

HUFFMAN DROUGHT BILL

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Original Cosponsors: Grace Napolitano, Peter DeFazio, George Miller, John Garamendi, Mike Thompson, Jerry McNerney, Doris Matsui, Anna G. Eshoo, Sam Farr, Jackie Speier, Ami Bera, Juan Vargas, Alan Lowenthal, and Scott Peters

Building on many common sense, bicameral proposals for how best to assist Californians facing a historic drought, and lay the foundation for assistance to other western states, this draft bill offers a comprehensive package of solutions.

- Emergency funding of \$473 million (the Senate version only has \$300 million):

Area	Huffman Drought Assistance Bill	Senate Drought Assistance Bill
Emergency Drinking Water & Water Quality	\$75 million: \$5 million to the Rural Water and Waste Disposal program, \$30 million for grants under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, \$15 million for grants under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and \$25 million to the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants program.	\$25 million: \$25 million to the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants program.
Assistance to Impacted Communities	\$53 million: \$25 million to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers harmed by the drought, \$25 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants to help communities address the impacts of the drought, and \$3 million for the Drug Enforcement Administration to assist in suppression of illegal trespass marijuana grows that diminish available water supply.	\$50 million: \$25 million to assist low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers harmed by the drought, and \$25 million for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants to help communities address the impacts of the drought.
Water Supply, Recycling and Efficiency Programs	\$267 million: \$152 million for Reclamation projects, WaterSMART and Title XVI, and \$100 million in emergency assistance for farmers to fund water conservation. A new \$15 million program to leverage investments into recycling projects within integrated regional projects.	\$200 million: \$100 million for Reclamation projects, and \$100 million in emergency assistance for farmers to fund water conservation.
Environmental & Ecosystem Impacts	\$78 million: \$50 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to address both water quality and risks of fire, \$25 million in grants for private forest landowners to carry out conservation measures in response to drought and wildlife risks, and \$3 million to U.S. Fish and Wildlife for fisheries work in response to the drought.	\$25 million: \$25 million in grants for private forest landowners to carry out conservation measures in response to drought and wildlife risks.

- Clarifies environmental protections, including the Endangered Species Act and relevant biological opinions, and does not include overly prescriptive mandates by Congress that could threaten to undermine the state of California's coequal goals of reliable water supply and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Also ensures that assistance would be provided in compliance with existing state laws regarding groundwater monitoring and agricultural water management.
- Like the Senate bill, amends the Stafford Act to ensure that the damages from California's drought are properly recognized, allowing for a broader consideration of the full economic impact of a drought, not simply to destruction of physical infrastructure and property, but economic losses.
- Unique to this bill, directs the President to update the National Response Plan and the National Disaster Recovery Framework to address plans for responding to catastrophic drought, preparing for longer term, continued drought impacting California and the rest of the west.
- Unique to this bill, prepares for future drought events by including new policies to direct the Army Corps of Engineers to modernized reservoir operations, and a new loan fund to support new regional water management projects by investing in water recycling.