

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1070

By: Armes of the House

and

5
6 Barrington of the Senate

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

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

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19 WHEREAS, Oklahoma has 1,400 square miles of water in lakes and
20 ponds, 320 million acre-feet of water stored in major aquifers and
21 167,000 miles of rivers and streams, making Oklahoma a state
22 abundant in water resources; and

23
24 WHEREAS, clean, accessible water resources are vital to the
welfare of Oklahoma, of which more than 1.5 trillion gallons are
used every day throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, water in Oklahoma is a unique and precious resource
that binds all Oklahomans to a rich past and promising future, due

1 in large part to some of the visionary leaders of the past such as
2 Robert S. Kerr and W.C. Austin, who recognized the significance of
3 this vital resource early in the twentieth century and devoted the
4 financial resources necessary to developing the water infrastructure
5 in the state in order to provide Oklahoma with the rich water
6 resources we enjoy today; and

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

11 WHEREAS, the proper care and management of water resources is
12 vital to Oklahoma due to its value to industry and commerce, aquatic
13 and wildlife species and the vibrant tourism industry in the state;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan serves as the
16 roadmap for water development and protection in the thirteen
17 watershed planning regions of the state, and the ongoing update of
18 the Water Plan will serve as the primary guidance document for
19 numerous state and federal water agencies and organizations to use
20 in the management and protection of the water resources in these
21 regions; and

22 WHEREAS, the southwest region of Oklahoma lies at the center of
23 the Southern Great Plains and normally experiences mild winters and
24 hot summers which makes stream and surface water sources relatively

1 scarce in the region, but of those sources Cache Creek, which flows
2 through Caddo, Comanche and Cotton Counties, contains the best
3 stream water quality in the region; and

4 WHEREAS, provisional data compiled for the ongoing update of the
5 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan indicate that the southwest region
6 of the state is projected to have approximately twenty-five percent
7 of the overall statewide water demand for the year 2060, with
8 projected agricultural demand to be the second highest of any region
9 of the state; and

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

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

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

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

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
4 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
5 CONCURRING THEREIN:

6 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of
7 adequate water supplies in southwestern Oklahoma.

8 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the Oklahoma
9 Congressional Delegation to request authorization in the Water
10 Resources Development Act, or other appropriate legislation, for an
11 updated study of the Cache Creek Basin Project to evaluate and
12 present alternative plans for further federal investment in
13 developing the water resources of the Cache Creek Basin.

14 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature requests that the Oklahoma Water
15 Resources Board, as part of the ongoing update to the Oklahoma
16 Comprehensive Water Plan, further investigate the current and future
17 water infrastructure needs that exist in the southwest region of
18 Oklahoma and the potential for future investment by the State of
19 Oklahoma as a means to augment the water availability in that region
20 of the state.

21 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to members of the
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1 Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and the Executive Director of the
2 Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

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