water
20 supplies in southwestern Oklahoma.

21 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the Oklahoma Congressional
22 Delegation to request authorization in the Water Resources Development Act, or other

1 appropriate legislation, for an updated study of the Cache Creek Basin Project to
2 evaluate and present alternative plans for further federal investment in developing the
3 water resources of the Cache Creek Basin.

4 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature requests that the Oklahoma Water Resources
5 Board, as part of the ongoing update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan,
6 further investigate the current and future water infrastructure needs that exist in the
7 southwest region of Oklahoma and the potential for future investment by the State of
8 Oklahoma as a means to augment the water availability in that region of the state.

9 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to members of the Oklahoma
10 Congressional Delegation and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources
11 Board.

12 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.