

(d) Fish and wildlife

The Secretary may make water from Federal Reclamation projects and nonproject water available on a nonreimbursable basis for the purposes of protecting or restoring fish and wildlife resources, including mitigation losses, that occur as a result of drought conditions or the operation of a Federal Reclamation project during drought conditions. The Secretary may store and convey project and nonproject water for fish and wildlife purposes, and may provide conveyance of any such water for both State and Federal wildlife habitat and for habitat held in private ownership. The Secretary may make available water for these purposes outside the authorized project service area. Use of the Federal storage and conveyance facilities for these purposes shall be on a nonreimbursable basis. Water made available by the Secretary in 1991 from the Central Valley Project, California, to the Grasslands Water District for the purpose of fish and wildlife shall be nonreimbursable.

(e) Nonproject water

The Secretary is authorized to store and convey nonproject water utilizing Federal Reclamation project facilities for use outside and inside the authorized project service area for municipal and industrial uses, fish and wildlife, and agricultural uses. Except in the case of water supplied for fish and wildlife, which shall be nonreimbursable, the Secretary shall charge the recipients of such water for such use of Federal Reclamation project facilities at a rate established pursuant to subsection (c).

(f) Reclamation Fund

The payment of capital costs attributable to the sale of project or nonproject water or the use of Federal Reclamation project facilities shall be covered into the Reclamation Fund and be placed to the credit of the project from which such water or use of such facilities is supplied.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title I, §102, Mar. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 54.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, referred to in subsec. (b)(4), is title II of Pub. L. 97-293, Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1263, which enacted subchapter I-A (§390aa et seq.) of chapter 12 of this title, amended sections 373a, 422e, 425b, and 485h of this title, and repealed section 383 of Title 25, Indians. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES

For provisions directing that authorities established under this subchapter shall terminate ten years after Mar. 5, 1992, see section 2214(c) of this title.

§ 2213. Loans

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make loans to water users for the purposes of undertaking construction, management, conservation activities, or the acquisition and transportation of water consistent with State law, that can be expected to have an effect in mitigating losses and damages, including those

suffered by fish and wildlife, resulting from drought conditions. Such loans shall be made available under such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not approve any loan unless the applicant can demonstrate an ability to repay such loan within the term of the loan: *Provided further*, That for all loans approved by the Secretary under the authority of this section, the interest rate shall be the rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on average market yields on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States with periods to maturity comparable to the repayment period of the loan. The repayment period for loans issued under this section shall not exceed fifteen years. The repayment period for such loans shall begin when the loan is executed. Sections 390cc(a) and 390tt of this title and sections 105 and 106 of Public Law 99-546 shall not apply to any contract to repay such loan. The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives in writing of any loan which the Secretary intends to approve not less than thirty days prior to granting final approval.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title I, §103, Mar. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 55; Pub. L. 103-437, §16(a)(6), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4594.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Sections 105 and 106 of Public Law 99-546, referred to in text, are sections 105 and 106 of Pub. L. 99-546, title I, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3051, 3052, relating to the automatic adjustment of rates for contracts for delivery of water from the Central Valley project in California, and provisions of such contracts requiring repayment by project water contractors of any deficits in payments of operation and maintenance costs, respectively, and are not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-437 substituted “Natural Resources” for “Interior and Insular Affairs” before “of the House”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES

For provisions directing that authorities established under this subchapter shall terminate ten years after Mar. 5, 1992, see section 2214(c) of this title.

§ 2214. Applicable period of drought program**(a) In general**

The programs and authorities established under this subchapter shall become operative in any Reclamation State and in the State of Hawaii only after the Governor or Governors of the affected State or States, or on a reservation, when the governing body of the affected tribe has made a request for temporary drought assistance and the Secretary has determined that such temporary assistance is merited, or upon the approval of a drought contingency plan as provided in subchapter II of this chapter.

(b) Coordination with BPA

If a Governor referred to in subsection (a) is the Governor of the State of Washington, Or-

egon, Idaho, or Montana, the Governor shall coordinate with the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration before making a request under subsection (a).

(c) Termination of authority

The authorities established under this subchapter shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title I, §104, Mar. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 56; Pub. L. 106-566, title II, §201(a), Dec. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 2820; Pub. L. 109-234, title II, §2306(a), June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 456; Pub. L. 111-212, title I, §404(a), July 29, 2010, 124 Stat. 2313; Pub. L. 113-76, div. D, title II, §206, Jan. 17, 2014, 128 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 115-141, div. D, title II, §203(a), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 519; Pub. L. 116-260, div. D, title II, §207(a), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 1363; Pub. L. 117-103, div. D, title II, §206(a), Mar. 15, 2022, 136 Stat. 221; Pub. L. 118-170, §2(a), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2589.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-170 substituted “2028” for “2022”.

2022—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 117-103 substituted “2022” for “2021”.

2020—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-260 substituted “2021” for “2020”.

2018—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-141 substituted “2020” for “2017”.

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-76 substituted “2017” for “2012”.

2010—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-212 substituted “September 30, 2012” for “September 30, 2010”.

2006—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-234 substituted “September 30, 2010” for “September 30, 2005”.

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-566, §201(a)(1), inserted “and in the State of Hawaii” after “Reclamation State”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-566, §201(a)(2), substituted “on September 30, 2005” for “ten years after March 5, 1992”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EXTENSION OF TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

Pub. L. 118-42, div. D, title II, §206(a), Mar. 9, 2024, 138 Stat. 194, provided that: “Section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)) shall be applied by substituting ‘2024’ for ‘2022’.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 117-328, div. D, title II, §206(a), Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 4631.

§ 2215. Assistance for drought-related planning in reclamation States

(a) In general

The Secretary may provide financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements in States that are eligible to receive drought assistance under this subchapter to promote the development of drought contingency plans under subchapter II.

(b) Report

Not later than one year after December 23, 2000, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report and recommendations on the advisability of providing financial assistance for the development of drought contingency plans in all entities that are eligible to receive assistance under subchapter II.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title I, §105, as added Pub. L. 106-566, title II, §201(b), Dec. 23, 2000, 114 Stat. 2820.)

SUBCHAPTER II—DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING

§ 2221. Identification of opportunities for water supply conservation, augmentation and use

The Secretary is authorized to conduct studies to identify opportunities to conserve, augment, and make more efficient use of water supplies available to Federal Reclamation projects and Indian water resource developments in order to be prepared for and better respond to drought conditions. The Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance to States and to local and tribal government entities to assist in the development, construction, and operation of water desalinization projects, including technical assistance for purposes of assessing the technical and economic feasibility of such projects.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title II, §201, Mar. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 56.)

§ 2222. Drought contingency plans

The Secretary, acting pursuant to the Federal Reclamation laws, utilizing the resources of the Department of the Interior, and in consultation with other appropriate Federal and State officials, Indian tribes, public, private, and local entities, is authorized to prepare or participate in the preparation of cooperative drought contingency plans (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as “contingency plans”) for the prevention or mitigation of adverse effects of drought conditions.

(Pub. L. 102-250, title II, §202, Mar. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 56.)

§ 2223. Plan elements

(a) Plan provisions

Elements of the contingency plans prepared pursuant to section 2222 of this title may include, but are not limited to, any or all of the following:

- (1) Water banks.
- (2) Appropriate water conservation actions.
- (3) Water transfers to serve users inside or outside authorized Federal Reclamation project service areas in order to mitigate the effects of drought.
- (4) Use of Federal Reclamation project facilities to store and convey nonproject water for agricultural, municipal and industrial, fish and wildlife, or other uses both inside and outside an authorized Federal Reclamation project service area.
- (5) Use of water from dead or inactive reservoir storage or increased use of ground water resources for temporary water supplies.
- (6) Water supplies for fish and wildlife resources.
- (7) Minor structural actions.

(b) Federal Reclamation projects

Each contingency plan shall identify the following two types of plan elements related to Federal Reclamation projects: