

FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act (FUTURE Western Water Act)

The FUTURE Western Water Act is comprehensive western water infrastructure and drought response legislation that includes several innovative proposals from House Democrats, including Rep. Grace Napolitano's Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, Rep. Mike Levin's Desalination Development Act, and water-related provisions from Rep. Mike Thompson's GREEN Act. The FUTURE Western Water Act passed the House as a component of H.R. 2, last year's comprehensive House infrastructure package.

The FUTURE Western Water Act was developed last year through an online public engagement process that garnered extensive feedback from the many perspectives, interests, and needs of those with a stake in the nation's water resources, especially in the West. The FUTURE Western Water Act was specifically endorsed by the Newsom Administration and numerous stakeholders, including water agencies and utilities, environmental and conservation organizations, and fishing and outdoor recreation organizations.

Major components of the bill include:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:** Supports significant new investment in water infrastructure, including \$750 million for sustainable, multi-benefit water storage projects; \$500 million for water recycling and reuse projects; and \$260 million for innovative water desalination projects. The legislation would establish a process to authorize new major water storage projects owned or supported by the Department of the Interior, modeled on the process used to authorize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- **IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY AND DATA:** Includes major investments in water data and technology to improve water management and reduce energy and water waste. Data and technology investments include an expanded water technology "X-Prize," support for new stream gages to improve downstream water planning, and support for the development and deployment of emerging technologies to help manage and improve water supply availability.
- **ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND RESTORATION:** Advances measures to reverse the widespread fish and wildlife species decline across the western United States. Measures include new voluntary incentives for farmers to provide waterbird habitat, expanded watershed health project funding, support for wildlife refuges along the Pacific Flyway in California's Central Valley, multi-benefit water storage projects that provide both water supply benefits and fish and wildlife benefits, and improved drought planning efforts to protect biodiversity and sustain key fisheries.
- **WATER JOB TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** Provides federal support for water education activities, collaborative water management efforts, and training and professional development support for the water sector workforce.