

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4970

To amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to facilitate the transfer of water from the Orland Project to the Central Valley Project.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 15, 2025

Mr. LAMALFA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to facilitate the transfer of water from the Orland Project to the Central Valley Project.

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 “Orland Project Water
5 Management Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO RECLAMATION STATES EMER-**
2 **GENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 1991.**

3 Section 104 of the Reclamation States Emergency
4 Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
7 subsections (c) and (d) respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may make avail-
11 able, upon the request of the Orland Unit Water Users
12 Association and through the programs and authorities es-
13 tablished under this title, water from the Orland Project
14 to the Sacramento Canal Unit of the Central Valley
15 Project at any time, without regard to water year type,
16 if the Secretary determines that such action is consistent
17 with the purposes of the Central Valley Project.”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(e) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
20 section may be construed to—

21 “(1) be a new or supplemental benefit for the
22 purposes of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982
23 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.);

24 “(2) affect any valid or vested water right in
25 existence as of the date of the enactment of this sub-
26 section;

1 “(3) affect any application for water rights
2 pending before the date of the enactment of this
3 subsection; or

4 “(4) result in any redirected impacts to the
5 Orland Project from a temporary contract for the
6 supply of water executed under this section.”.

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