To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take actions to provide additional water supplies and disaster assistance to the State of California due to drought, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act are as follows:
TITLE I—CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) as established in the Proclamation of a State of Emergency issued by the Governor of the State on January 17, 2014, the State is experiencing record dry conditions;

(2) extremely dry conditions have persisted in the State since 2012, and the current drought conditions are likely to persist into the future;
(3) the water supplies of the State are at record-low levels, as indicated by a statewide average snowpack of 12 percent of the normal average for winter as of February 1, 2014, and the fact that all major Central Valley Project reservoir levels are below 50 percent of the capacity of the reservoirs as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) the 2013-2014 drought constitutes a serious emergency posing immediate and severe risks to human life and safety and to the environment throughout the State;

(5) the emergency requires—

(A) immediate and credible action that respects the complexity of the State of California’s water system and its importance to the entire State; and

(B) policies that do not pit stakeholders against one another, which history has shown only leads to costly litigation that benefits no one and prevents any real solutions;

(6) Federal law (including regulations) directly authorizes expedited decision-making procedures and environmental and public review procedures to enable timely and appropriate implementation of ac-
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(7) the serious emergency posed by the 2013-2014 drought in the State fully satisfies the conditions necessary for the exercise of emergency decision making, analytical, and public review requirements under—

(A) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(C) water control management procedures of the Corps of Engineers described in section 222.5 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (including successor regulations); and


SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT.—The term “Central Valley Project” has the meaning given the term in section 3403 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (106 Stat. 4707).
(2) KLAMATH PROJECT.—The term “Klamath Project” means the Bureau of Reclamation project in the States of California and Oregon—

(A) as authorized under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093); and

(B) as described in—

(i) title II of the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–532); and


(3) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term “Reclamation Project” means a project constructed pursuant to the authorities of the reclamation laws and whose facilities are wholly or partially located in the State.

(4) RESERVED WORKS.—The term “reserved works” means Bureau of Reclamation-owned project facilities for which the operations and maintenance are performed by employees of the Bureau of Reclamation or by contract, regardless of funding source.

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—
(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Commerce; and

(C) the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of California.

(7) STATE WATER PROJECT.—The term “State Water Project” means the water project described by California Water Code section 11550 et seq., and operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

SEC. 103. EMERGENCY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In response to the declaration of a state of drought emergency by the Governor of the State, the Secretaries shall provide the maximum quantity of water supplies possible to Central Valley Project and Klamath Project agricultural, municipal and industrial, and refuge service and repayment contractors, State Water Project contractors, and any other locality or municipality in the State, by approving, consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1) any project or operations to provide additional water supplies if there is any possible way whatsoever that the Secretaries can do so unless the
project or operations constitute a highly inefficient
way of providing additional water supplies; and

(2) any projects or operations as quickly as possi-
ble based on available information to address the
emergency conditions.

(b) MANDATE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
applicable agency heads described in that subsection shall,
consistent with applicable laws (including regulations)—

(1) authorize and implement actions to ensure
that the Delta Cross Channel Gates shall remain
open to the greatest extent possible, timed to maxi-
mize the peak flood tide period and provide water
supply and water quality benefits for the duration of
the State’s drought emergency declaration, con-
sistent with operational criteria and monitoring cri-
teria developed pursuant to the California State
Water Resources Control Board’s Order Approving a
Temporary Urgency Change in License and Permit
Terms in Response to Drought Conditions, effective
January 31, 2014, or a successor order;

(2)(A) collect data associated with the operation
of the Delta Cross Channel Gates described in para-
graph (1) and its impact on species listed as threat-
ened or endangered under the Endangered Species
Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), water quality, and water supply; and

(B) after assessing the data described in subparagraph (A), require the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service to recommend revisions to operations of the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project, including, if appropriate, the reasonable and prudent alternatives contained in the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service on June 4, 2009, that are likely to produce fishery, water quality, and water supply benefits;

(3)(A) implement turbidity control strategies that allow for increased water deliveries while avoiding jeopardy to adult delta smelt (Hypomesus transpacificus) due to entrainment at Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping plants; and

(B) manage reverse flow in Old and Middle Rivers as prescribed by the biological opinion issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and dated December 15, 2008, to minimize water supply reductions for the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project;
(4) adopt a 1:1 inflow to export ratio for the increased flow of the San Joaquin River, as measured as a 3-day running average at Vernalis during the period from April 1 through May 31, resulting from voluntary transfers and exchanges of water supplies, among other purposes;

(5) issue all necessary permit decisions under the authority of the Secretaries within 30 days of receiving a completed application by the State to place and use temporary barriers or operable gates in Delta channels to improve water quantity and quality for State Water Project and Central Valley Project South of Delta water contractors and other water users, which barriers or gates should provide benefits for species protection and in-Delta water user water quality and shall be designed such that formal consultations under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) would not be necessary;

necessary to make final permit decisions on water transfer requests associated with voluntarily fallowing nonpermanent crops in the State, within 30 days of receiving such a request; and

(B) require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to allow any water transfer request associated with fallowing to maximize the quantity of water supplies available for nonhabitat uses as long as the fallowing and associated water transfer are in compliance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations);

(7) allow North of Delta water service contractors with unused 2013 Central Valley Project contract supplies to take delivery of those unused supplies through April 15, 2014, if—

(A) the contractor requests the extension;

and

(B) the requesting contractor certifies that, without the extension, the contractor would have insufficient supplies to adequately meet water delivery obligations;

(8) maintain all rescheduled water supplies held in the San Luis Reservoir and Millerton Reservoir for all water users for delivery in the immediately
following contract water year unless precluded by reservoir storage capacity limitations;

(9) to the maximum extent possible based on the availability of water and without causing land subsidence—

(A) meet the contract water supply needs of Central Valley Project refuges through the improvement or installation of wells to use groundwater resources and the purchase of water from willing sellers, which activities may be accomplished by using funding made available under section 104 or the Water Assistance Program or the WaterSMART program of the Department of the Interior; and

(B) make a quantity of Central Valley Project surface water obtained from the measures implemented under subparagraph (A) available to Central Valley Project contractors;

(10) make WaterSMART grant funding administered by the Bureau of Reclamation available for eligible projects within the State on a priority and expedited basis—

(A) to provide emergency drinking and municipal water supplies to localities in a quan-
tity necessary to meet minimum public health
and safety needs;

(B) to prevent the loss of permanent crops;

(C) to minimize economic losses resulting
from drought conditions; and

(D) to provide innovative water conserva-
tion tools and technology for agriculture and
urban water use that can have immediate water
supply benefits;

(11) implement offsite upstream projects in the
Delta and upstream Sacramento River and San Joa-
quin basins, in coordination with the California De-
partment of Water Resources and the California De-
partment of Fish and Wildlife, that offset the effects
on species listed as threatened or endangered under
1531 et seq.) due to actions taken under this Act;

(12) for reserved works only, authorize annual
operation and maintenance deficits, owed to the
Federal Government and incurred due to delivery of
contract water supplies to a Central Valley Project
or Klamath Project water contractor during each fis-
cal year the State emergency drought declaration is
in force, to accrue without interest for a period of
5 years and then to be repaid, notwithstanding sec-
tion 106 of Public Law 99–546 (100 Stat. 3052), to
the Federal Government over a period of not more
than 10 years at the lesser of—

(A) the project interest rate; and

(B) the rate specified in section 106 of
Public Law 99–546 (100 Stat. 3052); and

(13) use all available scientific tools to identify
and implement any changes to real-time operations
of Bureau of Reclamation, State, and local water
projects that could result in the availability of addi-
tional water supplies.

(c) OTHER AGENCIES.—To the extent that a Federal
agency other than agencies headed by the Secretaries has
a role in approving projects described in subsections (a)
and (b), the provisions of this section shall apply to those
Federal agencies.

(d) ACCELERATED PROJECT DECISION AND ELE-
VATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the
State, the heads of Federal agencies shall use the
expedited procedures under this subsection to make
final decisions relating to a Federal project or oper-
ation to provide additional water supplies or address
emergency drought conditions pursuant to sub-
sections (a) and (b).
(2) REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the State, the head of an agency referred to in subsection (a), or the head of another Federal agency responsible for carrying out a review of a project, as applicable, the Secretary of the Interior shall convene a final project decision meeting with the heads of all relevant Federal agencies to decide whether to approve a project to provide emergency water supplies.

(B) MEETING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convene a meeting requested under subparagraph (A) not later than 7 days after receiving the meeting request.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receipt of a request for a meeting under this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the heads of all relevant Federal agencies of the request, including the project to be reviewed and the date for the meeting.

(4) DECISION.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which a meeting is requested under paragraph (2), the head of the relevant Federal agency shall issue a final decision on the project.

(5) MEETING CONVENED BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary may convene a final project decision meet-
ing under this subsection at any time, at the discre-

tion of the Secretary, regardless of whether a meet-

ing is requested under paragraph (2).

SEC. 104. EMERGENCY FUNDING.

(a) Financial Assistance.—

(1) In general.—Financial assistance may be
made available under the Reclamation States Emer-
et seq.), subtitle F of title IX of the Omnibus Public
Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10361 et
seq.) (commonly known as the “Secure Water Act of
2009”), and any other applicable Federal law (in-
cluding regulations), to be divided among each appli-
cable program at the discretion of the Secretary for
the optimization and conservation of Reclamation
Project water supplies to assist drought-plagued
areas of the State and the West.

(2) Additional availability.—Financial as-
sistance may be made available under this section to
organizations and entities, including tribal govern-
ments, that are engaged in collaborative processes to
restore the environment while settling water rights
claims that are part of an active water rights adju-
dication or a broader settlement of claims that are
part of a basin-wide solution for restoration.
(b) **TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance under subsection (a) shall include a range of projects, including—

(1) the installation of pumps, temporary barriers, or operable gates for water diversion and fish protection;

(2) the installation of groundwater wells in wildlife refuges and other areas;

(3) the purchase or assistance in the purchase of water from willing sellers;

(4) conservation projects providing water supply benefits in the short-term;

(5) exchanges with any water district willing to provide water to meet the emergency water needs of other water districts in return for the delivery of equivalent quantities of water later that year or in future years;

(6) maintenance of cover crops to prevent public health impacts from severe dust storms;

(7) emergency pumping projects for critical health and safety purposes;

(8) activities to reduce water demand consistent with a comprehensive program for environmental restoration and settlement of water rights claims;

(9) the use of new or innovative water on-farm water conservation technologies or methods that may
assist in sustaining permanent crops in areas with severe water shortages;

(10) technical assistance to improve existing irrigation practices to provide water supply benefits in the short-term; and

(11) any other assistance the Secretary determines to be necessary to increase available water supplies or mitigate drought impacts.

(e) FUNDING.—There is appropriated, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $100,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce to carry out this section.

SEC. 105. EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

To minimize the time spent carrying out environmental reviews and to deliver water quickly that is needed to address emergency drought conditions in the State, the head of each applicable Federal agency shall, in carrying out this Act, consult with the Council on Environmental Quality in accordance with section 1506.11 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (including successor regulations) to develop alternative arrangements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) during the emergency.
The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in allocating amounts for each of the fiscal years during which the State’s emergency drought declaration is in force to State water pollution control revolving funds established under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) and the State drinking water treatment revolving loan funds established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12), shall, for those projects that are eligible to receive assistance under section 603 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383) or section 1452(a)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(a)(2)), respectively, that the State determines will provide additional water supplies most expeditiously to areas that are at risk of having an inadequate supply of water for public health and safety purposes or to improve resiliency to drought—

(1) require the State to review and prioritize funding for such projects;

(2) issue a determination of waivers within 30 days of the conclusion of the informal public comment period pursuant to section 436(c) of title IV of division G of Public Law 113–76; and

(3) authorize, at the request of the State, 40-year financing for assistance under section
603(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(d)(2)) or section 1452(f)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(f)(2)).

SEC. 107. DROUGHT PLANNING ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of Central Valley Project or Klamath Project contractors or other Reclamation Project contractors in the State, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall provide water supply planning assistance in preparation for and in response to dry, critically dry, and below normal water year types to those Central Valley Project or Klamath Project contractors or other Reclamation Project contractors making those requests, including contractors who possess contracts for refuge water supplies or deliver refuge water supplies.

(b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) hydrological forecasting;

(2) assessment of water supply sources under different water year classification types;

(3) identification of alternative water supply sources;

(4) guidance on potential water transfer partners;
(5) technical assistance regarding Federal and State permits and contracts under the Act of February 21, 1911 (36 Stat. 925, chapter 141) (commonly known as the “Warren Act”);

(6) technical assistance regarding emergency provision of water supplies for critical health and safety purposes;

(7) activities carried out in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Integrated Drought Information System, and the State partners of the National Integrated Drought Information System under the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 (15 U.S.C. 313d)—

(A) to collect and integrate key indicators of drought severity and impacts; and

(B) to produce and communicate timely monitoring and forecast information to local and regional communities, including the San Joaquin Valley, the Delta, and the Central Coast; and

(8) any other assistance the Secretary determines to be necessary.
SEC. 108. CALFED BAY-DELTA ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

Title I of the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act (118 Stat. 1681; 123 Stat. 2860) (as amended by section 207 of title II of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014) is amended by striking “2015” each place it appears and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 109. RECLAMATION STATES EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) is amended—

(1) by striking “$90,000,000” and inserting “$190,000,000”; and

(2) by striking “2012” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 110. SECURE WATER ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 9504 of Public Law 111–11 (42 U.S.C. 10364) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(E), by adding at the end the following:

“(v) Authority of Commissioner.—The Commissioner of Reclamation may, at the discretion of the Commissioner—
“(I) waive any cost-share requirements to address emergency situations; and

“(II) prioritize projects based on the ability of the projects to expeditiously yield water supply benefits during periods of drought.”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “$200,000,000” and inserting “$250,000,000”.

SEC. 111. EFFECT ON STATE LAWS.

Nothing in this Act preempts any State law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, including area of origin and other water rights protections.

SEC. 112. KLAMATH BASIN WATER SUPPLY.


(1) by redesignating sections 4 through 6 as sections 5 through 7, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 3 the following:

“SEC. 4. WATER MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

“The Secretary is authorized to engage in activities, including entering into agreements and contracts, or otherwise making financial assistance available, to reduce water consumption or demand, or to restore ecosystems
in the Klamath Basin watershed, including tribal fishery resources held in trust, consistent with collaborative agreements for environmental restoration and settlements of water rights claims.”.

SEC. 113. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITIES.

The authorities under sections 103, 104, 105, and 106 expire on the date on which the Governor of the State suspends the state of drought emergency declaration.

TITLE II—EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE DISASTER APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 201. EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURE DISASTER APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) Funding.—

(1) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) for the emergency conservation program established under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) and the emergency watershed protection program established under section 403 of the Agricultural
Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) $100,000,000, to be divided among each applicable program as the Secretary determines to be appropriate—

(A) to provide to agricultural producers and other eligible entities affected by the 2014 drought assistance upon declaration of a natural disaster under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)) or for the same purposes for counties that are contiguous to a designated natural disaster area; and

(B) to carry out any other activities the Secretary determines necessary as a result of the 2014 drought, such as activities relating to wildfire damage.

(2) Receipt and Acceptance.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out this subsection the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(b) Emergency Assistance Program for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish.—Notwithstanding any other applicable limitations under law, the Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out
the emergency assistance program for livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish under section 531(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531(e)) for fiscal year 2014 to provide assistance to agricultural producers for losses due to drought.

(c) FEMA PREDISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 for mitigation activities related to drought and wildfire hazards.

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out this subsection the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(d) EMERGENCY COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—
(A) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to provide emergency community water assistance grants under section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a) to address impacts of drought;

(B) the maximum amount of a grant provided under subparagraph (A) for fiscal year 2014 shall be $1,000,000; and

(C) for fiscal year 2014, a community whose population is less than 50,000 shall be eligible for a grant under this paragraph.

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out this subsection the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(e) OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Sec-
retary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Inspector
General of the Department of Agriculture
$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, to remain available
until expended, for oversight of activities carried out
by the Department relating to drought.

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Inspector
General of the Department of Agriculture shall be
entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to
carry out this subsection the funds transferred
under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(f) EMERGENCY GRANTS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME
MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
provision of law, as soon as practicable after the
date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in
the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Sec-
retary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Sec-
retary $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to provide
emergency grants to assist low-income migrant and
seasonal farmworkers under section 2281 of the
Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a) to address impacts of
drought upon declaration of a natural disaster under
section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)) or for the same
purposes in counties that are contiguous to a designated natural disaster area.

(2) Receipt and Acceptance.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out this subsection the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(g) Emergency Forest Restoration Program.—

(1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program under section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) to address impacts of drought or wildfire upon declaration of a natural disaster under section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a)) or for the same purposes in counties that are contiguous to a designated natural disaster area.

(2) Receipt and Acceptance.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and
shall use to carry out this subsection the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further ap-
propriation.

TITLE III—FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF DROUGHT UNDER THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER RELIEF AND EMER-
GENCY ASSISTANCE ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the term “major disaster” (as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)) includes drought, yet no drought in the 30 years preceding the date of enactment of this Act has been declared by the President to be a major disaster in any of the States in accordance with section 401 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(2) a major drought shall be eligible to be de-
clared a major disaster or state of emergency by the President on the request of the Governor of any State;

(3) droughts are natural disasters that do occur, and while of a different type of impact, the scale of the impact of a major drought can be equiv-
alent to other disasters that have been declared by
the President to be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); and

(4) droughts have wide-ranging and long-term impacts on ecosystem health, agriculture production, permanent crops, forests, waterways, air quality, public health, wildlife, employment, communities, State and national parks, and other natural resources of a State and the people of that State that have significant value.

(b) Amendment.—Section 502(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5192(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) provide disaster unemployment assistance in accordance with section 410;

“(10) provide emergency nutrition assistance in accordance with section 412; and

“(11) provide crisis counseling assistance in accordance with section 416.”.
TITLE IV—EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS

SEC. 401. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.