

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2993

To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize funding for water recycling projects in areas experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2015

Ms. MATSUI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize funding for water recycling projects in areas experiencing severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Water Recycling Accel-
5 eration Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR WATER RECYCLING PROJECTS.**

7 Section 1602 of the Reclamation Wastewater and
8 Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Title XVI of Pub-

1 lie Law 102–575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by
2 adding at the end the following new subsection:

3 “(e) FUNDING FOR WATER RECYCLING PROJECTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any project for which
5 funding may otherwise be made available under this
6 title shall not be required to have been previously
7 specifically authorized by law for such funding, if
8 that project reclaims and reuses—

9 “(A) municipal, industrial, domestic, or ag-
10 ricultural wastewater; or

11 “(B) naturally impaired ground and sur-
12 face waters.

13 “(2) PRIORITY.—When funding projects under
14 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give funding pri-
15 ority to projects that meet all of the criteria listed
16 in paragraph (3) and are located in an area that—

17 “(A) has been identified by the United
18 States Drought Monitor as experiencing severe,
19 extreme, or exceptional drought at any time
20 during the 4-year period before such funds are
21 made available; or

22 “(B) was designated as a disaster area by
23 the State between January 1, 2014, and De-
24 cember 31, 2018.

1 “(3) CRITERIA.—The project criteria referred
2 to in paragraph (2) are the following:

3 “(A) Projects that are likely to—

4 “(i) provide for a more reliable water
5 supply; and

6 “(ii) protect, restore, and enhance
7 river or estuarine ecosystems or their im-
8 mediate tributaries.

9 “(B) Projects that are likely to improve
10 water resource flexibility and reduce impacts on
11 environmental resources.

12 “(C) Projects that are regional in nature.

13 “(D) Projects that have multiple stake-
14 holders.

15 “(E) Projects that provide multiple bene-
16 fits, including water supply reliability, eco-
17 system benefits, ground water management and
18 enhancements, and water quality improvements.

19 “(F) Projects for which a feasibility study
20 has been completed and any necessary environ-
21 mental or public reviews have been initiated.

22 “(4) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 90 days
23 after date of the enactment of this subsection, to as-
24 sist non-Federal interests, the Secretary shall issue
25 water recycling project solicitation and evaluation

1 guidelines that include the criteria listed in para-
2 graph (3).

3 “(5) PROJECT SOLICITATION.—Not later than
4 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
5 subsection, the Secretary shall solicit water recycling
6 project proposals.

7 “(6) REVIEW BY COMMISSIONER.—The Sec-
8 retary shall review each proposed water recycling
9 project received under this subsection for the pur-
10 pose of determining whether or not the proposal,
11 and the process under which the proposal was devel-
12 oped, comply with Federal laws and regulations ap-
13 plicable to the development of water recycling
14 projects.

15 “(7) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary
16 under this subsection shall terminate 10 years after
17 the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

○