

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2085

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations with interested local water and power providers for the transfer of ownership, control, and operation of the New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2015

Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. McCLINTOCK, and Mr. NUNES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into negotiations with interested local water and power providers for the transfer of ownership, control, and operation of the New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project, 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. TRANSFER THE NEW MELONES UNIT, CENTRAL**
4 **VALLEY PROJECT TO INTERESTED PRO-**
5 **VIDERS.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act, the
7 following terms apply:

1 (1) INTERESTED LOCAL WATER AND POWER
2 PROVIDERS.—The term “interested local water and
3 power providers” includes the Calaveras County
4 Water District, Central San Joaquin Water Con-
5 servation District, Modesto Irrigation District,
6 Oakdale Irrigation District, Stockton East Water
7 District, South San Joaquin Irrigation District,
8 Tuolumne Utilities District, Turlock Irrigation Dis-
9 trict, and Union Public Utilities District.

10 (2) NEW MELONES UNIT, CENTRAL VALLEY
11 PROJECT.—The term “New Melones Unit, Central
12 Valley Project” means all Federal reclamation
13 projects located within or diverting water from or to
14 the watershed of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin
15 rivers and their tributaries as authorized by the Act
16 of August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 850), and all Acts
17 amendatory or supplemental thereto, including the
18 Act of October 23, 1962 (76 Stat. 1173).

19 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of the Interior.

21 (b) NEGOTIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
22 vision of law, the Secretary shall enter into negotiations
23 with interested local water and power providers for the
24 transfer ownership, control, and operation of the New

1 Melones Unit, Central Valley Project to interested local
2 water and power providers within the State of California.

3 (c) TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall transfer the
4 New Melones Unit, Central Valley Project in accordance
5 with an agreement reached pursuant to negotiations con-
6 ducted under subsection (b).

7 **SEC. 2. REPORT.**

8 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the Sec-
10 retary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Re-
11 sources of the House of Representatives and the Com-
12 mittee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
13 a report that describes, in detail—

14 (1) if an agreement is reached pursuant to ne-
15 gotiations conducted under section 1(b), the terms of
16 that agreement;

17 (2) the status of formal discussions with inter-
18 ested local water and power providers for the trans-
19 fer of ownership, control, and operation of the New
20 Melones Unit, Central Valley Project to interested
21 local water and power providers;

22 (3) all unresolved issues regarding the negotia-
23 tions of an agreement for the transfer of ownership,
24 control, and operation of the New Melones Unit,
25 Central Valley Project;

1 (4) an analysis and review of studies, reports,
2 discussions, hearing transcripts, negotiations, and
3 other information about past and present formal dis-
4 cussions that—

5 (A) have an impact on the progress of the
6 formal discussions;

7 (B) explain or provide information about
8 the issues that prevent progress or finalization
9 of formal discussions; or

10 (C) are, in whole or in part, preventing
11 execution of an agreement for the transfer; and

12 (5) any actions the Secretary recommends that
13 the United States should take to finalize an agree-
14 ment for that transfer.

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