



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

Item 6b

April 13, 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.

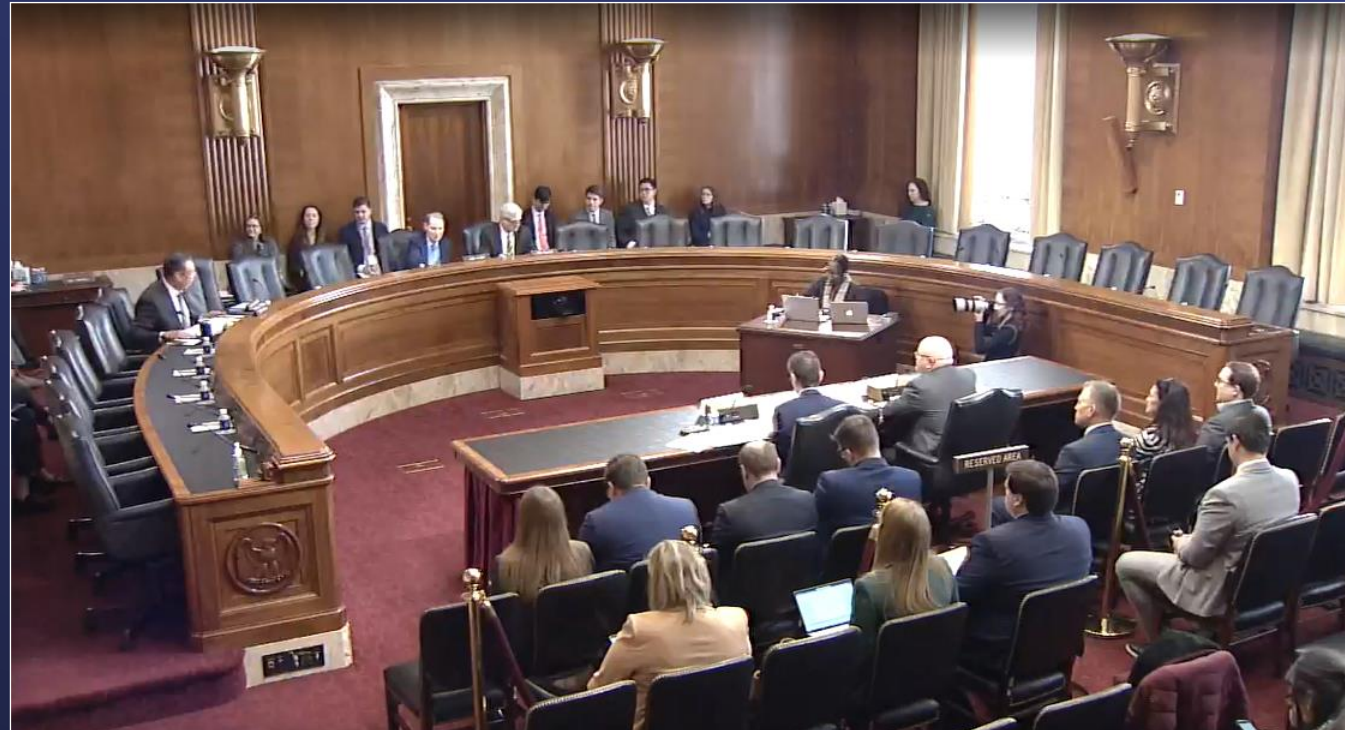
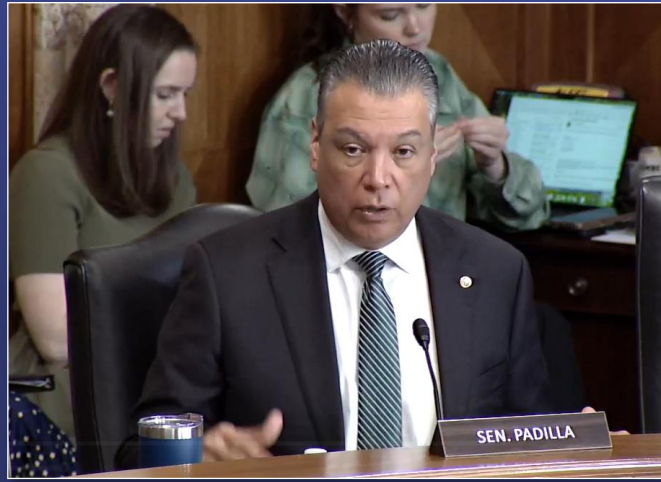
Lower Colorado River Multi Species Conservation Amendment Act

H.R. 831
(Calvert, R-CA)
Passes
House



Legislation & Communications
Committee

Senate
Energy &
Natural
Resources
Subcommittee
Hearing



FY 27 Budget Proposal



White House Office of Management and Budget FY 27 Proposal



- Department of Interior, 13% reduction
- Environmental Protection Agency, 52% reduction
- Army Corps of Engineers, 30% reduction

WaterSmart
Program
FY27 Report
Language
Request



***WaterSMART Program** – The Committee encourages the Bureau to resume grant making under the WaterSMART program. Potential recipients require the certainty afforded by annual grant-making processes that are supported by funds provided in this Act, prior year appropriations, and funds provided by Public Law 117-58. ...*

Executive Order



Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction

Federal Register / Vol. 91, No. 52 / Wednesday, March 18, 2026 / Presidential Documents 13207

Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14394 of March 13, 2026

Removing Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Home Construction

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The American dream of homeownership depends on a dynamic housing market in which a varied inventory of new homes is built and renovated each year. Layers of unnecessary regulatory barriers, slow permitting processes, and onerous mandates at all levels of government have delayed construction, restricted development, and driven up the costs of new housing. Those constraints have made housing less affordable for many Americans.

It is the policy of my Administration to reduce regulatory barriers to building homes and to steward taxpayer dollars in a manner that promotes housing affordability.

Sec. 2. Targeting Federal Regulatory Barriers to Residential Development. (a) The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall review and revise requirements related to stormwater, wetlands, lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water to reduce housing construction and ownership costs, streamline regulatory and agency decision-making processes, reduce property tax burdens, and increase insurability, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law. Such requirements shall include:

- (i) the Construction General Permit for stormwater discharges from construction activity;
- (ii) federally issued Total Maximum Daily Loads;
- (iii) construction site and post-construction requirements for Municipal Separate Stormwater System permits;
- (iv) Federal standards for permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. 1344, for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States; and
- (v) Federal standards for assumption of dredge and fill permitting by States and tribes under section 404(g) of CWA.

(b) The Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) shall, within their respective authorities, consider eliminating unduly burdensome rules and reforming programs that constrain residential development and impede housing affordability, especially the construction of affordable single-family homes as well as suburban and exurban neighborhoods, including, as needed:

- (i) the Economic Development Administration's guidelines and investment priorities concerning development density;
- (ii) the Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program;
- (iii) the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Program; and
- (iv) the FHFA's guidelines and regulations regarding chattel lending for manufactured housing and incentivizing low-balance home mortgages.

March 18, 2026 / Presidential Documents

Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Director of FHFA shall, within their respective authorities, take appropriate action to reform and eliminate unduly burdensome or costly energy-efficiency, energy requirements regarding housing, including to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with applicable law. Such action shall include reviewing and revising, as appropriate, the Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Buildings.

Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction and Existing Housing:

Energy efficiency improvement standards for FHFA's duty to insure properties.

Permitting Requirements for Residential Development. The Council on Environmental Quality shall, in coordination with the relevant departments and agencies (agencies) on implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, including through rulemaking, or application of categorical exclusions, in a timely manner, identify and eliminate housing construction, use, and infrastructure that facilitates housing construction, sewer, and other projects.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation shall, in a timely manner, identify and eliminate housing construction, use, and infrastructure that facilitates housing construction, such as other projects under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, so that reporting requirements are no more burdensome than necessary.

Affordability Through State and Local Regulatory Reform. Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, shall develop and promulgate a series of rules for State and local governments to promote housing affordability, including:

(i) streamlining permitting processes for housing developments by, for example, allowing by-right development; allowing retroactive application of new rules; allowing third-party inspections and appropriate fee structures for inspections and studies; and consultation with government agencies and private parties on matters;

(ii) identifying and eliminating rules that increase housing construction costs, such as energy requirements or other energy-choice restrictions, building codes, and unreasonable building-code-adoption processes;

(iii) identifying and eliminating restrictions on the use of manufactured or modular construction methods rather than objective and safety, aesthetic requirements, or prohibitions on comparable site-built housing is permitted; and

(iv) identifying and eliminating limitations on residential housing development such as urban growth boundaries, growth moratoria, and other restrictions.

Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, within their respective authorities, take appropriate and consistent with applicable law, action to reform and eliminate unduly burdensome or costly energy-efficiency, energy requirements regarding housing, including to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with applicable law.

March 18, 2026 / Presidential Documents 13209

and requirements, technical assistance, or practices to advance the goals of this section.

Construction in Opportunity Zones. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, take appropriate actions to better align Opportunity Zone tax incentives to expand housing construction, including considering lawful use of tools, or other incentives with new Opportunity Funds engaged in the development of homes.

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Nothing in this order shall be construed to require any action by any executive department or agency.

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March 18, 2026 / Presidential Documents

Nothing in this order shall be borne by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donald Trump".

