



Express Support and Seek Amendments
to S. 1894 (Feinstein, D-CA) California

Drought Relief Act of 2015

Communications and Legislation

Item 8-5

September 21, 2015

S. 1894 Introduction & Schedule

- Introduced July 29, 2015
- Co-sponsored by Senator Boxer (D-CA)
- Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
- Hearing expected in October (with other bills)

S. 1894 Background

- Builds on drought legislation from last year:
 - 2016 (Feinstein) and S. 2198 (Feinstein)
 - Additional bill language expands scope
- Addresses Four Primary Categories:
 - Operational flexibility
 - Financial assistance
 - New programs and authorizations
 - Actions to benefit fish and refuges

S. 1894 – Operational Flexibility

- Flexibility provisions during drought (consistent with species needs) include:
 - Agencies directed to provide maximum water possible
 - Ensure Delta Cross Channel Gates remain open to the greatest extent possible
 - 1:1 inflow to export ratio for new transfer water
 - Manage reverse flows from Old and Middle River to minimize water supply reductions
 - Other operational provisions

S. 1894 Financial Assistance

- Provisions authorize appropriations for:
 - Water supply, conservation and water use efficiency projects
 - Desalination
 - Storage projects
 - Recycling and reclamation projects
 - Emergency drinking water projects
 - And many other categories

S. 1894 New Programs & Authorizations

- Provisions establish new programs and authorizations including:
 - Water Storage Projects
 - CALFED Feasibility Studies
 - RIFIA
 - Safety of Dams Program Changes
 - Technical Support
 - Title XVI

S. 1894 - Fish and Refuges

- Provisions to benefit fish and refuges include almost \$60 million for:
 - Salmon Restoration
 - Predation Studies
 - Improved Delta Pump Fish Salvage Systems
 - Temperature Modeling
 - Delta Smelt Monitoring/Distribution
 - Other Actions

S. 1894 and MWD Adopted Priorities

- August, 2015 MWD adopted drought priorities.
- S. 1894 represents progress on:
 - Funding and regulatory assistance
 - Conservation and efficiency
 - Reliability for SWP, Colorado River, local supplies
 - Works within ESA
 - Direction/funding for fish and wildlife information
 - Uses scientific data to improve operations

Suggested Amendments

- Technical items
- Close SWP protection language loophole
- Safety of Dams clarification
- “Reduced reliance” reference in Desalination Act reauthorization
- Contracting and monetary support for Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP)

Board Options

● Option #1

- Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA and authorize the General Manager to take support and seek amendment positions on S. 1894

● Option #2

- Take no position on S. 1894

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

