

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4225

To authorize drought assistance adjustments to provide immediate funding for projects and activities that will help alleviate record unemployment and diminished agricultural production related to the drought in California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 8, 2009

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

A BILL

To authorize drought assistance adjustments to provide immediate funding for projects and activities that will help alleviate record unemployment and diminished agricultural production related to the drought in California.

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. DROUGHT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.**

4 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior
5 may use funds provided by the American Recovery and
6 Reinvestment Act of 2009 or appropriation measures
7 through fiscal year 2012 for any required non-Federal
8 share of the cost of projects that—

1 (1) are funded by the Federal Government for
2 the same purpose;

3 (2) are located in an area described in para-
4 graph (1) or (2) of subsection (b); and

5 (3) have—

6 (A) been identified as a project that will—

7 (i) make progress towards achieving
8 the co-equal goals of providing a more reli-
9 able water supply for California and pro-
10 tecting, restoring, and enhancing the Sac-
11 ramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem;

12 (ii) increase water management flexi-
13 bility; or

14 (iii) reduce impacts on environmental
15 resources from projects operated by the
16 California State Department of Water Re-
17 sources, the California State Department
18 of Fish and Game, the Bureau of Reclama-
19 tion, the United States Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, or other relevant State and Fed-
21 eral agencies;

22 (B) show potential, as determined by rel-
23 evant Federal and State agencies, to restore ag-
24 riculture production or agricultural employment

1 for an area described in paragraph (1) or (2)
2 of subsection (b); and

3 (C) made significant progress in the com-
4 pletion of any necessary environmental or public
5 review if applicable.

6 (b) ELIGIBLE AREAS.—An area referred to in sub-
7 section (a)(2) is any area that—

8 (1) has been identified by the U.S. Drought
9 Monitor as experiencing Severe, Extreme, or Excep-
10 tional Drought within the 24 months prior to the
11 date of the enactment of this Act; or

12 (2) has been designated as a disaster area by
13 the State of California during calendar year 2009.

14 (c) DROUGHT ASSISTANCE ADJUSTMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The use of funds for the
16 non-Federal share of projects as authorized in this
17 section shall be considered a Drought Assistance Ad-
18 justment.

19 (2) CRITERIA FOR CALCULATING DROUGHT AS-
20 SISTANCE ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall,
21 within 60 days after the date of the enactment of
22 this Act, establish criteria for calculating drought
23 assistance adjustments utilizing existing practices

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- 1 for adjustments in water service and repayment
- 2 rates.

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