

**Section-by-Section Summary**  
**FUTURE Western Water Infrastructure and Drought Resiliency Act**  
**Division L, Subtitle B of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act**

**Chapter 1—INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

**Sec. 81211: Competitive Grant Program for the Funding of Water Recycling and Reuse Projects:** Incorporates Rep. Napolitano’s Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act (H.R. 1162) to support a competitive grant program for water recycling projects.

- Raises the Title XVI water recycling program funding authorization to \$500 million through 2024 to support the creation of approximately 650,000 acre-feet of water each year in additional average yield
- Raises the \$20 million federal funding cap for individual Title XVI water recycling projects to \$30 million

**Sec. 81212: Storage Project Development Reports to Congress:** Establishes an authorization process for major water storage projects owned or supported by the Department of the Interior. The process is modeled on the existing process used to authorize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects through the biannual Water Resources Development Act process.

**Sec. 81213: Funding for Storage and Supporting Projects:** Authorizes \$750 million for multi-benefit water storage projects, including both above-ground and groundwater storage, that provide water supply reliability benefits and meet certain environmental and taxpayer protection standards. New authorization is also provided for natural water storage projects that use natural materials to increase aquifer recharge or floodplain water storage, and for watershed restoration projects that improve water supply reliability.

**Sec. 81214: Extension of Existing Requirements for Grandfathered Storage Projects:** Extends the existing federal storage project approval process under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act for certain water storage projects that are currently in the middle of the existing project approval process.

**Sec. 81215: Desalination Project Development:** Incorporates Rep. Levin’s Desalination Development Act (H.R. 3723) to support a competitive grant program for desalination projects.

**Sec. 81216: Assistance for Disadvantaged Communities without Adequate Drinking Water:** Authorizes \$100 million for a new Bureau of Reclamation grant program to help disadvantaged communities facing significant declines in drinking water quantity or quality. Funding can be used for a variety of drinking water relief activities, including to help households connect to existing water distribution facilities and to pay for emergency drinking water supply projects.

## Chapter 2—IMPROVED TECHNOLOGY AND DATA

**Sec. 81221: Reauthorization of Water Availability and Use Assessment Program:** Amends and reauthorizes funding for the Water Availability and Use Assessment Program. Directs the U.S. Geological Survey to evaluate national water availability trends in reuse and desalination. Reauthorizes appropriations for grants to improve states' water data and expands eligibility to tribes. Allows states and tribes to apply for additional funding after five years instead of having a permanent cap in grant funding awards to encourage continued data collection from states and tribes.

**Sec. 81222: Renewal of Advisory Committee on Water Information:** Directs the Secretary of the Interior to renew the Advisory Committee on Water Information, which provides advice on federal efforts to develop uniform standards, guidelines, and procedures for the collection, analysis, management, and dissemination of water information in order to improve quality, consistency, and accessibility nationwide.

**Sec. 81223: Desalination Technology Development:** Expands Bureau of Reclamation support of desalination research to include brine management. Increases research funding authorization from \$3 million to \$20 million annually.

**Sec. 81224: X-Prize for Water Technology Breakthroughs:** Establishes an expanded X-Prize for the development of new water technologies, including technological advances in water reuse and recycling and desalination.

**Sec. 81225: Study Examining Sediment Transport:** Directs the National Academies of Sciences to examine and evaluate existing science and management guidance for the transport of sediment flows and to identify future research areas and provide recommendations related to modeling and quantifying sediment flows.

**Sec. 81226: Determination of Water Supply Allocations:** Directs the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to incorporate information from new and emerging technologies for snowpack measurement such as LIDAR when determining federal water supply allocations for water contractors.

**Sec. 81227: Federal Priority Streamgages:** Directs the Department of the Interior to make all streamgages identified by the U.S. Geological Survey as "Federal Priority Streamgages" operational within 10 years. Authorizes appropriations to achieve this directive.

**Sec. 81228: Study Examining Climate Vulnerabilities at Federal Dams:** Directs the National Academies of Sciences to study the impact of climate change on the safety of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation dams and identify the dams most vulnerable to climate-related safety risks in upcoming years.

**Sec. 81229: Innovative Technology Adoption:** Directs the Department of the Interior to include some grant funding priority to help facilitate the adoption of certain priority water technologies, where appropriate. Priority technologies include those that address water loss from pipelines, weather and reservoir operations monitoring, groundwater and water infrastructure monitoring, and water use efficiency improvements.

### Chapter 3—ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

**Sec. 81231: Waterbird Habitat Creation Program:** Establishes a grant program to provide voluntary incentives to farmers to create temporary habitat by flooding farmlands at crucial times for bird migration.

**Sec. 81232: Cooperative Watershed Management Program:** Adds direction to include disadvantaged communities in cooperative watershed management decision-making within the existing Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

**Sec. 81233: Competitive Grant Program for the Funding of Watershed Health Projects:** Directs the Department of the Interior to establish a grant program for habitat restoration projects in the western states, including projects that restore native species, protect against invasive species, and enhance commercial and recreational fishing.

**Sec. 81234: Support for Refuge Water Deliveries:** Requires the Department of the Interior to prepare a report on impediments to compliance with required water deliveries for wildlife refuges in California's Central Valley. Also requires the development of an ecological monitoring and evaluation program for Central Valley wildlife refuges and the development of a construction priority list for the completion of conveyance construction projects at wildlife habitat areas. Authorizes \$25 million to carry out this section and to provide for adequate staffing to advance the refuge water supply delivery objectives.

**Sec. 81235: Drought Planning and Preparedness for Critically Important Fisheries:** Directs federal agencies to develop proactive plans to sustain the survival of commercially and recreationally important fisheries, ESA-listed fish, and important tribal fisheries during future droughts in the western states without affecting any obligation under federal or state environmental law. Provides a list of proactive strategies that should be investigated and authorizes funding for fish, stream, and hatchery activities related to fish recovery efforts.

**Sec. 81236: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration:** Authorizes a Department of the Interior program modeled on an existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers program to fund voluntary, broadly supported fish passage projects.

**Sec. 81237: Reauthorization of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000:** Authorizes \$25 million through 2027 for fish passage projects under the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act to support voluntary fish screen and passage projects in Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, and Idaho.

### Chapter 4—WATER JOB TRAINING AND EDUCATION

**Sec. 81241: Water Resource Education:** Authorizes the Department of the Interior to provide financial assistance and support for water education activities, including activities to foster cooperation in addressing water resources and management challenges and to provide training for the professional development of legal and technical professionals in the water sector.

## Chapter 5—MISCELLANEOUS

**Sec. 81251: Offset:** Establishes a one-time process to identify and deauthorize inactive Bureau of Reclamation water projects where no application for federal funding has been received and no construction has occurred in the previous 10 years. Project sponsors would have the opportunity to provide notice of intent to initiate construction of the project to forestall deauthorization. The deauthorization process is closely modeled on a deauthorization process used for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects.

**Sec. 81252: Delayed Water Project Recommendations:** Directs the Secretary of the Interior to submit delayed funding recommendations to Congress within 30 days for the use of FY2019 appropriated funds for WIIN Act water storage, recycling, and desalination projects. Without recommendations for the use of FY2019 or FY2020 funds appropriated by Congress, Congress is unable to direct funds to specific water storage, recycling, and desalination projects due to congressional earmark rules.