

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4944

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies regarding the desalination of water and water reuse, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 11, 1994

Mr. MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HAMBURG, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. GALLEGLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct studies regarding the desalination of water and water reuse, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Water Desalination
5 Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

7 In view of the increasing shortage of usable surface
8 and ground water and the importance of finding new
9 sources of supply to meet present and future water needs

1 and to further the goals of the Colorado River Basin Salin-
2 ity Control Act of 1974, the Water Resources Research
3 Act of 1984, Public Law 95–84 (as amended), and Public
4 Law 102–575, it is the policy of the United States to con-
5 duct and sponsor research to develop low-cost alternatives
6 for the desalination and reuse of water or biologically im-
7 paired water and to provide for the development of prac-
8 ticable low-cost means of producing water of a quality
9 suitable for environmental enhancement, agricultural, in-
10 dustrial, municipal, and other beneficial consumptive or
11 nonconsumptive uses from saline or biologically impaired
12 waters on a scale sufficient to determine the feasibility of
13 the development of such water production and distribution
14 on a large scale for the purpose of conserving and increas-
15 ing water resources.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 As used in this Act:

18 (1) DESALINATION OR DESALTING.—The terms
19 “desalination” or “desalting” mean the use of any
20 process or technique for the removal and, when fea-
21 sible, adaptation to beneficial use, of organic and in-
22 organic elements and compounds from saline or bio-
23 logically impaired waters, by itself or in conjunction
24 with other processes.

1 (2) SALINE WATER.—The term “saline water”
2 means sea water, brackish water, and other mineral-
3 ized or chemically impaired water.

4 (3) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
5 States” means the States of the United States, the
6 District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
7 Rico, and the territories and possessions of the
8 United States.

9 (4) USABLE WATER.—The term “usable water”
10 means water of a high quality suitable for environ-
11 mental enhancement, agricultural, industrial, munic-
12 ipal, and other beneficial consumptive or
13 nonconsumptive uses.

14 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to determine the most
18 cost-effective and technologically efficient means by which
19 usable water can be produced from saline water or water
20 otherwise impaired or contaminated, the Secretary is au-
21 thorized to award grants and to enter into contracts, to
22 the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, to
23 conduct, encourage, and assist in the financing of research
24 to develop processes for converting saline water or water
25 otherwise impaired or contaminated into water suitable for

1 beneficial uses. Research and study topics authorized by
2 this section include—

3 (1) investigating desalination processes;

4 (2) ascertaining the optimum mix of investment
5 and operating costs;

6 (3) determining the best designs for different
7 conditions of operation;

8 (4) investigating methods of increasing the eco-
9 nomic efficiency of desalination processes through
10 dual-purpose co-facilities with other processes involv-
11 ing the use of water;

12 (5) conducting or contracting for technical
13 work, including the design, construction, and testing
14 of pilot systems and test beds, to develop desalting
15 processes and concepts; and

16 (6) studying methods for the recovery of by-
17 products resulting from the desalination of water to
18 offset the costs of treatment and to reduce environ-
19 mental impacts from those byproducts.

20 (b) PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO
21 THE CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable and within three
22 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary shall recommend to Congress desalination dem-
24 onstration projects or full-scale desalination projects to
25 carry out the purposes of this Act and to further evaluate

1 and implement the results of research and studies con-
2 ducted under the authority of this section. Recommenda-
3 tions for projects shall be accompanied by reports on the
4 engineering and economic feasibility of proposed projects
5 and their environmental impacts.

6 (c) **AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE OTHERS.**—In carrying
7 out research and studies authorized in this section, the
8 Secretary may engage the necessary personnel, industrial
9 or engineering firms, Federal laboratories, water resources
10 research and technology institutes, other facilities, and
11 educational institutions suitable to conduct investigations
12 and studies authorized under this section.

13 **SEC. 5. DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOP-**
14 **MENT.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to further demonstrate
16 the feasibility of desalination processes investigated either
17 independently or in research conducted pursuant to sec-
18 tion 4, the Secretary shall administer and conduct a dem-
19 onstration and development program for water desalina-
20 tion and related activities, including the following:

21 (1) **DESALINATION PLANTS AND MODULES.**—
22 Conduct or contract for technical work, including the
23 design, construction, and testing of plants and mod-
24 ules to develop desalination processes and concepts.

1 (b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—All informa-
2 tion from studies sponsored or funded under authority of
3 this Act shall be considered public information.

4 **SEC. 7. TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.**

5 The Secretary may—

6 (1) accept technical and administrative assist-
7 ance from States and public or private agencies in
8 connection with studies, surveys, location, construc-
9 tion, operation, and other work relating to the
10 desalting of water, and

11 (2) enter into contracts or agreements stating
12 the purposes for which the assistance is contributed
13 and providing for the sharing of costs between the
14 Secretary and any such agency.

15 **SEC. 8. COST SHARING.**

16 The Federal share of the cost of a research, study,
17 or demonstration project or a desalination development
18 project or activity carried out under this Act shall not ex-
19 ceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project or research
20 or study activity. The Secretary shall prescribe appro-
21 priate procedures to implement the provisions of this sec-
22 tion. Costs of operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabili-
23 tation of facilities funded under the authority of this Act
24 shall be non-Federal responsibilities.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this
4 Act.

