

## **POLICY STATEMENT 275 - ATMOSPHERIC WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Approved by the Energy, Environment and Water Policy Committee on January 6, 2015

Approved by the Public Policy Committee on February 25, 2015

Adopted by the Board of Direction on July 18, 2015

### **POLICY**

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) supports and encourages:

- The careful and well-designed management of atmospheric water (also known as "weather modification" or "cloud seeding") for beneficial uses, such as irrigated agriculture and long-term water supply.
- Sustained support for atmospheric water data collection, research and operational programs, and the careful evaluations of such efforts, including the assessment of extra-area and long-term environmental effects.
- Freely disseminating the results and findings of all atmospheric water-management programs and projects to the professional community, appropriate water managers and to the public.

### **ISSUE**

Atmospheric water management capabilities are still developing and represent an evolving technology. Longer-term commitments to atmospheric water resource management research and operational programs are necessary to realize the full potential of this technology.

### **RATIONALE**

Water resources worldwide are being stressed by competing demands generated by population growth and environmental concerns. As a result, nations have become more sensitive to year-to-year variations in natural precipitation. The careful and well-designed management of atmospheric water offers the potential to significantly augment naturally-occurring water resources, while minimizing capital expenditures or construction of new facilities. New tools, such as radar and satellite tracking capabilities and other imaging devices, atmospheric tracer techniques and advanced numerical cloud modeling offer means through which many critical questions might now be answered. Careful and well-designed management of atmospheric water-management technology is essential for agriculture and water supply. ASCE, in conjunction with other weather modification organizations, has developed materials providing guidance (see e.g. Guidelines for Cloud Seeding to Augment Precipitation, ASCE publications) in the use of atmospheric water-management technology for dissemination to local communities and governments as well as state, regional, and international interest.

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First Approved in 1980