



Official Memorandum

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To: SLDMWA Water Resources Committee Members and Alternates / Board of Directors and Alternates

From: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director

Date: December 8, 2025

RE: Water Resources Committee to Consider Recommendations on Legislation / Board of Directors to Consider Same

Recommendation

Recommend to the Water Resources Committee and Board of Directors to adopt the following positions on legislation:

Federal Legislation

- Ratify the position of "Support" adopted by the Executive Director on November 20 on H.R. 6229 (Schrier), Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Amendments of 2025
- Adopt a position of "Support" on S. 2753 (Risch), Urban Canal Modernization Act
- Adopt a position of "Support and Amend" on H.R. 3717 (Harder), Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025

Federal Legislation

H.R. 6229 (Schrier), Urban Canal Modernization Act

RECOMMENDATION: Support

OBJECTIVE: Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

Summary

This legislation (1) reauthorizes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, (2) creates an authority to provide technical assistance to communities under 25,000 in population, (3) modifies the WIFIA program to restore WIFIA funding and financing eligibility to state entities and non-federal cost shares in federally involved projects, and (4) extends the loan length for projects with a useful life greater than 35 years.

Status

H.R. 6229 was introduced on November 20, 2025, and has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. An identical bill was introduced in the 118th Congress.

The Executive Director, under delegated authority and subject to ratification, provided a support position to Rep. Schrier's office on introduction of the legislation. This is consistent with the position adopted by the Water



Authority Board in the November 2023 meeting, when identical legislation was considered by the Water Authority Board.

Importance to the Authority

This legislation makes two important changes to the WIFIA program. The first change is that it provides WIFIA funding eligibility for projects on a federal facility where that WIFIA loan would be repaid by nonfederal funding sources. Current law treats these projects differently for budgetary scoring purposes than projects that are not owned by the federal government and this change would provide flexibility for projects like the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project or the Delta-Mendota Canal Subsidence Correction Project to be eligible for WIFIA funding.

The second key change is that the legislation provides for an extension of the loan maturity date for WIFIA loans with a useful project life over 35-years to be extended to either 55 years or the project useful life, rather than the existing 30-year loan term under the current program. This would provide for longer financing windows that better align with the useful life of large infrastructure projects.

S. 2753 (Risch), Urban Canal Modernization Act

RECOMMENDATION: Support

OBJECTIVE: Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

Summary

The bill amends the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern. An urban canal of concern is defined as a canal reach where failure would impact more than 100 individuals, as determined by the Secretary using established guidelines. The Secretary may carry out such work, with 35 percent of costs covered with non-reimbursable federal funds and the remainder advanced and repaid by the transferred works operating entity. Reimbursable funds under this section are treated as non-Federal sources for cost-sharing requirements in federal grants.

Status

S. 2753 was introduced on September 10, 2025, and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. An identical bill was considered during the 118th Congress, passed the Senate under Unanimous Consent on December 19, 2024, and was ultimately not passed by the House before the 118th Congress adjourned.

Importance to the Authority

The restoration of the conveyance capacity of the Delta-Mendota and San Luis Canals are important projects for the long-term reliability of water supplies for Water Authority member agencies. California's hydrology is highly variable, and the last two decades have had increasing variability, with multiple droughts and flood cycles. The ability to convey maximal water supplies during periods of high-flows is a key adaptation strategy for member agencies to ensure compliance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and full conveyance capacity of the arterial canals will be an important component to implementing this strategy. However, affordability remains a significant concern for the advancement of these two projects, with each of these projects expected to cost well in excess of \$1 billion each.



This legislation would provide for a non-reimbursable federal cost share of 35 percent for repairs to reaches of the respective canals that would impact more than 100 people, subject to qualification and available funding.

H.R. 3717 (Harder), Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Support and Amend

OBJECTIVE: Improve Water Infrastructure Affecting Authority Member Agencies

Summary

The Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025 amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act to create a demonstration program focused on the golden mussel. The program includes research into the mussel's biology and environmental impact, development of control and eradication methods in areas like waterways and derelict vessels, and the establishment of a grant program to support innovative technologies and containment strategies. The Task Force will also provide technical assistance and coordinate with federal, state, and local entities, while delegating implementation responsibilities when more efficient. Funding of \$15 million per year from fiscal year 2026 through 2030 is authorized to support these efforts.

Status

H.R. 3717 was introduced on June 4, 2025, and has been referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Importance to the Authority

Golden Mussels are being found throughout the Water Authority member agency service area and have the [potential to cause significant water infrastructure](#) issues by clogging pipes, damaging equipment, and disrupting water flow due to their ability to colonize hard surfaces in dense colonies. They can block water intakes, decrease the strength of materials, increase energy consumption for pumping, and lead to costly cleaning and maintenance for water treatment plants, power stations, and irrigation systems. They also pose ecosystem-wide problems by disrupting the food web and increasing the frequency of harmful algal blooms.

The Water Authority has executed a contract to perform a golden mussel infrastructure vulnerability assessment, which will assess the Water Authority's infrastructure system for golden mussel vulnerabilities and recommend potential solutions to reduce the potential for harm associated with golden mussels. It is anticipated that the assessment will identify treatment methods, but that golden mussel response efforts will now become an ongoing operations and maintenance expense of uncertain magnitude for the Water Authority and its members.

This legislation provides some additional funding opportunities and coordination between existing golden mussel response efforts, led by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) through the existing Golden Mussel Response Task Force, and key federal agency partners.

Suggested Amendments

Suggested amendments include adding language associated with providing funding for water infrastructure vulnerability assessments, infrastructure modifications and other mitigation/eradication methods and increase the total annual authorization.



Guidelines for Taking Positions on Legislation

A number of controversial bills are introduced each year in the Congress and in the California Legislature. It is important to understand how the Authority takes positions on legislation.

Policy

By Agenda Item 7, dated December 12, 2024, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year 2026 Objectives.

Water Authority's Positions on Legislation

The Water Authority takes positions on legislation that, if enacted, would impact Water Authority members, consistent with Water Authority Board adopted Goals and Objectives. The Water Authority may take the following positions on legislation: Oppose, Support, Oppose Unless Amended, Support if Amended, Not Favor, Favor, Not Favor Unless Amended, Favor if Amended, and Watch (neutral). The Water Authority's staff and consultants testify and advocate with legislators and staff through meetings and member agency contacts on all positions except Watch, Favor and Not Favor. For Favor and Not Favor positions, written communication of the Water Authority's position is provided to the legislator. Nothing in this section should be read to preclude the Executive Director or his or her delegee from taking an informal support or informal oppose position on behalf of the Water Authority that is consistent with adopted legislative or policy objectives, or to preclude the Executive Director from communicating a position on emergency legislation after obtaining the concurrence of the Chair, or the Chair's designee, provided that the Executive Director informs the Board regarding such positions on emergency legislation no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Amendment Development Process

If the Water Authority takes an Oppose Unless Amended or Support if Amended position, the Water Authority will typically discuss the concepts for the amendments at the meeting. Then Water Authority staff, in consultation with Committee and/or Board Members as needed, will develop the amendments after the meeting.

Information Sharing

To provide adequate information to the entire Water Authority membership, the Water Authority provides legislative updates, posts positions and other information on our website, and sends out advisories and alerts on key legislation.

The Water Authority's legislative department is available to provide specific information on bills on request and Board Members are encouraged to communicate Water Authority positions on priority legislation in meetings with legislative staff, consistent with Water Authority policy. The Water Authority's Water Policy Director appreciates being informed by Water Authority members of positions taken by Water Authority members on legislation.



BILL TEXT

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2753

To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern.

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 “Urban Canal Mod-
5 ernization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTRAORDINARY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**
2 **WORK PERFORMED BY THE SECRETARY OF**
3 **THE INTERIOR.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 9601 of the Omnibus
5 Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510)
6 is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
8 (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4),
9 (5), (6), (7), and (1), respectively, and moving the
10 paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

11 (2) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by
12 striking “et seq.)” and inserting “et seq.)”;

13 (3) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by
14 striking “mean” and inserting “means”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(8) URBAN CANAL OF CONCERN.—The term
17 ‘urban canal of concern’ means a transferred works
18 or segment of a transferred works that is a canal
19 reach—

20 “(A) the failure of which would result in
21 an estimated at-risk population of more than
22 100 individuals, as determined by the Sec-
23 retary, pursuant to the guidelines and criteria
24 developed under section 9602(a); and

25 “(B) that is determined by the Secretary
26 to be classified as an urban canal reach.”.

1 (b) EXTRAORDINARY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORK ON URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—Section
2 9603 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of
3 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b) is amended—
4

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) by striking “(a)” and all that follows
7 through “The Secretary” and inserting the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

10 “(1) PROJECT FACILITIES.—The Secretary”;
11 and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(2) URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—The Sec-
14 retary or the transferred works operating entity may
15 carry out, in accordance with subsection (b), any ex-
16 traordinary operation and maintenance work on an
17 urban canal of concern that the Secretary deter-
18 mines to be necessary pursuant to the guidelines and
19 criteria set forth in section 9602(a).”;

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
22 paragraph (4); and

23 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
24 following:

1 “(3) URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—Except in
 2 the case of emergency extraordinary operation and
 3 maintenance work carried out under subsection (c),
 4 of the total costs of extraordinary operation and
 5 maintenance work on an urban canal of concern con-
 6 ducted under subsection (a)(2)—

7 “(A) 35 percent shall be provided by the
 8 Secretary on a nonreimbursable basis; and

9 “(B) the remaining amounts shall be ad-
 10 vanced by the Secretary in accordance with
 11 paragraph (2), to be repaid by the transferred
 12 works operating entity in accordance with that
 13 paragraph.”; and

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

15 “(e) REIMBURSABLE FUNDS.—Any reimbursable
 16 funds provided under this section shall be considered to
 17 be a non-Federal source of funds for purposes of any cost-
 18 sharing requirement for a Federal grant.”.

○

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3717

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a demonstration program with respect to the golden mussel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. GRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish a demonstration program with respect to the golden mussel.

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 “Golden Mussel Eradi-
5 cation and Control Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. GOLDEN MUSSEL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1202 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance
3 Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722) is
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as
6 subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(j) GOLDEN MUSSEL DEMONSTRATION PRO-
10 GRAM.—

11 “(1) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force, in
13 partnership with State and local entities, port
14 authorities, industry partners, institutions of
15 higher education, and local nonprofit organiza-
16 tions, shall develop a demonstration program of
17 prevention, monitoring, control, eradication,
18 education, and research with respect to the
19 golden mussel, including—

20 “(i) research and development regard-
21 ing—

22 “(I) the biology;

23 “(II) the environmental toler-
24 ances;

25 “(III) the effect on—

26 “(aa) fisheries;

1 “(bb) water quality; and

2 “(cc) other ecosystem com-
3 ponents; and

4 “(IV) the efficacy of control
5 mechanisms and technologies;

6 “(ii) tracking dispersal and establish-
7 ment of an early warning system to alert
8 likely areas of future infestations;

9 “(iii) development of control and
10 eradication methods and plans, including—

11 “(I) in and around—

12 “(aa) derelict vessels;

13 “(bb) public infrastructure;

14 “(cc) fish screens; and

15 “(dd) waterways; and

16 “(II) hull inspections; and

17 “(iv) provision of technical assistance
18 to regional, State and local entities to
19 carry out this subsection, as applicable.

20 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION AREA.—The dem-
21 onstration program shall be implemented in the
22 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and any other
23 waters of the United States the Task Force de-
24 termines are infested, or likely to become in-
25 fested, by the golden mussel.

1 “(C) AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN INFORMA-
2 TION.—The Task Force shall collect and make
3 available to State and local entities and port
4 authorities, through direct reports, publications,
5 and other means necessary, information relating
6 to control and eradication methods and plans
7 developed under the demonstration program.

8 “(D) CONTROL AND ERADICATION GUIDE-
9 LINES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
10 the enactment of this subsection, the Task
11 Force shall develop guidelines to control the
12 spread of and eradicate the golden mussel, in-
13 cluding through the establishment of watercraft
14 inspection stations.

15 “(2) RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT RESEARCH
16 GRANT PROGRAM.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
18 establish a grant program to award amounts,
19 on a competitive basis, to State and local enti-
20 ties, institutions of higher education, nonprofit
21 organizations, and industry partners to carry
22 out projects that—

23 “(i) identify effective technologies and
24 mechanisms to control and remove golden
25 mussels from—

1 “(I) water intakes;
2 “(II) conveyance infrastructure;
3 “(III) fish screens;
4 “(IV) derelict vessels;
5 “(V) boat hulls;
6 “(VI) waterways; or
7 “(VII) other areas where the
8 golden mussel may be found; or

9 “(ii) provide an understanding of the
10 biology of the golden mussel and effective
11 containment science with respect to the
12 golden mussel.

13 “(B) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.—In car-
14 rying out the grant program, the Task Force
15 may enter into an agreement with a State or
16 local entity, port authority, industry partner, or
17 any other appropriate entity for the use or sale
18 of any new technology developed under the
19 grant program to expedite the control and
20 eradication of golden mussels.

21 “(3) COORDINATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The demonstration
23 program shall provide guidance to other Fed-
24 eral agencies, States, port authorities for all
25 United States ports of entry, local government

1 agencies, and regional and other entities with
2 the necessary expertise to participate in control
3 and eradication methods and plans developed
4 pursuant to the demonstration program.

5 “(B) DELEGATION.—The Task Force may
6 delegate responsibility for implementing all or a
7 portion of a control or eradication method or
8 plan developed pursuant to the demonstration
9 program to an entity described in subparagraph
10 (A) if the Task Force determines—

11 “(i) such entity has sufficient author-
12 ity or jurisdiction and expertise; and

13 “(ii) it will be more efficient or effec-
14 tive to delegate such responsibility than to
15 retain such responsibility.

16 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Task
18 Force to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each
19 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

20 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—The
22 term ‘demonstration program’ means the dem-
23 onstration program developed under paragraph
24 (1)(A).

1 “(B) GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ‘grant
2 program’ means the grant program established
3 under paragraph (2)(A).

4 “(C) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
5 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-
6 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
7 tion 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).”.

