

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 923

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources
in the State of New Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study
of water resources in the State of New Mexico.

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 “New Mexico Aquifer
5 Assessment Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. NEW MEXICO WATER RESOURCES STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, act-
8 ing through the Director of the United States Geological
9 Survey (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), in co-
10 ordination with the State of New Mexico (referred to in

1 this Act as the “State”) and any other entities that the
2 Secretary determines to be appropriate (including other
3 Federal agencies and institutions of higher education),
4 shall, in accordance with this Act and any other applicable
5 law, conduct a study of water resources in the State, in-
6 cluding—

7 (1) a survey of groundwater resources, includ-
8 ing an analysis of—

9 (A) aquifers in the State, including the
10 quantity of water in the aquifers;

11 (B) the availability of groundwater re-
12 sources for human use;

13 (C) the salinity of groundwater resources;

14 (D) the potential of the groundwater re-
15 sources to recharge;

16 (E) the interaction between groundwater
17 and surface water;

18 (F) the susceptibility of the aquifers to
19 contamination; and

20 (G) any other relevant criteria; and

21 (2) a characterization of surface and bedrock
22 geology, including the effect of the geology on
23 groundwater yield and quality.

24 (b) STUDY AREAS.—The study carried out under
25 subsection (a) shall include the Estancia Basin, Salt

1 Basin, Tularosa Basin, Hueco Basin, and middle Rio
2 Grande Basin in the State.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
5 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the
6 Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of
7 Representatives a report that describes the results of the
8 study.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
11 essary to carry out this Act.

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