

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6639

To codify certain sections of Executive Order 14181 relating to emergency measures to provide water resources in California and improve disaster response in certain areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. GRAY (for himself and Mr. COSTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To codify certain sections of Executive Order 14181 relating to emergency measures to provide water resources in California and improve disaster response in certain areas.

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 Agency and
5 Transparency Enhancement Review (WATER) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLANS TO ADDRESS REGULATORY HURDLES FOR**
2 **MAJOR WATER-SUPPLY AND STORAGE**
3 **PROJECTS.**

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR WATER-SUPPLY AND
5 STORAGE PROJECTS.—The Secretary of the Interior and
6 the Secretary of Commerce shall identify all ongoing or
7 potential major water-supply and storage projects (includ-
8 ing surface and ground water storage projects, aquifer re-
9 charge projects, and State conveyance projects) within the
10 State of California for which they have joint responsibility
11 under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
12 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)) or individual responsibilities under
13 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
14 4321 et seq.).

15 (b) PLANS.—

16 (1) DESIGNATION OF COMPLIANCE OFFI-
17 CIALS.—With respect to the projects identified under
18 subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior and the
19 Secretary of Commerce shall each designate one
20 Federal official to coordinate each agency's respec-
21 tive compliance responsibilities under the National
22 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
23 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973
24 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

25 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY HUR-
26 DLES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of en-

actment of this section, each Federal official designated under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify any regulatory hurdles that unduly burden each project identified under subsection (a);

(B) identify any recent changes in applicable State or Federal law that may impact such projects from a regulatory perspective, including changes made by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5); and

(C) develop a proposed plan, for review by the Secretaries, to appropriately suspend, revise, or rescind any regulations or procedures that unduly burden such projects and are not necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law.

(3) COORDINATION.—In carrying out paragraph (2), each Federal official designated under paragraph (1) shall coordinate and share all appropriate information that will enable improved efficiencies.

(c) UNDULY BURDEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “unduly burden” means to unnecessarily obstruct, delay, curtail, impede, or otherwise impose significant

- 1 costs on the permitting, utilization, transmission, delivery,
- 2 or supply of water resources and water infrastructure.

