

## **RESOLUTION ON COMPREHENSIVE WATER QUALITY MONITORING TO ADDRESS NUTRIENT-RELATED IMPACTS**

WHEREAS, nutrient-related water quality impacts are one of the country’s most pressing environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS, water quality monitoring programs must collect information on the biological, chemical and physical characteristics of a watershed to enable the establishment of quantitative causal links between nutrient loads and failure to meet designated uses; and

WHEREAS, water quality monitoring data must be sufficiently robust to support the development of scientifically based Clean Water Act criteria to address these impacts; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive watershed solutions that address all sources of nutrients cannot succeed without a clear understanding of those sources and relative contributions of nutrients based on sound monitoring data; and

WHEREAS, the monitoring of nutrient management practices implemented throughout a watershed by all sources is essential to determining which practices have the greatest potential for addressing impaired designated uses while meeting other acceptance standards (e.g., reasonable cost, societal support, overall environmental benefit, etc.) ; and

WHEREAS, many clean water agencies have already put in place successful, voluntary monitoring programs based on nutrient concerns which provide valuable information on water quality; and

WHEREAS, the financial consequences of making water quality investments based on erroneous or insufficient scientific information can be substantial for clean water agencies; and

WHEREAS, state budgets for water quality monitoring programs are already limited and will continue to face potential cuts into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Nation’s municipalities and public clean water agencies are environmental stewards advancing the objectives of the Clean Water Act and are committed to doing their fair share to address the nutrient challenge; and

WHEREAS, the Nation’s clean water agencies, despite our own budgetary challenges, have the goal of ‘knowing our waters’ as a top priority. . .

NOW THEREFORE,

**Be It Resolved by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) that:**

The Association’s clean water agency members will, as appropriate and feasible, support the collection of data concerning nutrient impacts, including effluent concentrations and ambient conditions up and downstream of their discharges, with the goal of scientifically-based decision-making at all levels of government. Such efforts will help to ensure the establishment of sound and appropriate water quality goals, a clear understanding of the sources and relative contributions of nutrients, and tracking of the effectiveness of nutrient management practices over time.

ADOPTED – DATE