

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2554

To increase water storage availability at the New Melones Reservoir to provide additional water for areas served below the reservoir, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

Mr. DENHAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To increase water storage availability at the New Melones Reservoir to provide additional water for areas served below the reservoir, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. WARREN ACT CONTRACT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Interior
6 shall develop and offer to the Oakdale Irrigation District
7 and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (hereafter
8 in this section referred to as the “districts”) a contract
9 enabling the districts to collectively impound and store up
10 to 100,000 acre-feet of their superior Stanislaus River

1 water rights in the New Melones Reservoir in accordance
2 with the terms and conditions of sections 1 through 3 of
3 the Act of February 21, 1911 (43 U.S.C. 523–525; com-
4 monly known as the “Warren Act”).

5 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The terms and condi-
6 tions of any contract entered into under subsection (a)
7 shall—

8 (1) be for a term of not less than 10 years; and

9 (2) expressly provide that—

10 (A) the districts may use any water im-
11 pounded and stored in the New Melones Res-
12 ervoir for any legal purpose under California
13 law, including use within the boundaries of ei-
14 ther district, transfer to and reasonable and
15 beneficial use by a person or entity not located
16 within the boundaries of either district, and for
17 instream use in the Stanislaus River, the San
18 Joaquin River, or the Sacramento-San Joaquin
19 River Delta; and

20 (B) any water impounded and stored by ei-
21 ther district shall not be released or withdrawn
22 if the storage level of the New Melones Res-
23 ervoir is below 1,000,000 acre-feet, but in such
24 event the impounded and stored water shall be
25 retained in the New Melones Reservoir for use

1 by the districts in the following year, subject to
2 the same 1,000,000 acre-foot minimum storage
3 requirement, and without additional payment
4 being required.

5 (c) CONSERVATION ACCOUNT.—Any water im-
6 pounded and stored in the New Melones Reservoir by ei-
7 ther district under the contract shall not be considered or
8 accounted as water placed in the districts' conservation
9 account, as that account is defined and explained in the
10 August 30, 1988 Stipulation and Agreement entered into
11 by and between the Bureau of Reclamation and the dis-
12 tricts.

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