



Express support for H.R. 2664 (Napolitano, D-CA) - Reauthorization of Water Desalination Act of 2011

Communications and Legislation Committee
October 11th, 2011
Item 8-7

H.R. 2664: Summary

- Introduced in July
- Reauthorizes funding for desalination research
 - Identifies brackish groundwater research activities
- Implemented by Department of Interior
 - Bureau of Reclamation

Brackish Groundwater Desalination

- Service Area: ~100,000 AF in 2010
- MWD incentives: up to \$250 per AF
- Groundwater basin benefits
- Implementation barriers
 - Brine disposal
 - Energy use
 - Cost

Arlington Desalter



Water Desalination Act of 1996

- Desalination research funding mechanism
 - Conduct studies and demonstration projects
 - > 130 projects, 38 in California
 - Operate research facilities
- 2004: Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research facility



Analysis

- Reauthorizes 1996 Desalination Act funding
- \$35 million over the next five years
 - \$5 million/yr: research and studies
 - \$2 million/yr: demonstration projects and facilities
- Adds brackish groundwater research activities
 - Renewable energy and desalination integration
 - Desalination process improvement
 - Brine reduction and disposal
 - Partnerships
 - Public outreach

Benefits

- Provides funding for desalination research
 - Supports national research facilities
 - Targets implementation barriers
- Short-term: funding opportunities for studies and demonstration projects
- Long-term: potential advancements leading to lower-cost desalination



Options and Recommendation

- Option #1: Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the General Manager to express Metropolitan's support for H.R. 2664
- Option #2: Take no position on H.R. 2664 at this time
- Staff recommendation: Option 1