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CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT  
AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

# United States Senate

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September 7, 2001

Re: Water Projects

I am writing to you about a water supply bill I intend to introduce in the Senate this fall. The California Affordable Quantity and Quality Water Act (CAL-AQ-QWA) is designed to promote water recycling, reclamation and groundwater storage projects throughout the state. It will also provide funding for water quality projects. Congressman Sam Farr (D-Monterey) will be introducing a similar bill in the House of Representatives. I have enclosed information about CAL-AQ-QWA with this letter for your review.

There are three sections of the bill where individual water projects will be mentioned by name. I encourage you to provide me with information about projects which might be eligible for inclusion in these sections. Section 1 identifies a number of water reclamation projects statewide. These projects have completed the planning and design process and now await funding for construction. A similar list will be included for groundwater projects in Section 3. If your agency has a potential project and is awaiting funds to conduct a feasibility study, such studies will be included in Section 2.

Since CAL-AQ-QWA was drafted with the needs of water agencies in mind, a letter of support from your agency would be very helpful. Please mail or fax letters of support to my State Director Rose Kapolczynski, 312 N. Spring St., #1748, Los Angeles 90012. The fax number is (213) 894-5012.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about the bill or have a project you would like considered for inclusion, please contact Maribel Juarez at my Los Angeles office at (213) 894-5000.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

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**California Affordable Quantity & Quality Water Act  
"CAL-AQQWA"**

**To be introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer**

**I. Water Reclamation**

- This section would authorize funding for construction of specified water reclamation projects in California by amending the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act. To be eligible, projects need to have completed technical and design studies. Priority would be given to projects that also provide environmental benefits.

- Projects include:

- Castaic Lake Water Agency Reclaimed Water Project, \$20 million.
- Clear Lake Basin Water Reuse Project, \$9 million.
- San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Project, \$20 million.
- Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project, \$20 million.
- San Pablo Baylands Water Reuse Projects, \$20 million.
- California Water Recycling Program, \$50 million.
- Northern and Southern California Regional Brine Lines, \$50 million.
- Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination Demonstration and Reclamation Project, \$50 million.
- Research Concerning Water Reuse, \$12.5 million (\$2.5 million '02 through '06).
- West Basin Comprehensive Desalination Demonstration Program, Federal share is 50% of total project cost.
- Project Modifications:
  - Central Los Angeles Water Recycling Project, \$12 million.
  - Los Angeles Harbor Water Recycling Project, \$12 million.
  - San Gabriel Basin Water Project, \$50.5 million.

*\$ 313.5M*

**II. Expedited Feasibility Studies for Reclamation and Groundwater Projects**

- This section would authorize funding for expedited feasibility studies of water reclamation projects, groundwater storage projects and other projects within the scope of this bill. Priority would be given to projects that provide environmental and other benefits. This section would also authorize funding for loans and grants for studies and would include:

- List of specific projects.
- Authorization of grants, \$5 million maximum.
- Authorization of loan program, \$5 million maximum.

*\$ 10.0M*

**III. Competitive Grant and Loan Program**

- This section would establish a competitive grant and loan program to fund a variety of water projects. Funding for some or all eligible projects under this section is identified within

the Central Valley Plan Implementation Act, the Reclamation Reform Act, Title XVI of P.L. 102-575, and various accounts in the Federal Farm Bill and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

- Both individual water districts and individual farmers would be eligible to apply for this funding under this section. Eligible projects would include, but are not limited to:

- Groundwater storage projects.
- Farm conservation projects.
- Water supply system reliability projects.
- Water quality projects.
- Water use efficiency projects.
- Water transfer projects.
- Water Conservation projects.
- Desalination construction and technology projects.
- Projects that facilitate attainment of a balanced water supply.
- Projects that reduce groundwater overdraft.
- Water treatment technology demonstration projects.
- Projects that encourage regional approaches to water supply operations.

#### IV. Groundwater Recharge Facilities Program

- This section would authorize funding, on a cost-sharing basis, for the construction of groundwater storage projects. Preference under this section would be given to projects that are located in overdrafted groundwater basins, projects of critical need, projects whose feasibility studies demonstrate the greatest engineering and hydrogeologic feasibility, and projects located in areas that have groundwater management plans.

- This section would also include a list of construction projects. To be eligible, projects need to have completed technical and design studies.

- For the purposes of this section, groundwater recharge facilities means lands and facilities for artificial groundwater recharge through methods that include, but are not limited to:

- Percolation using basins, pits, ditches, and furrows.
- Modified streambeds
- Flooding.
- Well injection.

- Expenditures for groundwater recharge facilities include, but are not limited to, capital outlay expenditures to expand, renovate, or restructure land and facilities used for the purposes of groundwater recharge and to acquire additional land for recharge basins. Groundwater recharge facilities may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

- Instream facilities for regulation of water levels, but not regulation of streamflow to accomplish diversion from the waterway.

- Agency-owned facilities for extraction.
- Conveyance facilities to convey water to the recharge site, including devices for flow regulation and measurement of recharge waters.

#### V. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Conservation Grants

- This section would increase authorized funding for the EPA's Conservation Grant programs, including revolving loan programs. EPA Conservation Grant programs provide funding for measures that include, but are not limited to:

- Urban conservation.
- Low-flow toilets.
- Water meter installation or retrofit.
- Desalination projects.
- Wastewater treatment system upgrades for compliance with Clean Water Act requirements.
- Groundwater recharge facilities projects.

#### VI. Water Transfers/Open Market For Buying and Selling of Water

- This section would, among other things, authorize funding to establish an independent review panel to facilitate a water transfers market, determine methods and measurements to provide better information on statewide and regional water use, enable water purveyors to charge for water according to the amount used and allow water users to demonstrate the effects of efficiency measures.

- This section will contain language recognizing that an important barrier to the creation of an effective water transfer market is the lack of incentive for individual landowners, including farmers, to use available water conservation technologies because any water savings frequently accrue not to the landowner but to the irrigation district or water agency. The independent review panel will also develop and review proposals to remove disincentives to voluntary implementation of water use efficiency systems.

#### VII. Land Retirement Program

- This section would authorize funding, on a cost-sharing basis, for land retirement programs and would be managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). This section would also authorize funding for the ongoing management of such programs. USFWS would be permitted to work in partnership with groups like The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Ducks Unlimited, etc., to manage retired land.

- Eligible land retirement projects would be required to meet the following criteria:
  - Involve willing sellers only.
  - Require an independent appraisal.
  - Must be drainage impaired.
  - Must be manageable in size, either by itself or in conjunction with other lands.
  - Must have adequate water for restoration management purposes.

**Totals from Title XVI Projects in Southern California**

**San Diego Area Water Reclamation Program - Section 1612**

USBR Contribution = up to \$172.59 million  
 Recycling Amount = 70,000 acre-ft annually

**Components of San Diego Area Projects**

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
1995	\$2,875,000	\$1,069,710	NCWRP	33,000
1996	\$2,692,000	\$1,833,218	NCWRP	
1997	\$10,740,000	\$16,740,191	NCWRP	
1998	\$12,480,000	\$467,222	Poway	
1999	\$13,000,000	\$7,923,791	South Bay	15,000
2000	\$8,512,000	\$263,699	San Diego	
2001	\$7,234,000	\$1,690,124	Otay	
Total	\$57,533,000	\$5,954,312	Sweetwater	7,200
		\$201,802	Tijuana County	
		\$10,590,000	Escondido	3,200
		\$360,272	San Pasqual	6,700
		\$5,845,443	Santee	
		\$1,170,479	SDWRP	
		\$54,110,263	Total	65,100

**Los Angeles Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project - Section 1613**

USBR Contribution = up to \$69.97 million

**Components of Los Angeles Area Projects**

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
1994	\$5,250,000			
1995	\$9,490,000	\$50,000,000	West Basin	70,000
1996	\$10,545,000	\$13,371,664	East Valley	35,000
1997	\$16,445,000	\$6,051,233	Terminal Island	15,000
1998	\$11,000,000	\$69,422,897	Total	120,000
1999	\$10,000,000			
2000	\$7,500,000			
2001	\$740,000			
Total	\$70,970,000			

**San Gabriel Basin Project - Section 1614**

USBR Contribution = up to \$38.09 million

**Components of San Gabriel Projects**

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
1994	\$5,000,000			
1995	\$5,000,000	\$2,111,687	WQA	
1996	\$6,403,000	\$137,270	Three Valleys	
1997	\$1,444,000	\$1,362,297	WQA	
1998	\$4,945,000	\$575,071	WQA	30,000
1999	\$1,150,000	\$7,111,006	Rio Hondo	10,000
2000	\$1,000,000	\$1,471,866	USGVMWD	10,000
2001	\$1,497,000	\$12,769,197	Total	50,000
Total	\$26,439,000			

**Long Beach Desalination R&D Project - Section 1605(b)**

USBR Contribution = up to \$15.10 million  
Recycling Amount = 5,000 acre-ft annually

No Funds have been spent at this time

**North San Diego County Area Water Recycling Project - Section 1615**

USBR Contribution = up to \$20.00 million  
Recycling Amount = 15,530 acre-ft annually

Components of North County Projects

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
2000	\$1,500,000			
2001	\$4,640,000	\$3,875,000	San Elijo	1,550
Total	\$6,140,000	\$12,125,000	Encina Basin	8,750
		\$3,975,000	Olivenhain	2,800
		\$500,000	San Dieguito	2,250
		\$20,475,000	Total	15,350

**Calleguas Municipal Water District Recycling Project - Section 1616**

USBR Contribution = up to \$20.00 million  
Recycling Amount = 51,470 acre-ft annually

Components of Calleguas Projects

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
2000	\$1,500,000			
2001	\$772,000	\$371,606	Conejo Creek	
Total	\$2,272,000			

**Reclaimed Water in Pasadena - Section 1623**

USBR Contribution = up to \$5.75 million  
Recycling Amount = 4,000 acre-ft annually

**Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project, Phase 1 - Section 1624**

USBR Contribution = up to \$20.00 million  
Recycling Amount = 50,000 acre-ft annually

Components of Orange Co. Projects

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
2000	\$1,500,000			
2001	\$1,896,000	\$2,209,762	OCWD	
Total	\$3,396,000			

**Hi-Desert District in Yucca Valley - Section 1626**

USBR Contribution = up to \$3.74 million  
Recycling Amount = 1,000 acre-ft annually

No funds have been spent at this time

**Mission Basin Brackish Groundwater Desalting Demo. Project - Section 1627**

USBR Contribution = up to \$2.25 million  
 Recycling Amount = 3,000 acre-ft annually

2000	\$1,388,000
2001	\$502,000
Total	\$1,890,000

**Long Beach Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project - Section 1628**

USBR Contribution = up to \$13.00 million  
 Recycling Amount = 11,000 acre-ft annually

Components of Long Beach Area Projects

		<u>USBR \$\$</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>AF per Yr</u>
2000	\$1,500,000	\$4,000,000	Alamitos	3,000
2001	\$1,896,000	\$9,000,000	Long Beach	8,000
Total	\$3,396,000	\$13,000,000	Total	11,000

**Southern California Title XVI - Public Law 102-575, as Amended Totals:**

Sections	Total Allocations	Allotments	Reuse/Recycling Targets AFPY
1612	\$172,590,000	\$54,110,000	70,000
1613	\$69,970,000	\$69,423,000	120,000
1614	\$38,090,000	\$12,769,000	50,000
1605(b)	\$15,100,000	\$15,100,000	5,000
1615	\$20,000,000	\$6,140,000	15,350
1616	\$20,000,000	\$2,272,000	51,470
1623	\$5,750,000	\$5,750,000	4,000
1624	\$20,000,000	\$3,396,000	50,000
1626	\$3,740,000		1,000
1627	\$2,250,000	\$1,890,000	3,000
1628	\$13,000,000	\$3,396,000	11,000

<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>USBR</b>	<b>\$380,490,000</b>	<b>\$174,246,000</b>	<b>380,820</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>		<b>\$1,521,960,000</b>		

Percent Obligated = **45.8%**

Price per AF **\$3,996.53**

Price over 50 years **\$319.72**

Price over 100 years **\$39.97**

This is just for 1 year, USBR provides up to 25% of total cost of projects

**Southern California Title XVI - Public Law 102-575, as Amended Totals:**

Sections	Total Allocations	Allotments	Reuse/Recycling Targets AFPY
1612	\$172,590,000	\$54,110,000	70,000
1613	\$69,970,000	\$69,423,000	120,000
1614	\$38,090,000	\$12,769,000	50,000
1605(b)	\$15,100,000	\$15,100,000	5,000
1615	\$20,000,000	\$6,140,000	15,350
1616	\$20,000,000	\$2,272,000	51,470
1623	\$5,750,000	\$5,750,000	4,000
1624	\$20,000,000	\$3,396,000	50,000
1626	\$3,740,000		1,000
1627	\$2,250,000	\$1,890,000	3,000
1628	\$13,000,000	\$3,396,000	11,000
<b>TOTALS USBR</b>	<b>\$380,490,000</b>	<b>\$174,246,000</b>	<b>380,820</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,521,960,000</b>		