

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To optimize the environmental review process for Central Valley Project permits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GRAY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To optimize the environmental review process for Central Valley Project permits, and for other purposes.

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. CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL**
4 **REVIEW TIMELINE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
6 sion of law, if a federally issued permit for a CVP en-
7 hancement project requires an environmental review, the
8 environmental review shall be completed not later than 1

1 year after the date on which the permit application is sub-
2 mitted by the permit applicant.

3 (b) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If the agency re-
4 sponsible for carrying out an environmental review de-
5 scribed in subsection (a) is unable to meet the timeline
6 under that subsection, the head of the agency issuing the
7 applicable permit shall—

8 (1) with the approval of the permit applicant,
9 grant an extension for the environmental review; or

10 (2) deny the permit.

11 (c) ACTION AFTER DENIAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—An applicant for a permit
13 that is denied due to a failure to meet the timeline
14 under this section may re-apply for the permit at
15 any time after the denial is issued.

16 (2) LEAD AGENCY.—If an applicant re-applies
17 for a permit under paragraph (1), the head of the
18 agency responsible for carrying out the environ-
19 mental review required under the previous applica-
20 tion shall furnish to the applicant, to the extent per-
21 mitted by law, any information gathered as part of,
22 or related to, such environmental review to facilitate
23 an expedited environmental review for the new appli-
24 cation.

25 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

1 (1) CVP ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.—The term
2 “CVP enhancement project” means a project with a
3 primary purpose of supporting, enhancing, or main-
4 taining the Central Valley Project and related infra-
5 structure, including—

6 (A) groundwater recharge projects;

7 (B) aquifer storage projects; and

8 (C) water source substitution projects.

9 (2) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—The term “en-
10 vironmental review” means fulfilling the require-
11 ments applicable to a CVP enhancement project per-
12 mit under the National Environmental Policy Act of
13 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.) and section 7 of the
14 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536).