

Cosponsor H.R. 4099, Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act

Sponsor: Rep Grace F. Napolitano

Original Cosponsors: Reps. Raul M. Grijalva (AZ-03), Jared Huffman (CA-02), and Susie Lee (NV-03)

Cosponsors (as of 7/16/21): Reps. Steven Horsford (NV-04), Dina Titus (NV-01), and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (MP-At Large)

Dear Colleague

I invite you to become a cosponsor of **H.R. 4099, Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Investment Act**. This legislation will establish a new competitive grant program to support large-scale water recycling projects, which represent a major potential source for new drought-proof water supplies for western communities.

While large-scale water recycling projects are currently eligible under the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program, it was not designed to support large-scale water recycling projects. Funding from Title XVI is capped at \$20 million for a project, or less than 2 percent of projects costing more than \$1 billion. With several large-scale water recycling projects already in the works, H.R. 4099 would allow the federal government to meaningfully participate in these projects and help build a drought resilient West.

H.R. 4099 establishes a competitive grant program within the Department of Interior for large-scale water recycling projects within the 17 Western states that have a total estimated cost of at least \$500 million. This bill authorizes \$750 million for the program for fiscal years 2023-2027 and federal funding would be limited to 25 percent of the total cost of the eligible project, with no total dollar cap. The federal cost-share could be increased to up to 75 percent if the project advances at least a proportionate share of non-reimbursable federal benefits, including fish and wildlife benefits provided through measurable reductions in water diversions from imperiled ecosystems.

Projects that have already received funding from Reclamation's Title XVI program would still be eligible for assistance under the new grant program. **H.R. 4099 would also prioritize funding for projects that provide multiple benefits, reduce water diversions from imperiled ecosystems, and advance multi-state water management plans such as the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan.**

With over 93 percent of the West in drought conditions, it is clear the Federal government has a critical role to play in working with local water managers in order to modernize America's water infrastructure. As we combat extreme drought and prepare for future water shortages in the arid west, Congress must provide additional funding opportunities now to help get large-scale recycling projects off the ground, and that's precisely what this critical legislation aims to do.

If you would like to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4099, or if you have any questions, please contact Morgan Leonard at morgan.leonard@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Napolitano

Member of Congress