



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

Monterey County

DATE: February 7, 2025

TO: Personnel & Administration Committee

FROM: Ara Azhderian

SUBJECT: Recommendation regarding HR 338 Every Drop Counts Act

On January 13, 2025, a bipartisan group of San Joaquin Valley representatives introduced HR 338. The bill aims to amend the Bureau of Reclamation's Small Storage Program¹ authorized through 2026 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (a.k.a. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to provide a federal cost share to eligible, small surface and groundwater storage projects. Currently, the Program has approximately \$43.5 million available for federal fiscal-years 2025 and 2026 and the latest funding opportunity opened in September 2024. The federal cost share cannot exceed the lesser of 25 percent of project cost or \$30 million dollars. Reclamation continues to accept feasibility study submissions at any time and is encouraging non-Federal entities to submit their feasibility studies by Spring 2025 for consideration. This funding opportunity provides financial assistance for projects that will increase water supply reliability, improve operational flexibility, and enhance climate resiliency of water and related infrastructure throughout the 17 western states, Alaska, and Hawaii. In accordance with the current BIL, as amended, projects must have a water storage capacity of not less than 200 acre-feet and not more than 30,000 acre-feet. Water conveyance projects are also eligible.

HR 338 would extend authorization of the funding by another 5 years and expand eligibility by increasing the potential size of storage projects to a maximum recharge potential of 150,000 acre-feet. The ACWA FAC is recommending a "support" position. The Agency has an interest in the success of this bill to potentially support Sustainable Groundwater Management Act related activities.

ATCH: ACWA memorandum
Draft HR 338

¹ <https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html>