The Inflation Reduction Act
Drought Response and Preparedness

Public Law 117-169

https://www.usbr.gov/inflation-reduction-act/
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Western Hydrology and Reservoir Conditions Update

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Precipitation and Temperature – Past 60 days

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)
7/28/2022 – 9/25/2022

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
7/28/2022 – 9/25/2022

Generated 9/26/2022 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers
Water Year 2022 Water Supply Forecasts

Percent Average Water Supply Forecasts
May 12, 2022, Courtesy NOAA - CBRFC
Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across most of the Pacific Ocean.

- La Niña is favored to continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2022-2023.
- “Triple-dip” unprecedented three consecutive northern hemisphere winters La Niña
- Continued La Nina could mean continued dry conditions in the SW
CPC outlook - Dry in the Southwest
Overview of Reclamation Provisions in the Act

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Similar to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law the Department will execute these investments adhering to the Administration’s implementation priorities to:

- invest public dollars efficiently, working to avoid waste, and focus on measurable outcomes for the American people;
- increase the competitiveness of the United States economy, including through implementing the Act’s Made-in-America requirements and bolstering United States manufacturing and supply chains;
- improve job opportunities for millions of Americans by focusing on high labor standards for these jobs, including prevailing wages and the free and fair chance to join a union;
- invest public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative, which is a government-wide effort toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits from Federal investments in climate and clean energy flow to disadvantaged communities;
- build infrastructure that is resilient and that helps combat the crisis of climate change; and
- effectively coordinate with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in implementing these critical investments.
Section 50231 – Bureau of Reclamation Domestic Water Supply Projects

• $550 million available through September 30, 2031 for:
  • "grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements for disadvantaged communities (identified according to criteria adopted by the Commissioner of Reclamation) in a manner as determined by the Commissioner of Reclamation for up to 100 percent of the cost of the planning, design, or construction of water projects the primary purpose of which is to provide domestic water supplies to communities or households that do not have reliable access to domestic water supplies."
Section 50232 – Canal Improvement Projects

- $25 million available through September 30, 2031 for:
  - “the design, study, and implementation of projects (including pilot and demonstration projects) to cover water conveyance facilities with solar panels to generate renewable energy in a manner as determined by the Secretary or for other solar projects associated with Bureau of Reclamation projects that increase water efficiency and assist in implementation of clean energy goals.”
Section 50233 – Drought Mitigation in the Reclamation States

- $4 billion available through September 30, 2026 for:
  - “for grants, contracts, or financial assistance agreements, in accordance with the reclamation laws, to or with public entities and Indian Tribes, that provide for the conduct of the following activities to mitigate the impacts of drought in the Reclamation States, with priority given to the Colorado River Basin and other basins experiencing comparable levels of long-term drought, to be implemented in compliance with applicable environmental law:
    - (1) Compensation for a temporary or multiyear voluntary reduction in diversion of water or consumptive water use.
    - (2) Voluntary system conservation projects that achieve verifiable reductions in use of or demand for water supplies or provide environmental benefits in the Lower Basin or Upper Basin of the Colorado River.
    - (3) Ecosystem and habitat restoration projects to address issues directly caused by drought in a river basin or inland water body.”
Section 80004 – Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes

- $12.5 million available through September 30, 2026 for:
  - “for near-term drought relief actions to mitigate drought impacts for Indian Tribes that are impacted by the operation of a Bureau of Reclamation water project, including through direct financial assistance to address drinking water shortages and to mitigate the loss of Tribal trust resources.”
Listening Session

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