

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

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

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## 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 ponded 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21 ther district shall not be released or withdrawn  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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