



Legislation and Communications Committee

Report on Activities From **Washington, D.C.**

Item 6e

February 9, 2026

Presented by: Abby Schneider, PhD

Report on
Activities
from
Washington,
D.C.

Subject

Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Purpose

To provide a legislative update.

Large Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization



CORTEZ MASTO, CURTIS WORK TO EXTEND WATER RECYCLING DROUGHT MITIGATION PROGRAM

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and John Curtis (R-Utah) introduced bipartisan legislation to extend the Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Grant Program through 2032. The *Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act* continues a program that Senator Cortez Masto [successfully included](#) in the 2021 *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA).

“In the Colorado River Basin, we know all too well that water conservation is critically important,” **said Senator Cortez Masto**. “My Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Grant Program has been a vital tool for saving water, mitigating drought, and reducing strain on Lake Mead. It’s time to extend this program so it can continue providing water to homes and businesses throughout the Southwest.”

“For the millions that rely upon the Colorado River Basin, water scarcity is a daily reality,” **said Senator Curtis**. “Large-scale water recycling is one of the most effective, forward-looking tools we have to stretch limited supplies, support growing communities, and protect our environment. Extending this bipartisan program will help states like Utah and our neighbors in the West invest in reliable, innovative water solutions that strengthen our economy and secure our water future.”

In the IIJA, Senator Cortez Masto included a provision to create the new Large-Scale Water Recycling Project Grant Program, which established a competitive grant program for large-scale water recycling projects with a direct spending commitment of \$450 million. Water recycling is the process of treating wastewater so that it can be reused, reducing the consumptive loss of water resources. Since its creation, the grant program has directly invested over \$300 million in water recycling projects, including over \$125 million for the Pure Water Southern California Program, undertaken by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in conjunction with the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). However, funding for the grant program is set to expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2026. The *Large-Scale Water Recycling Reauthorization Act* would extend the program for another five years.

Statement By Mr. PADILLA:

S.3738 Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the “MORE Water Act”....

WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS

“Multiple water districts in cities across Southern California and the Bay Area have large-scale water recycling projects that together could create over half a million acre-feet of water per year, enough water for 3 million people, including Metropolitan Water District’s project...”

FY 26
Appropriations:
Bureau of
Reclamation



	FY25 Enacted	President's FY26 Proposal	FY26 Enacted
CALFED	\$33 M	\$32 M	\$32 M
Water Recycling	\$30 M	0	\$12.5 M
Water Storage	\$134 M	0	\$62.5 M
WaterSmart: Grants	\$51 M	0	\$15 M

FY 26
Appropriations:
Environmental
Protection
Agency



	FY25 Enacted	President's FY26 Proposal	FY26 Enacted
Drinking Water SRF	\$1.13 B	\$150 M	\$1.13 B
Clean Water SRF	\$1.64 B	\$155 M	\$1.64 B
WIFIA	\$72 M	\$8 M	\$72 M

Legislative Update: Help Hoover Dam Act



CONGRESSWOMAN
SUSIE LEE
SERVING NEVADA'S 3RD DISTRICT

**WE PASSED THE
HELP HOOVER DAM
ACT**

**\$50 MILLION TO
HELP REPAIR THE
HOOVER DAM**

A vertical graphic with a white background. At the top is the logo for Congresswoman Susie Lee, which includes a stylized mountain and sun icon. Below the logo is a red banner with white text that reads "WE PASSED THE HELP HOOVER DAM ACT". In the center is a photograph of the Hoover Dam, showing the massive concrete structure spanning a deep canyon. At the bottom is another red banner with white text that reads "\$50 MILLION TO HELP REPAIR THE HOOVER DAM".

