



H.R. 5781 (Valadao, R-CA) Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act

Communications and Legislation

Item 9-2

December 8, 2014

2014 Federal Drought Legislative History

Numerous bills introduced. Few received votes.

- H.R. 3964 (Valadao, R-CA)
- S. 2198 (Feinstein, D-CA)
- H.R. 5781 (Valadao, R-CA)

Key Provisions of H.R. 5781

- Limited duration and narrow focus
- Expires Sept. 30, 2016 or when Governor rescinds Emergency Drought Declaration
- Focused on short-term drought relief actions

Key Provisions of H.R. 5781

- Expedites decision-making
- Authorizes state/federal projects to operate at the higher end of the range in the biological opinions, unless it would cause a negative impact on the long-term survival of listed fish species
- Directs agencies to use emergency ESA procedures during initial storms
- Provides protections for SWP contractors

Possible Actions

- House floor action expected today
- Senate consideration during “lame-duck”?
- Alternative vehicle?
- New legislation in January?

