

H.R. 1654 “Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act”

H.R. 1654, the “Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act,” introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA), creates a “one-stop-shop” permitting process through the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for new or expanded surface storage facilities. The bill reduces conflicting agency permit requirements that impose unnecessary costs and burdens on water storage infrastructure.

“H.R. 1654 establishes a framework in which federal agencies with permitting responsibilities for the construction of new surface water storage projects must work together, coordinate their schedules, share data and technical materials, and make their findings publicly available. The end result would be fewer delays, more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and ultimately, more abundant water supplies.”

– Rep. Tom McClintock

The Problem: Lengthy Permitting Process

Due to a lack of coordination among federal agencies, the storage permitting approvals can take years and add thousands of dollars to project costs. For the High Savery Dam Project in Wyoming, it took 14 years to permit, but just two years to build.

The Solution: “One-Stop-Shop” Permitting

H.R. 1654 establishes a single lead agency, the BOR, for the permitting process to coordinate all reviews, analysis, opinions, statements, permits, licenses, or other federal approvals required under federal law for the construction of critical water infrastructure.

