

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 291

To establish a WaterSense program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CHU of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a WaterSense program, 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. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Water in the 21st Century Act” or “W21”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
 Sec. 2. Definition of Administrator.

TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

- Sec. 101. Water efficiency, conservation, and adaptation.

TITLE II—RECYCLING, STORAGE, AND INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

- Sec. 201. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Innovative Financing

- Sec. 211. Purposes.
 Sec. 212. Authority to provide assistance.
 Sec. 213. Applications.
 Sec. 214. Eligibility for assistance.
 Sec. 215. Determination of eligibility and project selection.
 Sec. 216. Secured loans.
 Sec. 217. Program administration.
 Sec. 218. State and local permits.
 Sec. 219. Regulations.
 Sec. 220. Funding.
 Sec. 221. Report to Congress.

Subtitle B—Integrated Regional Water Management, Reclamation, and Recycling Projects

- Sec. 231. Water storage projects.
 Sec. 232. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Title Transfers

- Sec. 241. Authorization to transfer title.

TITLE III—INNOVATION THROUGH RESEARCH, DATA, AND TECHNOLOGY

- Sec. 301. Open water data system.
 Sec. 302. Water Resources Research Act amendments.
 Sec. 303. Reauthorization of Water Desalination Act of 1996.
 Sec. 304. Review of reservoir operations.

TITLE IV—DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE

- Sec. 401. National drought resilience guidelines.
 Sec. 402. Drought preparedness for fisheries.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ADMINISTRATOR.**

- 2 In this Act, the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
 3 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**TITLE I—CONSERVATION AND
EFFICIENCY**

**SEC. 101. WATER EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION, AND ADAP-
TATION.**

(a) WATERSENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Environmental Protection Agency a WaterSense program to identify and promote water efficient products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services so as—

(A) to reduce water use;

(B) to reduce the strain on water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure;

(C) to conserve energy used to pump, heat, transport, and treat water; and

(D) to preserve water resources for future generations, through voluntary labeling of, or other forms of communications about, products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services that meet the highest water efficiency and performance criteria.

(2) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) establish—

(i) a WaterSense label to be used for certain items; and

1 (ii) the procedure by which an item
2 may be certified to display the WaterSense
3 label;

4 (B) promote WaterSense-labeled products,
5 buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and
6 services in the marketplace as the preferred
7 technologies and services for—

8 (i) reducing water use; and

9 (ii) ensuring product and service per-
10 formance;

11 (C) work to enhance public awareness of
12 the WaterSense label through public outreach,
13 education, and other means;

14 (D) preserve the integrity of the
15 WaterSense label by—

16 (i) establishing and maintaining per-
17 formance criteria so that products, build-
18 ings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and
19 services labeled with the WaterSense label
20 perform as well or better than less water-
21 efficient counterparts;

22 (ii) overseeing WaterSense certifi-
23 cations made by third parties;

24 (iii) conducting reviews of the use of
25 the WaterSense label in the marketplace

1 and taking corrective action in any case in
2 which misuse of the label is identified; and

3 (iv) carrying out such other measures
4 as the Administrator determines to be ap-
5 propriate;

6 (E) regularly review and, if appropriate,
7 update WaterSense criteria for categories of
8 products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, proc-
9 esses, and services, at least once every 6 years;

10 (F) to the maximum extent practicable,
11 regularly estimate and make available to the
12 public the production and relative market
13 shares of, and the savings of water, energy, and
14 capital costs of water, wastewater, and storm-
15 water infrastructure attributable to the use of
16 WaterSense-labeled products, buildings, land-
17 scapes, facilities, processes, and services, at
18 least annually;

19 (G) solicit comments from interested par-
20 ties and the public prior to establishing or re-
21 vising a WaterSense category, specification, in-
22 stallation criterion, or other criterion;

23 (H) provide reasonable notice to interested
24 parties and the public of any changes (including
25 effective dates), on the adoption of a new or re-

vised category, specification, installation criterion, or other criterion, along with—

(i) an explanation of the changes; and

(ii) as appropriate, responses to comments submitted by interested parties and the public;

(I) provide appropriate lead time (as determined by the Administrator) prior to the applicable effective date for a new or significant revision to a category, specification, installation criterion, or other criterion, taking into account the timing requirements of the manufacturing, marketing, training, and distribution process for the specific product, building and landscape, or service category addressed;

(J) identify and, if appropriate, implement other voluntary approaches in commercial, institutional, residential, industrial, and municipal sectors to encourage recycling and reuse technologies to improve water efficiency or lower water use; and

(K) if appropriate, authorize the WaterSense label for use on products that are labeled by the Energy Star program implemented by the Administrator and the Secretary of Energy.

1 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this section—

4 (A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

5 (B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

6 (C) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

7 (D) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2018; and

8 (E) for each subsequent fiscal year, the ap-
9 plicable amount for the preceding fiscal year, as
10 adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month
11 period ending the preceding November 30 in
12 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
13 sumers published by the Bureau of Labor Sta-
14 tistics of the Department of Labor.

15 (b) STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION
16 INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—

17 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

18 (A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible
19 entity” means a State government, local or
20 county government, tribal government, waste-
21 water or sewerage utility, municipal water au-
22 thority, energy utility, water utility, or non-
23 profit organization that meets the requirements
24 of paragraph (2).

1 (B) INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—The term “in-
2 centive program” means a program for admin-
3 istering financial incentives for consumer pur-
4 chase and installation of water-efficient prod-
5 ucts, buildings (including new water-efficient
6 homes), landscapes, processes, or services de-
7 scribed in paragraph (2)(A).

8 (C) WATER-EFFICIENT PRODUCT, BUILD-
9 ING, LANDSCAPE, PROCESS, OR SERVICE.—

10 (i) IN GENERAL.—The term “water-
11 efficient product, building, landscape, proc-
12 ess, or service” means a product, building,
13 landscape, process, or service for a resi-
14 dence or a commercial or institutional
15 building, or the landscape of a residence or
16 commercial or institutional building, that
17 is rated for water efficiency and perform-
18 ance—

19 (I) by the WaterSense program;

20 or

21 (II) if a WaterSense specification
22 does not exist, by the Energy Star
23 program or an incentive program ap-
24 proved by the Administrator.

1 (ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term “water-
2 efficient product, building, landscape, proc-
3 ess, or service” includes—

4 (I) faucets;

5 (II) irrigation technologies and
6 services;

7 (III) point-of-use water treat-
8 ment devices;

9 (IV) reuse and recycling tech-
10 nologies;

11 (V) toilets;

12 (VI) clothes washers;

13 (VII) dishwashers;

14 (VIII) showerheads;

15 (IX) xeriscaping and other land-
16 scape conversions that replace irri-
17 gated turf;

18 (X) new water efficient homes
19 certified under the WaterSense pro-
20 gram;

21 (XI) green stormwater installa-
22 tions such as permeable pavement,
23 rain gardens, rain barrels, and green
24 roofs;

1 (XII) composting solutions com-
2 plementary to water use and water
3 quality; and

4 (XIII) other water-efficient prod-
5 ucts, services, processes, or behavioral
6 water efficiency solutions that address
7 the objectives of the WaterSense pro-
8 gram.

9 (D) WATERSENSE PROGRAM.—The term
10 “WaterSense program” means the program es-
11 tablished by subsection (a).

12 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity shall be eli-
13 gible to receive an allocation under paragraph (3) if
14 the entity—

15 (A) establishes (or has established) an in-
16 centive program to provide financial incentives
17 to residential, commercial, and institutional
18 consumers for the purchase of water-efficient
19 products, buildings, landscapes, processes, or
20 services;

21 (B) submits an application for the alloca-
22 tion at such time, in such form, and containing
23 such information as the Administrator may re-
24 quire; and

1 (C) provides assurances satisfactory to the
2 Administrator that the entity will use the allo-
3 cation to supplement, but not supplant, non-
4 Federal funds made available to carry out the
5 incentive program.

6 (3) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATIONS.—For each fiscal
7 year, the Administrator shall determine the amount
8 to allocate to each eligible entity to carry out para-
9 graph (4), taking into consideration—

10 (A) the population served by the eligible
11 entity during the most recent calendar year for
12 which data are available;

13 (B) the targeted population of the incen-
14 tive program of the eligible entity, such as gen-
15 eral households, low-income households, or first-
16 time homeowners, and the probable effective-
17 ness of the incentive program for that popu-
18 lation;

19 (C) for existing programs, the effectiveness
20 of the program in encouraging the adoption of
21 water-efficient products, buildings, landscapes,
22 facilities, processes, and services;

23 (D) any allocation to the eligible entity for
24 a preceding fiscal year that remains unused;
25 and

1 (E) the per capita water demand of the
2 population served by the eligible entity during
3 the most recent calendar year for which data
4 are available and the availability or reliability of
5 water supplies to the eligible entity.

6 (4) USE OF ALLOCATED FUNDS.—Funds allo-
7 cated to an eligible entity under paragraph (3) may
8 be used to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of estab-
9 lishing and carrying out an incentive program.

10 (5) ISSUANCE OF INCENTIVES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Financial incentives
12 may be provided to residential, commercial, and
13 institutional consumers that meet the require-
14 ments of the applicable incentive program.

15 (B) MANNER OF ISSUANCE.—An eligible
16 entity may—

17 (i) issue all financial incentives di-
18 rectly to residential, commercial, and insti-
19 tutional consumers; or

20 (ii) with approval of the Adminis-
21 trator, delegate all or part of financial in-
22 centive administration to other organiza-
23 tions, including local governments, munic-
24 ipal water authorities, water utilities, and
25 nonprofit organizations.

(C) AMOUNT.—The amount of a financial incentive shall be determined by the eligible entity, taking into consideration—

(i) the amount of any Federal or State tax incentive available for the purchase of the water-efficient product or service;

(ii) the amount necessary to change consumer behavior to purchase water-efficient products and services; and

(iii) the consumer expenditures for on-site preparation, assembly, and original installation of the product.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection—

(A) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(B) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(C) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(D) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(E) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(F) for each subsequent fiscal year, the applicable amount for the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending the preceding November 30 in

1 the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Con-
2 sumers published by the Bureau of Labor Sta-
3 tistics of the Department of Labor.

4 (c) WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
5 GRANTS.—

6 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 (A) OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—The term “owner
9 or operator” means a person (including a
10 regional, State, local, municipal, or private
11 entity) that owns or operates a water sys-
12 tem.

13 (ii) INCLUSION.—The term “owner or
14 operator” includes a non-Federal entity
15 that has operational responsibilities for a
16 federally owned water system.

17 (B) WATER SYSTEM.—The term “water
18 system” means—

19 (i) a community water system (as de-
20 fined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking
21 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f));

22 (ii) a publicly owned treatment works
23 (as defined in section 212 of the Federal
24 Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.

1 1292)), including a municipal separate
2 storm sewer system;

3 (iii) a decentralized wastewater treat-
4 ment system for domestic sewage;

5 (iv) a groundwater storage and re-
6 plenishment system; or

7 (v) a system for transport and deliv-
8 ery of water for irrigation or conservation.

9 (2) GRANTS.—Beginning in fiscal year 2015,
10 the Administrator shall make grants to owners or
11 operators of water systems to address any ongoing
12 or forecasted (based on the best available research
13 and data) climate-related impact on the water qual-
14 ity or quantity of a region of the United States, for
15 the purposes of mitigating or adapting to the im-
16 pacts of climate change.

17 (3) ELIGIBLE USES.—In carrying out this sub-
18 section, the Administrator shall make grants to as-
19 sist in the planning, design, construction, implemen-
20 tation, or maintenance of any program or project to
21 increase the resilience of a water system to climate
22 change by—

23 (A) conserving water or enhancing water
24 use efficiency, including through the use of

1 water metering to measure the effectiveness of
2 a water efficiency program;

3 (B) modifying or relocating existing water
4 system infrastructure made or projected to be
5 made inoperable by climate change impacts;

6 (C) preserving or improving water quality,
7 including through measures to manage, reduce,
8 treat, or reuse municipal stormwater, waste-
9 water, or drinking water;

10 (D) investigating, designing, or con-
11 structing groundwater remediation, recycled
12 water, or desalination facilities or systems;

13 (E) enhancing water management by in-
14 creasing watershed preservation and protection,
15 such as through the use of natural or engi-
16 neered green infrastructure in the management,
17 conveyance, or treatment of water, wastewater,
18 or stormwater;

19 (F) enhancing energy efficiency or the use
20 and generation of renewable energy in the man-
21 agement, conveyance, or treatment of water,
22 wastewater, or stormwater;

23 (G) supporting the adoption and use of ad-
24 vanced water treatment, water supply manage-
25 ment (such as reservoir reoperation), or water

1 demand management technologies, projects, or
2 processes (such as water reuse and recycling or
3 adaptive conservation pricing) that maintain or
4 increase water supply or improve water quality;

5 (H) modifying or replacing existing sys-
6 tems or constructing new systems for existing
7 communities or land currently in agricultural
8 production to improve water availability, stor-
9 age, or conveyance in a manner that—

10 (i) promotes more efficient use of
11 available water supplies; and

12 (ii) does not further exacerbate
13 stresses on ecosystems;

14 (I) supporting practices and projects, such
15 as improved irrigation systems, water banking
16 and other forms of water transactions, ground-
17 water recharge, stormwater capture, and reuse
18 or recycling of drainage water, to improve water
19 quality or promote more efficient water use, in-
20 cluding on land currently in agricultural pro-
21 duction;

22 (J) conducting and completing studies or
23 assessments to project how climate change may
24 impact the future operations and sustainability
25 of water systems;

1 (K) developing and implementing mitiga-
2 tion measures to rapidly address impacts on
3 water systems most susceptible to abrupt cli-
4 mate change, including those in the Colorado
5 River Basin and coastal regions at risk from
6 rising sea levels; or

7 (L) funding of transactions costs and cred-
8 it enhancement for pay-for-performance-based
9 public-private initiatives intended to advance
10 the eligible uses of the program or project.

11 (4) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
12 grant from the Administrator under paragraph (2),
13 the owner or operator of a water system shall submit
14 to the Administrator an application that—

15 (A) includes a proposal of the program,
16 strategy, or infrastructure improvement to be
17 planned, designed, constructed, implemented, or
18 maintained by the water system;

19 (B) cites the best available research or
20 data that demonstrates—

21 (i) the risk to the water resources or
22 infrastructure of the water system as a re-
23 sult of ongoing or forecasted changes to
24 the hydrological system brought about by
25 factors arising from climate change, in-

cluding rising sea levels and changes in precipitation levels; and

(ii) how the proposed program, strategy, or infrastructure improvement would perform under the anticipated climate conditions;

(C) explains how the proposed program, strategy, or infrastructure improvement is expected to enhance the resiliency of the water system, including source water protection for community water systems, to these risks or reduce the direct or indirect greenhouse gas emissions of the water system; and

(D) demonstrates that the program, strategy, or infrastructure improvement is—

(i) consistent with any approved State and tribal climate adaptation plan; and

(ii) not inconsistent with any approved natural resources plan.

(5) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each calendar year, the Administrator shall conduct a competitive process to select and fund applications under this subsection.

1 (B) PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AND
2 WEIGHTING.—In carrying out the process, the
3 Administrator shall—

4 (i) prioritize funding of applications
5 that are submitted by the owners or opera-
6 tors of water systems that are, based on
7 the best available research and data, at the
8 greatest and most immediate risk of facing
9 significant climate-related negative impacts
10 on water quality or quantity;

11 (ii) in selecting among the priority ap-
12 plications determined under clause (i), en-
13 sure that the final list of applications fund-
14 ed for each year includes a substantial
15 number that, to the maximum extent prac-
16 ticable, includes each eligible use described
17 in paragraph (3);

18 (iii) solicit applications from water
19 systems that are—

20 (I) located in all regions of the
21 United States; and

22 (II) facing varying risks as a re-
23 sult of climate change; and

24 (iv) provide for solicitation and con-
25 sideration of public input in the develop-

1 ment of criteria used in evaluating applica-
2 tions.

3 (6) COST SHARING.—

4 (A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
5 of the cost of any program, strategy, or infra-
6 structure improvement that is the subject of a
7 grant awarded by the Administrator to a water
8 system under paragraph (2) shall not exceed 50
9 percent of the cost of the program, strategy,
10 and infrastructure improvement.

11 (B) CALCULATION OF NON-FEDERAL
12 SHARE.—In calculating the non-Federal share
13 of the cost of a program, strategy, or infra-
14 structure improvement proposed by a water sys-
15 tem through an application submitted by the
16 water system under paragraph (4), the Admin-
17 istrator shall—

18 (i) include the value of any in-kind
19 services that are integral to the completion
20 of the program, strategy, or infrastructure
21 improvement, as determined by the Admin-
22 istrator; and

23 (ii) not include any other amount that
24 the water system receives from a Federal
25 agency.

1 (7) LABOR STANDARDS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and me-
3 chanics employed on infrastructure improve-
4 ments funded directly by or assisted in whole or
5 in part by this subsection shall be paid wages
6 at rates not less than those prevailing for the
7 same type of work on similar construction in
8 the immediate locality, as determined by the
9 Secretary of Labor in accordance with sub-
10 chapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of subtitle
11 II of title 40, United States Code.

12 (B) AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS.—With
13 respect to the labor standards in this para-
14 graph, the Secretary of Labor shall have the
15 authority and functions set forth in Reorganiza-
16 tion Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat.
17 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title
18 40, United States Code.

19 (8) LOCAL HIRING.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of assist-
21 ance may advertise and award a contract for
22 construction containing requirements for the
23 employment of individuals residing in or adja-
24 cent to any of the areas in which the work is
25 to be performed under the contract, if—

1 (i) all or part of the construction work
2 performed under the contract occurs in an
3 area that has—

4 (I) a per capita income of 80 per-
5 cent or less of the national average
6 per capita income; or

7 (II) an unemployment rate that
8 is, for the most recent 24-month pe-
9 riod for which data are available, at
10 least 1 percent greater than the na-
11 tional average unemployment rate;

12 (ii) the estimated cost of the project
13 of which the contract is a part is greater
14 than \$1,000,000; and

15 (iii) the recipient does not hire indi-
16 viduals who do not have the necessary
17 skills to perform work in the applicable
18 craft or trade, except for individuals who
19 are subject to an apprenticeship program
20 or other training program meeting, as de-
21 termined by the Secretary.

22 (B) ADVERTISEMENT.—In advertising and
23 awarding a contract under this subsection, the
24 Secretary or recipient of assistance shall ensure

1 that the requirements contained in the adver-
2 tisement would not—

3 (i) compromise the quality of the
4 project;

5 (ii) unreasonably delay the completion
6 of the project; or

7 (iii) unreasonably increase the cost of
8 the project.

9 (9) EFFICIENT, INTEGRATED PROCUREMENT
10 FOR PROGRAMS JOINTLY FUNDED WITH THE DE-
11 PARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-
12 MENT.—

13 (A) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—

14 In this paragraph, the term “eligible project”
15 means a project for which the amount of fund-
16 ing provided by the Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development is 10 percent or more of
18 the amount of funding provided under this sub-
19 section.

20 (B) PREFERENCES.—Notwithstanding the
21 competitive bidding requirements of this section
22 (including regulations), in the case of an eligible
23 project funded jointly with funding provided by
24 the Department of Housing and Urban Devel-
25 opment that is covered by section 3 of the

1 Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968
2 (82 Stat. 846; 12 U.S.C. 1701u), a contracting
3 agency may apply the preferences required for
4 the funding by the Department of Housing and
5 Urban Development under section 3 of that Act
6 (including regulations) with respect to the fund-
7 ing, to the elements of the project funded in
8 any part under this subsection.

9 (C) PERMISSIBLE RESTRICTIONS.—A State
10 or local law governing contracting practices that
11 prohibits the awarding of contracts to busi-
12 nesses that have solicited or made contributions
13 to political candidates, political parties, and
14 holders of public office shall not be considered
15 a violation of this section.

16 (10) REGULATIONS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-
19 ministrator shall promulgate final regulations to
20 carry out this subsection.

21 (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR THE CONSTRUC-
22 TION OF TREATMENT WORKS.—In carrying out
23 this paragraph, the Administrator shall incor-
24 porate all relevant and appropriate require-
25 ments of title VI of the Federal Water Pollution

1 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) applicable
 2 to the construction of treatment works that are
 3 carried out under this subsection.

4 (11) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and
 6 every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall
 7 submit to Congress a report on progress in imple-
 8 menting this subsection, including information on
 9 project applications received and funded annually.

10 (12) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 11 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 12 this subsection such sums as are necessary.

13 **TITLE II—RECYCLING, STORAGE,**
 14 **AND INTEGRATED WATER**
 15 **MANAGEMENT**

16 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this title:

18 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
 19 ty” means—

20 (A) a corporation;

21 (B) a partnership;

22 (C) a joint venture;

23 (D) a trust;

24 (E) a Federal, State, or local governmental
 25 entity, agency, or instrumentality; and

1 (F) a conservancy district, irrigation dis-
2 trict, canal company, mutual water company,
3 water users' association, Indian tribe, agency
4 created by interstate compact, or any other en-
5 tity that has the capacity to contract with the
6 United States under Federal reclamation law.

7 (2) FEDERAL CREDIT INSTRUMENT.—The term
8 “Federal credit instrument” means a secured loan,
9 loan guarantee, or other credit enhancement author-
10 ized to be made available under this title with re-
11 spect to a project.

12 (3) INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING.—The term
13 “investment-grade rating” means a rating of BBB
14 minus, Baa3, bbb minus, BBB (low), or higher as
15 assigned by a rating agency to project obligations.

16 (4) LENDER.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “lender”
18 means any non-Federal qualified institutional
19 buyer (as defined in section 230.144A(a) of
20 title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
21 cessor regulation) (commonly known as “Rule
22 144A(a) of the Securities and Exchange Com-
23 mission” and issued under the Securities Act of
24 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.))).

1 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “lender” in-
2 cludes—

3 (i) a qualified retirement plan (as de-
4 fined in section 4974 of the Internal Rev-
5 enue Code of 1986) that is a qualified in-
6 stitutional buyer; and

7 (ii) a governmental plan (as defined in
8 section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code
9 of 1986) that is a qualified institutional
10 buyer.

11 (5) LOAN GUARANTEE.—The term “loan guar-
12 antee” means any guarantee or other pledge by the
13 Secretary to pay all or part of the principal of, and
14 interest on, a loan or other debt obligation issued by
15 an obligor and funded by a lender.

16 (6) OBLIGOR.—The term “obligor” means an
17 eligible entity that is primarily liable for payment of
18 the principal of, or interest on, a Federal credit in-
19 strument.

20 (7) PROJECT OBLIGATION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “project obli-
22 gation” means any note, bond, debenture, or
23 other debt obligation issued by an obligor in
24 connection with the financing of a project.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “project obli-
2 gation” does not include a Federal credit in-
3 strument.

4 (8) RATING AGENCY.—The term “rating agen-
5 cy” means a credit rating agency registered with the
6 Securities and Exchange Commission as a nationally
7 recognized statistical rating organization (as defined
8 in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of
9 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

10 (9) RECLAMATION STATE.—The term “Rec-
11 lamation State” means any of the States of—

- 12 (A) Arizona;
- 13 (B) California;
- 14 (C) Colorado;
- 15 (D) Idaho;
- 16 (E) Kansas;
- 17 (F) Montana;
- 18 (G) Nebraska;
- 19 (H) Nevada;
- 20 (I) New Mexico;
- 21 (J) North Dakota;
- 22 (K) Oklahoma;
- 23 (L) Oregon;
- 24 (M) South Dakota;
- 25 (N) Texas;

1 (O) Utah;

2 (P) Washington; and

3 (Q) Wyoming.

4 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
5 means the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (11) SECURED LOAN.—The term “secured
7 loan” means a direct loan or other debt obligation
8 issued by an obligor and funded by the Secretary in
9 connection with the financing of a project under sub-
10 title A.

11 (12) SUBSIDY AMOUNT.—The term “subsidy
12 amount” means the amount of budget authority suf-
13 ficient to cover the estimated long-term cost to the
14 Federal Government of a Federal credit instrument,
15 as calculated on a net present value basis, excluding
16 administrative costs and any incidental effects on
17 Governmental receipts or outlays in accordance with
18 the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C.
19 661 et seq.).

20 (13) SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION.—The term
21 “substantial completion”, with respect to a project,
22 means the earliest date on which a project is consid-
23 ered to perform the functions for which the project
24 is designed.

1 **Subtitle A—Innovative Financing**

2 **SEC. 211. PURPOSES.**

3 The purposes of this subtitle are—

4 (1) to promote increased development of critical
5 water resources infrastructure by establishing addi-
6 tional opportunities for financing water resources
7 projects;

8 (2) to attract new investment capital to infra-
9 structure projects that are capable of generating rev-
10 enue streams through user fees or other dedicated
11 funding sources;

12 (3) to complement existing Federal funding
13 sources and address budgetary constraints on Bu-
14 reau of Reclamation programs; and

15 (4) to leverage private investment in water re-
16 sources infrastructure.

17 **SEC. 212. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide finan-
19 cial assistance under this subtitle to carry out projects
20 within—

21 (1) any Reclamation State;

22 (2) any other State in which the Bureau of
23 Reclamation is authorized to provide project assist-
24 ance; and

25 (3) the States of Alaska and Hawaii.

1 (b) SELECTION.—In selecting projects to receive fi-
2 nancial assistance under subsection (a), the Secretary
3 shall ensure diversity with respect to—

- 4 (1) project types; and
5 (2) geographical locations.

6 **SEC. 213. APPLICATIONS.**

7 To be eligible to receive assistance under this subtitle,
8 an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
9 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing such
10 information as the Secretary may require.

11 **SEC. 214. ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.**

12 (a) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The following projects
13 may be carried out using assistance made available under
14 this subtitle:

15 (1) A project for the reclamation and reuse of
16 municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural
17 wastewater, and naturally impaired ground and sur-
18 face waters, which the Secretary, acting through the
19 Commissioner of Reclamation, is authorized to un-
20 dertake.

21 (2) Any water infrastructure project not specifi-
22 cally authorized by law that—

23 (A) the Secretary determines, through the
24 completion of an appraisal investigation and
25 feasibility study, would contribute to a safe,

1 adequate water supply for domestic, agricul-
2 tural, environmental, or municipal and indus-
3 trial use; and

4 (B) is otherwise eligible for assistance
5 under this title.

6 (3) A new water infrastructure facility project,
7 including a water conduit, pipeline, canal, pumping,
8 power, and associated facilities.

9 (4) A project for enhanced energy efficiency in
10 the operation of a water system.

11 (5) A project for accelerated repair and replace-
12 ment of an aging water distribution facility.

13 (6) A brackish or sea water desalination
14 project.

15 (7) Acquisition of real property or an interest
16 in real property for water storage, reclaimed or recy-
17 cled water, or wastewater, if the acquisition is inte-
18 gral to a project described in paragraphs (1)
19 through (6).

20 (8) A combination of projects, each of which is
21 eligible under paragraphs (1) through (7), for which
22 an eligible entity submits a single application.

23 (b) ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—For
24 purposes of this subtitle, an eligible activity with respect

1 to an eligible project under subsection (a) includes the cost
2 of—

3 (1) development-phase activities, including plan-
4 ning, feasibility analysis, revenue forecasting, envi-
5 ronmental review, permitting, transaction costs, pre-
6 liminary engineering and design work, and other
7 preconstruction activities;

8 (2) construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation,
9 and replacement activities;

10 (3) the acquisition of real property (including
11 water rights, land relating to the project, and im-
12 provements to land), environmental mitigation, con-
13 struction contingencies, and acquisition of equip-
14 ment;

15 (4) capitalized interest necessary to meet mar-
16 ket requirements, reasonably required reserve funds,
17 capital issuance expenses, and other carrying costs
18 during construction;

19 (5) refinancing interim construction funding,
20 long-term project obligations, or a secured loan, loan
21 guarantee, or other credit enhancement made under
22 this subtitle;

23 (6) reimbursement or success payments to any
24 public or private entity that achieves predetermined

1 outcomes on a pay-for-performance or pay-for-suc-
2 cess basis; and

3 (7) grants, loans, or credit enhancement for
4 community development financial institutions, green
5 banks, and other financial intermediaries providing
6 ongoing finance for projects that meet the purposes
7 of this subtitle.

8 **SEC. 215. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND PROJECT**
9 **SELECTION.**

10 (a) **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—To be eligible to
11 receive financial assistance under this subtitle, a project
12 shall meet the following criteria, as determined by the Sec-
13 retary:

14 (1) **CREDITWORTHINESS.**—

15 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B), the project shall be creditworthy, as
17 determined by the Secretary, who shall ensure
18 that any financing for the project has appro-
19 priate security features, such as a rate cov-
20 enant, to ensure repayment.

21 (B) **PRELIMINARY RATING OPINION LET-**
22 **TER.**—The Secretary shall require each appli-
23 cant to provide a preliminary rating opinion let-
24 ter from at least 1 rating agency indicating that
25 the senior obligations of the project (which may

1 be the Federal credit instrument) have the po-
2 tential to achieve an investment-grade rating.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS.—The eligible
4 project costs of a project and other projects in a wa-
5 tershed shall be reasonably anticipated to be not less
6 than \$10,000,000.

7 (3) DEDICATED REVENUE SOURCES.—The Fed-
8 eral credit instrument for the project shall be repay-
9 able, in whole or in part, from dedicated revenue
10 sources that also secure the project obligations.

11 (4) PUBLIC SPONSORSHIP OF PRIVATE ENTI-
12 TIES.—In the case of a project carried out by an en-
13 tity that is not a State or local government or an
14 agency or instrumentality of a State or local govern-
15 ment, the project shall be publicly sponsored.

16 (b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish criteria for the selection of projects that meet
19 the eligibility requirements of subsection (a), in ac-
20 cordance with paragraph (2).

21 (2) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria shall in-
22 clude the following:

23 (A) The extent to which the project is na-
24 tionally or regionally significant.

1 (B) The extent to which assistance under
2 this section would foster innovative public-pri-
3 vate partnerships and attract private debt or
4 equity investment.

5 (C) The likelihood that assistance under
6 this section would enable the project to proceed
7 at an earlier date than the project would other-
8 wise be able to proceed.

9 (D) The extent to which the project uses
10 new or innovative approaches.

11 (E) The extent to which projects track evi-
12 dence about the effectiveness of the 1 or more
13 projects financed and the availability of the evi-
14 dence and project information to the public to
15 facilitate replication.

16 (F) The amount of budget authority re-
17 quired to fund the Federal credit instrument
18 made available under this subtitle.

19 (G) The extent to which the project helps
20 maintain or protect the environment.

21 (H) The extent to which the project sup-
22 ports the local economy and provides local jobs.

23 (c) RECEIPT OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING.—Re-
24 ceipt of a Federal grant or contract or other Federal fund-
25 ing to support an eligible project shall not preclude the

1 project from being eligible for assistance under this sub-
 2 title.

3 (d) FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 5 tion supersedes the applicability of other require-
 6 ments of Federal law (including regulations).

7 (2) NEPA.—A Federal action carried out re-
 8 garding a loan or loan guarantee provided under this
 9 subtitle shall not be considered to be a Federal ac-
 10 tion for purposes of the National Environmental
 11 Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 216. SECURED LOANS.**

13 (a) AGREEMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
 15 through (4), the Secretary may enter into agree-
 16 ments with 1 or more obligors to make secured
 17 loans, the proceeds of which shall be used—

18 (A) to finance eligible project costs of any
 19 project selected under section 206;

20 (B) to refinance interim construction fi-
 21 nancing of eligible project costs of any project
 22 selected under section 206; or

23 (C) to refinance long-term project obliga-
 24 tions or Federal credit instruments, if that refi-
 25 nancing provides additional funding capacity for

1 the completion, enhancement, or expansion of
2 any project that—

3 (i) is selected under section 206; or

4 (ii) otherwise meets the requirements
5 of section 206.

6 (2) LIMITATION ON REFINANCING OF INTERIM
7 CONSTRUCTION FINANCING.—A secured loan under
8 paragraph (1) shall not be used to refinance interim
9 construction financing under paragraph (1)(B) later
10 than 1 year after the date of substantial completion
11 of the applicable project.

12 (3) RISK ASSESSMENT.—Before entering into
13 an agreement under this subsection for a secured
14 loan, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director
15 of the Office of Management and Budget and each
16 rating agency providing a preliminary rating opinion
17 letter under section 206(a)(1)(B), shall determine an
18 appropriate capital reserve subsidy amount for the
19 secured loan, taking into account each such prelimi-
20 nary rating opinion letter.

21 (4) INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING REQUIRE-
22 MENT.—The execution of a secured loan under this
23 section shall be contingent on receipt by the senior
24 obligations of the project of an investment-grade rat-
25 ing.

1 (b) TERMS AND LIMITATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A secured loan provided for
3 a project under this section shall be subject to such
4 terms and conditions, and contain such covenants,
5 representations, warranties, and requirements (in-
6 cluding requirements for audits), as the Secretary
7 determines to be appropriate.

8 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a se-
9 cured loan under this section shall not exceed the
10 lesser of—

11 (A) an amount equal to 100 percent of the
12 reasonably anticipated eligible project costs; and

13 (B) if the secured loan does not receive an
14 investment-grade rating, the amount of the sen-
15 ior project obligations of the project.

16 (3) PAYMENT.—A secured loan under this sec-
17 tion—

18 (A) shall be payable, in whole or in part,
19 from State or local taxes, user fees, or other
20 dedicated revenue sources that also secure the
21 senior project obligations of the relevant
22 project;

23 (B) shall include a rate covenant, coverage
24 requirement, or similar security feature sup-
25 porting the project obligations; and

1 (C) may have a lien on revenues described
2 in subparagraph (A), subject to any lien secur-
3 ing project obligations.

4 (4) INTEREST RATE.—The interest rate on a
5 secured loan under this section shall be not more
6 than the yield on United States Treasury securities
7 of a similar maturity to the maturity of the secured
8 loan on the date of execution of the loan agreement,
9 as determined by the Secretary.

10 (5) MATURITY DATE.—The final maturity date
11 of a secured loan under this section shall be not
12 later than 35 years after the date of substantial
13 completion of the relevant project.

14 (6) NONSUBORDINATION.—A secured loan
15 under this section shall not be subordinated to the
16 claims of any holder of project obligations in the
17 event of bankruptcy, insolvency, or liquidation of the
18 obligor of the project.

19 (7) FEES.—The Secretary may establish fees at
20 a level sufficient to cover all or a portion of the costs
21 to the Federal Government of making a secured loan
22 under this section.

23 (8) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The proceeds of a
24 secured loan under this section may be used to pay

1 any non-Federal share of project costs required if
2 the loan is repayable from non-Federal funds.

3 (c) REPAYMENT.—

4 (1) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall establish
5 a repayment schedule for each secured loan provided
6 under this section, based on the projected cash flow
7 from project revenues and other repayment sources.

8 (2) COMMENCEMENT.—Scheduled loan repay-
9 ment of principal or interest on a secured loan under
10 this section shall commence not later than 5 years
11 after the date of substantial completion of the
12 project.

13 (3) DEFERRED PAYMENTS.—

14 (A) AUTHORIZATION.—If, at any time
15 after the date of substantial completion of a
16 project for which a secured loan is provided
17 under this section, the project is unable to gen-
18 erate sufficient revenues to pay the scheduled
19 loan repayments of principal and interest on the
20 secured loan, the Secretary may allow the obli-
21 gor, subject to subparagraph (C), to add unpaid
22 principal and interest to the outstanding bal-
23 ance of the secured loan.

24 (B) INTEREST.—Any payment deferred
25 under subparagraph (A) shall—

1 (i) continue to accrue interest in ac-
 2 cordance with subsection (b)(4) until fully
 3 repaid; and

4 (ii) be scheduled to be amortized over
 5 the remaining term of the secured loan.

6 (C) CRITERIA.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—Any payment defer-
 8 ral under subparagraph (A) shall be con-
 9 tingent on the project meeting such cri-
 10 teria as the Secretary may establish.

11 (ii) REPAYMENT STANDARDS.—The
 12 criteria established under clause (i) shall
 13 include standards for reasonable assurance
 14 of repayment.

15 (4) PREPAYMENT.—

16 (A) USE OF EXCESS REVENUES.—Any ex-
 17 cess revenues that remain after satisfying
 18 scheduled debt service requirements on the
 19 project obligations and secured loan and all de-
 20 posit requirements under the terms of any trust
 21 agreement, bond resolution, or similar agree-
 22 ment securing project obligations may be ap-
 23 plied annually to prepay a secured loan under
 24 this section without penalty.

1 (B) USE OF PROCEEDS OF REFI-
2 NANCING.—A secured loan under this section
3 may be prepaid at any time without penalty
4 from the proceeds of refinancing from non-Fed-
5 eral funding sources.

6 (d) SALE OF SECURED LOANS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), as
8 soon as practicable after the date of substantial
9 completion of a project and after providing a notice
10 to the obligor, the Secretary may sell to another en-
11 tity or reoffer into the capital markets a secured
12 loan for a project under this section, if the Secretary
13 determines that the sale or reoffering can be made
14 on favorable terms.

15 (2) CONSENT OF OBLIGOR.—In making a sale
16 or reoffering under paragraph (1), the Secretary
17 may not change the original terms and conditions of
18 the secured loan without the written consent of the
19 obligor.

20 (e) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide a
22 loan guarantee to a lender in lieu of making a se-
23 cured loan under this section, if the Secretary deter-
24 mines that the budgetary cost of the loan guarantee
25 is substantially the same as that of a secured loan.

1 (2) TERMS.—The terms of a loan guarantee
2 provided under this subsection shall be consistent
3 with the terms established in this section for a se-
4 cured loan, except that the rate on the guaranteed
5 loan and any prepayment features shall be nego-
6 tiated between the obligor and the lender, with the
7 consent of the Secretary.

8 **SEC. 217. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.**

9 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a
10 uniform system to service the Federal credit instruments
11 made available under this subtitle.

12 (b) FEES.—The Secretary may collect and spend
13 fees, contingent on authority being provided in appropria-
14 tions Acts, at a level that is sufficient to cover—

15 (1) the costs of services of expert firms retained
16 pursuant to subsection (d); and

17 (2) all or a portion of the costs to the Federal
18 Government of servicing the Federal credit instru-
19 ments provided under this subtitle.

20 (c) SERVICER.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint
22 a financial entity to assist the Secretary in servicing
23 the Federal credit instruments provided under this
24 subtitle.

1 (2) DUTIES.—A servicer appointed under para-
2 graph (1) shall act as the agent for the Secretary.

3 (3) FEE.—A servicer appointed under para-
4 graph (1) shall receive a servicing fee, subject to ap-
5 proval by the Secretary.

6 (d) ASSISTANCE FROM EXPERTS.—The Secretary
7 may retain the services, including counsel, of any organi-
8 zation or entity with expertise in the field of municipal
9 and project finance to assist in the underwriting and serv-
10 icing of Federal credit instruments provided under this
11 subtitle.

12 (e) LOAN COORDINATION; INTERAGENCY COOPERA-
13 TION.—The Secretary—

14 (1) shall coordinate implementation of loan
15 guarantees under this section with the Administrator
16 to avoid duplication and enhance the effectiveness of
17 implementation of the State revolving funds estab-
18 lished under the Federal Water Pollution Control
19 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and the Safe Drinking
20 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

21 (2) shall consult with the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture before promulgating criteria with respect to
23 financial appraisal functions and loan guarantee ad-
24 ministration for activities carried out under this sub-
25 title; and

1 (3) may enter into a memorandum of agree-
2 ment providing for Department of Agriculture finan-
3 cial appraisal functions and loan guarantee adminis-
4 tration for activities carried out under this subtitle.

5 **SEC. 218. STATE AND LOCAL PERMITS.**

6 The provision of financial assistance for a project
7 under this subtitle shall not—

8 (1) relieve any recipient of the assistance of any
9 obligation to obtain any required State or local per-
10 mit or approval with respect to the project;

11 (2) limit the right of any unit of State or local
12 government to approve or regulate any rate of re-
13 turn on private equity invested in the project; or

14 (3) otherwise supersede any State or local law
15 (including any regulation) applicable to the construc-
16 tion or operation of the project.

17 **SEC. 219. REGULATIONS.**

18 The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as
19 the Secretary determines to be appropriate to carry out
20 this subtitle.

21 **SEC. 220. FUNDING.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
23 priated to the Secretary to carry out this subtitle
24 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019,
25 to remain available until expended.

1 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds made
 2 available to carry out this subtitle, the Secretary may use
 3 for the administration of this subtitle not more than
 4 \$2,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

5 **SEC. 221. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

6 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
 7 of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary
 8 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
 9 sources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Re-
 10 sources of the House of Representatives a report summa-
 11 rizing the financial performance and on-the-ground out-
 12 comes of the projects that are receiving, or have received,
 13 assistance under this subtitle, including an assessment of
 14 whether the objectives of this subtitle are being met.

15 **Subtitle B—Integrated Regional**
 16 **Water Management, Reclama-**
 17 **tion, and Recycling Projects**

18 **SEC. 231. WATER STORAGE PROJECTS.**

19 (a) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into a
 20 cost-shared financial assistance agreement with any non-
 21 Federal entity in a Reclamation State or the State of Ha-
 22 waii to carry out the planning, design, and construction
 23 of any permanent water storage and conveyance facility
 24 used solely to regulate and maximize the water supply

1 arising from a project that is eligible for assistance under
2 this title or any other provision of law—

3 (1) to recycle wastewater, impaired surface
4 water, and ground water; or

5 (2) to use integrated and coordinated water
6 management on a watershed or regional scale.

7 (b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing financial
8 assistance under this section, the Secretary shall give pri-
9 ority to storage and conveyance components that—

10 (1) ensure the efficient and beneficial use of
11 water or reuse of the recycled water;

12 (2) make maximum use of natural systems;

13 (3) consistent with Secretarial Order No. 3297,
14 dated February 22, 2010, support sustainable water
15 management practices and the water sustainability
16 objectives of 1 or more offices of the Department of
17 the Interior or any other Federal agency;

18 (4)(A) increase the availability of usable water
19 supplies in a watershed or region to benefit people,
20 the economy, and the environment; and

21 (B) include adaptive measures needed to ad-
22 dress climate change and future demands;

23 (5) where practicable—

24 (A) provide flood control or recreation ben-
25 efits; and

1 (B) include the development of incremental
2 hydroelectric power generation;

3 (6) include partnerships that go beyond political
4 and institutional jurisdictions to support the effi-
5 cient use of the limited water resources of the
6 United States and the applicable region;

7 (7) generate environmental benefits, such as
8 benefits to fisheries, wildlife and habitat, and water
9 quality and water-dependent ecological systems, as
10 well as water supply benefits to agricultural and
11 urban water users; and

12 (8) the financing of which leverages private and
13 other non-Federal resources.

14 (c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
15 of a project carried out under subsection (a) shall be—

16 (1) equal to the lesser of—

17 (A) 50 percent of total cost of the project;

18 and

19 (B) \$15,000,000, adjusted for inflation;

20 and

21 (2) nonreimbursable.

22 (d) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share
23 of the cost of a project carried out under subsection (a)
24 may include in-kind contributions to the planning, design,
25 and construction of a project.

1 (e) TITLE AND COSTS.—A non-Federal entity enter-
 2 ing into a financial assistance agreement under this sec-
 3 tion shall—

4 (1) hold title to all facilities constructed under
 5 this section; and

6 (2) be solely responsible for the costs of oper-
 7 ating and maintaining those facilities.

8 **SEC. 232. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated \$700,000,000
 10 to carry out this subtitle.

11 **Subtitle C—Title Transfers**

12 **SEC. 241. AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER TITLE.**

13 The Secretary may transfer to any non-Federal oper-
 14 ating entity title to any Reclamation project or facility,
 15 or any separable element of such a project or facility, that
 16 is authorized before the date of enactment of this Act, if—

17 (1) all previous Federal construction contract
 18 obligations or other related repayment contracts or
 19 agreements associated with the project have been
 20 paid out by a non-Federal project beneficiary;

21 (2)(A) a project facility or separable element of
 22 such a facility is in need of rehabilitation or im-
 23 provement, as determined by the Secretary; and

24 (B) the non-Federal operating entity is other-
 25 wise eligible for a loan guarantee under this title;

1 (3) the title transfer meets all applicable Fed-
 2 eral laws and regulations, as determined by the Sec-
 3 retary; and

4 (4)(A) the Secretary notifies each congressional
 5 committee of jurisdiction of the transfer by not later
 6 than 60 days before the date of the transfer; and

7 (B) no objection to the transfer is raised by any
 8 such committee.

9 **TITLE III—INNOVATION**
 10 **THROUGH RESEARCH, DATA,**
 11 **AND TECHNOLOGY**

12 **SEC. 301. OPEN WATER DATA SYSTEM.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term
 15 “educational institution” means—

16 (A) a public or private elementary or sec-
 17 ondary school;

18 (B) an institution of vocational, profes-
 19 sional, or higher education (including a junior
 20 college or teachers’ college); and

21 (C) an association of schools or institutions
 22 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

23 (2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
 24 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the

1 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
2 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
5 rector of the United States Geological Survey.

6 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

7 (A) a State;

8 (B) the District of Columbia;

9 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

10 and

11 (D) any other territory or possession of the
12 United States.

13 (5) SYSTEM.—The term “system” means the
14 open water data system established under subsection
15 (b).

16 (b) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall establish and
17 maintain an open water data system within the United
18 States Geological Survey to advance the availability, time-
19 ly distribution, and widespread use of water data and in-
20 formation for water management, education, research, as-
21 sessment, and monitoring purposes.

22 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the system are—

23 (1) to advance the quantification of the avail-
24 ability, use of, and risks to, water resources through-
25 out the United States;

1 (2) to increase accessibility to, and expand the
2 use of, water data and information in a standard,
3 easy-to-use format by Federal, State, local, and trib-
4 al governments, communities, educational institu-
5 tions, and the private sector; and

6 (3) to facilitate the open exchange of water in-
7 formation particularly in the face of climate change
8 and unprecedented drought.

9 (d) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the
10 Secretary shall—

11 (1) integrate water data and information into a
12 interoperable, national, geospatially referenced water
13 data framework;

14 (2) identify new water data and information
15 needs, including data on surface and groundwater
16 quality and quantity, sediment, erosion, transport,
17 water chemistry, precipitation, reservoir storage,
18 water cycle, landscape variables, hydrography, cli-
19 mate and weather impacts, soil moisture, and human
20 use;

21 (3) leverage existing shared databases, infra-
22 structure, and tools to provide a platform for water
23 data and information innovation, modeling and data
24 sharing, and solution development;

1 (4) support water data and information shar-
2 ing, applied research, and educational programs of
3 State, local, and tribal governments, communities,
4 educational institutions, and the private sector; and

5 (5) promote cooperation and sharing of exper-
6 tise regarding water data and information among
7 State, local, and tribal governments, communities,
8 educational institutions, and the private sector.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 such sums as are necessary.

12 **SEC. 302. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMEND-**
13 **MENTS.**

14 (a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARA-
15 TIONS.—Section 102 of the Water Resources Research
16 Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10301) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through
18 (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

19 (2) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by
20 striking “and” at the end; and

21 (3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(7) additional research is required to increase
24 the effectiveness and efficiency of new and existing

1 treatment works through alternative approaches, in-
 2 cluding—

3 “(A) nonstructural alternatives;

4 “(B) decentralized approaches;

5 “(C) water use efficiency and conservation;

6 and

7 “(D) actions to reduce energy consumption
 8 or extract energy from wastewater;”.

9 (b) WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND TECH-
 10 NOLOGY INSTITUTES.—Section 104 of the Water Re-
 11 sources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is
 12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking
 15 “water-related phenomena” and inserting
 16 “water resources”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
 18 period at the end and inserting “; and”;

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) by striking “From the” and inserting
 21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From the”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of
 24 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the
 25 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the

1 Senate, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate,
 2 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
 3 of the House of Representatives, and the Committee
 4 on the Budget of the House of Representatives a re-
 5 port regarding the compliance of each funding re-
 6 cipient with this subsection for the immediately pre-
 7 ceding fiscal year.”;

8 (3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
 9 following:

10 “(e) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH
 11 PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
 13 duct a careful and detailed evaluation of each insti-
 14 tute at least once every 3 years to determine—

15 “(A) the quality and relevance of the water
 16 resources research of the institute;

17 “(B) the effectiveness of the institute at
 18 producing measured results and applied water
 19 supply research; and

20 “(C) whether the effectiveness of the insti-
 21 tute as an institution for planning, conducting,
 22 and arranging for research warrants continued
 23 support under this section.

24 “(2) PROHIBITION ON FURTHER SUPPORT.—If,
 25 as a result of an evaluation under paragraph (1), the

1 Secretary determines that an institute does not qual-
 2 ify for further support under this section, no further
 3 grants to the institute may be provided until the
 4 qualifications of the institute are reestablished to the
 5 satisfaction of the Secretary.”;

6 (4) in subsection (f)(1), by striking
 7 “\$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through
 8 2011” and inserting “\$7,500,000 for each of fiscal
 9 years 2015 through 2020”; and

10 (5) in subsection (g)(1), in the first sentence,
 11 by striking “\$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 12 2007 through 2011” and inserting “\$1,500,000 for
 13 each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020”.

14 **SEC. 303. REAUTHORIZATION OF WATER DESALINATION**
 15 **ACT OF 1996.**

16 Section 8 of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42
 17 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended—

18 (1) in the first sentence of subsection (a)—

19 (A) by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting
 20 “\$8,000,000”; and

21 (B) by striking “2013” and inserting
 22 “2020”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “for each of
 24 fiscal years 2012 through 2013” and inserting “for
 25 each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020”.

1 **SEC. 304. REVIEW OF RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after receiv-
3 ing a request of a non-Federal sponsor of a reservoir, the
4 Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Adminis-
5 trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
6 tration, shall review the operation of the reservoir, includ-
7 ing the water control manual and rule curves, using im-
8 proved weather forecasts and run-off forecasting methods,
9 including the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction System of
10 the National Weather Service and the Hydrometeorology
11 Testbed program of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
12 pheric Administration.

13 (b) DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS.—In conducting the
14 review under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Army
15 shall determine if a change in operations, including the
16 use of improved weather forecasts and run-off forecasting
17 methods, will improve 1 or more of the core functions of
18 the Corps of Engineers, including—

19 (1) reducing risks to human life, public safety,
20 and property;

21 (2) reducing the need for future disaster relief;

22 (3) improving local water storage capability and
23 reliability in coordination with the non-Federal spon-
24 sor and other water users;

1 (4) restoring, protecting, or mitigating the im-
2 pacts of a water resources development project on
3 the environment; and

4 (5) improving fish species habitat or population
5 within the boundaries and downstream of a water
6 resources project.

7 (c) RESULTS REPORTED.—Not later than 90 days
8 after completion of a review under this section, the Sec-
9 retary shall submit a report to Congress regarding the re-
10 sults of the review.

11 (d) MANUAL UPDATE.—As soon as practicable, but
12 not later than 3 years after the date on which a report
13 under subsection (c) is submitted to Congress, pursuant
14 to the procedures required under existing authorities, if
15 the Secretary of the Army determines based on that report
16 that using improved weather and run-off forecasting meth-
17 ods improves 1 or more core functions of the Corps of
18 Engineers at a reservoir, the Secretary of the Army
19 shall—

20 (1) incorporate those methods in the operation
21 of the reservoir; and

22 (2) update the water control manual.

1 **TITLE IV—DROUGHT PREPARED-**
2 **NESS AND RESILIENCE**

3 **SEC. 401. NATIONAL DROUGHT RESILIENCE GUIDELINES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in conjunction
5 with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agri-
6 culture, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
7 pheric Administration, and other appropriate Federal
8 agency heads along with State and local governments,
9 shall develop nonregulatory national drought resilience
10 guidelines relating to drought preparedness planning and
11 investments for communities, water utilities, and other
12 water users and providers.

13 (b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the national
14 drought resilience guidelines, the Administrator and other
15 Federal agency heads referred to in subsection (a) shall
16 consult with—

- 17 (1) State and local governments;
18 (2) water utilities;
19 (3) scientists;
20 (4) institutions of higher education;
21 (5) relevant private entities; and
22 (6) other stakeholders.

23 (c) CONTENTS.—The national drought resilience
24 guidelines developed under this section shall, to the max-

1 inum extent practicable, provide recommendations for a
2 period of 10 years that—

3 (1) address a broad range of potential actions,
4 including—

5 (A) analysis of the impacts of climate
6 change and drought on the future effectiveness
7 of water management tools;

8 (B) the identification of drought-related
9 water management challenges in a broad range
10 of fields, including—

11 (i) public health and safety;

12 (ii) municipal and industrial water
13 supply;

14 (iii) agricultural water supply;

15 (iv) water quality;

16 (v) ecosystem health; and

17 (vi) water supply planning;

18 (C) water management tools to reduce
19 drought-related impacts, including—

20 (i) water use efficiency through gal-
21 lons per capita reduction goals, appliance
22 efficiency standards, water pricing incen-
23 tives, and other measures;

24 (ii) water recycling;

- 1 (iii) groundwater clean-up and stor-
- 2 age;
- 3 (iv) new technologies, such as behav-
- 4 ioral water efficiency; and
- 5 (v) stormwater capture and reuse;
- 6 (D) water-related energy and greenhouse
- 7 gas reduction strategies; and
- 8 (E) public education and engagement; and
- 9 (2) include recommendations relating to the
- 10 processes that Federal, State, and local governments
- 11 and water utilities should consider when developing
- 12 drought resilience preparedness and plans, includ-
- 13 ing—
 - 14 (A) the establishment of planning goals;
 - 15 (B) the evaluation of institutional capacity;
 - 16 (C) the assessment of drought-related risks
 - 17 and vulnerabilities, including the integration of
 - 18 climate-related impacts;
 - 19 (D) the establishment of a development
 - 20 process, including an evaluation of the cost-ef-
 - 21 fectiveness of potential strategies;
 - 22 (E) the inclusion of private entities, tech-
 - 23 nical advisors, and other stakeholders in the de-
 - 24 velopment process;

- 1 (F) implementation and financing issues;
2 and
3 (G) evaluation of the plan, including any
4 updates to the plan.

5 **SEC. 402. DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS FOR FISHERIES.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
9 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
10 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

11 (2) QUALIFIED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The
12 term “qualified tribal government” means a govern-
13 mental body of an Indian tribe that the Secretary of
14 the Interior determines—

15 (A) is involved in salmon management and
16 recovery activities under the Endangered Spe-
17 cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

18 (B) has the management and organiza-
19 tional capability to maximize the benefits of as-
20 sistance provided under this section.

21 (b) SALMON DROUGHT PLAN.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1,
23 2016, the Director of the United States Fish and
24 Wildlife Service shall, in consultation with the Direc-
25 tor of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the

1 Commissioner of Reclamation, the Chief of Engi-
2 neers, and the head of the California Department of
3 Fish and Wildlife, prepare a salmon drought plan
4 for the State of California.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—The plan developed under
6 paragraph (1) shall—

7 (A) contribute—

8 (i) to the recovery of populations list-
9 ed as threatened or endangered under the
10 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
11 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

12 (ii) to the goals of the Central Valley
13 Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of
14 Public Law 102–575; 106 Stat. 4706); and

15 (B) include options to protect salmon pop-
16 ulations originating in the State of California,
17 with a particular focus on actions that can be
18 taken to aid salmon populations in the State of
19 California during the driest 12 years, such as—

20 (i) relocating the release location and
21 timing of hatchery fish to avoid predation
22 and temperature impacts;

23 (ii) barging fish to improve survival
24 and reduce straying;

(iii) coordinating with water users, the Commissioner of Reclamation, and the head of the California Department of Water Resources regarding voluntary water transfers to determine if water released upstream to meet the needs of downstream or South-of-Delta water users can be managed in a way that provides additional benefits for salmon;

(iv) hatchery management modifications, such as expanding hatchery production during the driest years of fish listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), if appropriate; and

(v) increasing rescue operations of upstream migrating fish.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out this section \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for urgent fish, stream, and hatchery activities relating to extreme drought conditions, including

1 work carried out in conjunction with the Director of
2 the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Commis-
3 sioner of Reclamation, the Chief of Engineers, the
4 head of the California Department of Fish and
5 Wildlife, or a qualified tribal government.

6 (2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Director
7 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall
8 be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to
9 carry out this section the funds transferred under
10 paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

○