RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
In memory of

D. CRAIG BELL

WHEREAS, D. Craig Bell passed away suddenly on June 13, 2009, after nearly four decades of dedicated public service, as a passionate and tireless advocate for water resources protection, and assisting in defining state and federal responsibilities in regard to resources management and protection; and

WHEREAS, Craig Bell, a native of Malad, Idaho, received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Brigham Young University, and then graduated in the top ten percent of his class in earning his Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell joined the Western States Water Council in 1974 as assistant director and was appointed on November 1, 1980, to serve as executive director of the Western States Water Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell wrote several legal briefs on water rights litigation, which have been endorsed and filed by many of the western states before the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, during his long tenure, Mr. Bell proved to be an invaluable asset to western states with their research in the fields of federal water resource management and western water rights and their interaction with the U.S. Congress, National Governors Association, Western Governors Association, Western Legislative Caucus and other vital policymaking bodies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell participated with CSG-WEST on numerous occasions lending his expertise on water issues to assist in improving understanding, cooperation and education on water resources planning and management, bringing together a plethora of interests among the various stakeholders with his civil and patient approach to the matters at hand; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell was a leading force behind the creation of the Western Federal Agency Support Team, (WestFAST), which works to improve western states’ collaboration and coordination with a variety of federal agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CSG-WEST and its executive officers, members and staff express, with sincere appreciation and deep admiration, our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Bell’s family and friends, and we thank him posthumously for his friendship, mentorship, tireless advocacy, dedication, and passion for his life’s work.

Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson, Nevada
Chair, CSG-WEST Water and Public Lands Committee

Representative Craig Johnson, Alaska
Vice Chair, CSG-WEST Water and Public Lands Committee

Representative Jose Campos, New Mexico
Chair, CSG-WEST

Representative Rich Wills, Idaho
Chair-Elect, CSG-WEST

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
Vice Chair, CSG-WEST

Senator Lesil McGuire, Alaska
Immediate Past Chair, CSG-WEST