

From The Desk Of
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TITLE: The Water Infrastructure, Distribution and Storage Act of 2021

PROBLEM(s):

- 1) With respect to resource and water management, the nation as a whole has done little to improve the capture, delivery or savings of water;
- 2) As a result, some states have too much water, while others fall short;
- 3) This has caused a variety of societal and economic problems – from flooding and property damage to spikes in food, water and electrical costs;
- 4) This has caused a variety of economic problems for a variety of states and local governments.

EXAMPLE(s):

- 1) The nation's food basket – California – has been experiencing water related problems for several decades. To overcome the problem, California entities have been conserving and purchasing water from a variety of North American sources;
- 2) During this time, for whatever reasons, little was done to enhance the state's water collection, delivery and storage systems;
- 3) Even when there is an abundance of rain, the state often falls short of water supplies for several reasons:
 - The rapid growth in population;
 - Current rains have failed to completely replenish ground water resources;
 - Failure of Federal, State and Local Governments to construct water storage facilities; and
 - More and more water is used in the manufacturing of products, especially food;
- 4) This has led to a variety of expensive problems, including the ability to properly fight wild fires, the collapse of underground caverns and basins and earthquakes;
- 5) At the same time, many areas in the upper North East (where it snows), fail to capture all the water that they receive (based on snow pack). This causes flooding. This water is lost and wasted, often causing destruction. The worst part of it all is this: the water flows out into a waterway, and is wasted or lost;
- 6) This affects governments and private business economically at all levels.

SOLUTION:

Revamp America's water capture, storage and delivery system(s). This can be accomplished cheaply and effectively by creating a pipeline that moves excess water from one part of the country to another, operating like a sprinkler system that distributes water when and where it's needed. It is estimated that for very little money (less than .005% of the infrastructure bill's total dollar amount or \$6 Billion), building the pipeline and then moving water from one region of the country to another is cheap and effective. The construction of the pipeline, and the collection and movement of water, will benefit the nation as a whole.

An effective comparison of what the system can look like is the nation's Interstate Highway System (IHS). This is important because in an effort to save money, we suggest that the water pipeline follow the IHS. The pipes can be laid either on top of, or underneath, the dividing medium.

This document suggests that the test pipeline should be located from one end of Interstate 80 to the other. This is suggested for two reasons. First, there would be no need to "purchase land" because its already owned by the IHS system. Second, there will be minimal expenses relative to the production of Environmental Impact Reports, because the only product being moved is nontoxic water. Because of the lack of environmental concerns, the system can be designed, purchased and constructed for much less than building a new water storage facility (Dam). The projected construction period is 3 years (1 year planning and 2 years constructing). Two additional benefits of the system are that it will not only provide money to those who 'sell their water' but it can easily be expanded in all directions. This will not only create jobs, but save water. The "system" can also be designed to generate and store electricity – both by solar and turbine generation.

SUPPORT: *possible*

- Environmentalists
- Consumers
- Budget watchers

- Water origin states
- Water Companies
- Farmers
- State's Rights Advocates

OPPOSITION: *possible*

- Environmentalists
- Consumers
- People concerned about budget
- People where the water originates
- Water Companies
- Farmers

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: by

- 1) Environmentalists – this is an environmentally friendly policy that saves a variety of resources (from water and cement to tax dollars and property);
- 2) Consumers – this policy helps:
 - a. Put food on the table while saving money;
 - b. Protects public improvements from flooding and destruction;
 - c. Protect homes and neighborhoods; and
 - d. In the long run, saves money, property and lives;
- 3) Budget Concerns: This project will pay for itself as follows:
 - a. It will save consumers money – especially:
 - i. Food costs; and
 - ii. Housing insurance;
 - b. Short, middle and long term costs will be born out of water sales and transportation fees;
 - c. Water Origination States: States that sell water will make money off states that buy water and be able to use that to improve infrastructure (focus water treatment and sewer);
 - d. Because the land is owed by the government, the project will cost about ½ as much;
 - e. The need for environmental impact reports is limited because the land runs along a freeway, the construction project is generally unobtrusive and the product being sold/moved is natural and clean water;
- 4) Water Companies: Will make money for their shareholders through the purchase, storage and delivery of water to their constituents;
- 5) Farmers: Will produce more product while paying less for water, saving consumers money;
- 6) Water pumps can be run for next to nothing using energy generated from solar energy, hydroelectric or a combination of both.

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:

- 1) Environmentalists – This project will be ugly, ruin natural habitats and negatively affect the Interstate should there be a water spill;
- 2) Consumers – The water may be 'tainted', taste 'funny' and increase costs;
- 3) Budget Concerns: There will not be enough demand for water to keep prices at a level that will support the project in the short, middle or future timelines;
- 4) Water States: We are being forced to sell income producing product that we do not want to sell;
- 5) Water Companies: There will be too much water on the market, driving prices down, hurting profits;
- 6) Farmers – Too much water will allow the competition to produce more product, driving down prices;
- 7) Who cares about food costs, especially food and products coming from California? And
- 8) Electrical pumps will cost money, making this project expensive.

PUBLICITY:

- National and regional publicity for a novel infrastructure project/idea;
- Theme: California and Westerns states will benefit from this project because it not only will deliver water to dry areas, but will create jobs while saving water resources.

HISTORY:

- It is unknown if this idea has been introduced anywhere else, using these concepts;

FISCAL EFFECT:

Initially, there's no question about it, this project will cost money – but not as much as one would think. In the long run, this project is designed to pay for itself. Here's how:

- 1) **Usage fees:** Over the life of the project, the project's "usage fees" will be used to pay for the project's overhead. This overhead includes product delivery, as well as maintenance and employee pay. It is expected that the cost of this first leg will be about \$4 Billion;
- 2) **Expenditures:** To construct the project, government will have to purchase product (pipes), and put people to work. In many instances, this will happen immediately. The more people we have working, the more money in the economy, and the more in the economy, the more taxes that are collected. It is estimated that the project will pay for itself after 5 years in operation;
- 3) **Flooding:** will be controlled and minimized, saving governmental entities from road and property destruction;
- 4) **Food:** Will help stabilize and lower food prices in farming growing regions, saving consumers money.

CODE SECTION AFFECTED: As per the Budget Bill or Legislative Council

LANGUAGE ATTACHED: Yes

LANGUAGE: As follows

TITLE: The Water Infrastructure, Distribution and Storage Act of 2019

INTENT: The intent of this legislation is to enhance the nation's management of resources in an effort to improve the capture, delivery or savings of water. The need for this legislation is clear: some states are flooded with too much water, while others fall short, and come up "bone dry". This causes a variety of societal and economic problems – from flooding and property damage to spikes in food costs and unemployment. It is hoped with the passage of this measure, that we will save property, lives, resources and money.

SECTION 1: The ----- Department is hereby authorized to conduct a study to determine which interstate freeway is best to use as a test for the construction of a pipeline water delivery system.

SECTION 2: The Interstate Highways to be considered for the first project are:

- a) I-80 that stretches from coast to coast (2,899.54 miles)
- b) I-10 which stretches along the southern border from coast to coast (2460.34 miles)
- c) I-40 – which stretches from the east to west coast (2,555.10 miles)

SECTION 3:

The Department of ____ has 6 months to produce a report outlining which of the Interstate Highways listed in Section 2 are best for the first pipeline and design the pipeline. The report shall start by _____. It shall be finished within 6 months. The Congress hereby allocated \$2,500,000 (two million, five hundred thousand dollars) to assist with the production of the report.

SECTION 4:

At the end of one year, the _____ Department shall place in the market place requests for proposals (RFP's). At the end of the first year, a decision will be made as to where the first, test pipeline will go. Construction, including hiring, will take place after the first calendar year.

SECTION 5:

The sum of \$____ Billion is set aside in the next five Federal budgets to construct and operate/manage the project.

SECTION 6:

This act requires the establishment of a section within the _____ Department. This section will oversee the construction and management of the project.

SECTION 7:

All fees and operational policies associated with this project that are not outlined in this legislation will be approved by the _____ Department.

SECTION 8: All policies created by the _____ Department shall be made through public hearings.