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**Statement of  
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Before the  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
on the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget  
May 20th, 2026**

Thank you, Chair Kennedy, Ranking Member Murray, and members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify in support of President Trump's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Project and discuss the President's vision to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous through the delivery of water and power. I am Andrea Travnicek, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation manages and delivers water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses; supports flood control and recreation; and produces hydropower across the Western United States. Reclamation projects and programs serve as the backbone of the West's water and power infrastructure and are a driver of economic activity across hundreds of river basins. Reclamation's activities support economic output valued at approximately \$34 billion annually and sustain more than 450,000 jobs. Each year, Reclamation delivers roughly 10 trillion gallons of water, irrigates approximately 10 million acres of farmland—supporting about 25 percent of the Nation's fruit and nut production and 60 percent of its vegetable harvest—and generates reliable hydropower that supports regional electric grids.

Reclamation's core mission is grounded in maintaining assets that provide safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the western United States. Specifically, Reclamation's work includes the operation and maintenance of Federal water and power infrastructure; the responsible management of natural resources; the application of sound science and engineering to inform operational decision-making; and the execution of Congressionally authorized programs in accordance with Federal and State law. Reclamation carries out these responsibilities across 17 Western States—Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming—and works closely with water and power customers, tribes, states, and local partners to deliver authorized benefits efficiently and cost-effectively,

with priority given to contractual obligations to our stakeholders as well as efforts required by law.

Reclamation's FY 2027 Budget advances the Trump Administration's goals of improving water access, reliability, and affordability for farmers across the Western states. Moreover, the Administration remains committed to ensuring reliable and affordable hydropower rates for power users. Reclamation continues to seriously engage with stakeholders along the Colorado River and other key basins, and Reclamation continues to explore how best to utilize resources in support of these goals.

For FY 2027, Reclamation requests \$1,274,951,000 in gross discretionary appropriations. Of this total, \$1,112,000,000 is requested for the Water and Related Resources account, \$64,000,000 for the Policy and Administration account, and \$32,000,000 for the California Bay-Delta account. The request also includes \$66,951,000 for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund. Discretionary appropriations are supplemented by non-discretionary and partner funding that supports the execution of authorized projects and programs.

In addition to the request for Reclamation, the FY 2027 Budget requests \$17 million for the Central Utah Project Completion Act program. The Budget supports funding for continued construction of the Utah Lake Drainage Basin and Delivery System, the final component of the project. The funding supports continued construction of the Spanish Fork-Santaquin Pipeline and design of the Santaquin – Mona Pipeline. Funding is also provided for the Mitigation Commission for the purpose of continued implementation of mitigation commitments for fish, wildlife, and recreation as identified in project planning documents and Title III of CUPCA.

### **Water Supply Management and Conservation**

Reclamation works with states, tribes, irrigation districts, and municipalities to improve water management efficiency and address imbalances between water supply and demand. Activities include cost-shared planning, design, and construction of water management improvements; water reuse and recycling projects; basin-level studies; and drought planning and response actions. These efforts are focused on improving system performance, reducing operational risk, and supporting reliable water deliveries under a wide range of hydrologic conditions.

In addition to the FY 2027 Budget, Reclamation continues to utilize existing resources to support its water supply management and conservation activities. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act signed into law by President Trump, Public Law 119-21, provided \$1 billion to Reclamation for construction of water storage and conveyance facilities. To date, Reclamation has allocated \$889 million to support modernizing western water infrastructure and improving storage capacity, including \$540 million for California, \$100 million for Utah, and \$30 million for Idaho. One notable example is the \$40 million specifically dedicated to planning and preconstruction activities associated with raising Shasta Dam. Moreover, funding from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will also be used to construct a conveyance and pump storage project for the Lewiston

Orchards area in northern Idaho, and to replace the 110-year-old Strawberry Highline Canal in South Utah County, Utah with an enclosed pipeline to improve safety and water delivery efficiency.

Also, Reclamation continues to execute balances from prior year funding to bolster conservation activities in the Colorado River, including efforts which have resulted in at least 3.4-million-acre feet of additional water in Lake Mead.

Additionally, Reclamation funds are being applied to infrastructure projects that address deferred maintenance, improve water delivery reliability, enhance dam safety, and strengthen system performance. Reclamation has selected hundreds of projects nationwide and is implementing them through established program authorities.

Reclamation is also implementing drought-related funding. These resources support near-term and medium-term actions to stabilize water supplies in drought-affected basins, including voluntary conservation agreements, water management improvements, and infrastructure investments. In the Colorado River Basin, Reclamation has executed agreements with water delivery contractors and entitlement holders that have resulted in measurable reductions in system demand and improved operational flexibility at critical reservoirs. Reclamation continues to focus these resources on actions that deliver measurable operational benefits and protect existing Federal investments.

### **Tribal Programs**

Reclamation administers a range of Congressionally authorized programs that support tribal access to reliable drinking water, as well as long-term water management capacity. Reclamation continues to coordinate closely with tribes, states, and other stakeholders on these activities, ensuring successful and durable impacts for communities.

### **Dam Safety**

Reclamation owns and manages extensive water and power infrastructure across the West, including reservoirs, canals, pumping plants, and hydroelectric facilities. Maintaining the safety, reliability, and performance of these assets is a core Federal responsibility. Notably, Reclamation manages 491 dams, including 364 dams classified as high or significant hazard. Many of these facilities were constructed prior to the adoption of modern engineering standards. Through its Dam Safety Program, Reclamation conducts continuous monitoring, risk assessment, and corrective actions to ensure risks remain within Federal safety guidelines. The Budget funds work on Reclamation's planned dam safety projects, such as at the B.F. Sisk dam within the Central Valley Project, to reduce the most significant risks. These investments protect downstream communities, safeguard water supplies, and preserve hydropower generation capabilities.

Reclamation continues to prioritize Dam Safety investments using a risk-informed framework that focuses funding on facilities with the greatest potential consequences to public safety, water

supply reliability, and the Federal hydropower system. This approach ensures that resources are applied where they provide the greatest risk-reduction benefit while maintaining compliance with Federal dam safety guidelines.

### **Facilities Maintenance and Rehabilitation**

Reclamation's maintenance and facility rehabilitation activities address aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance across both reserved works and transferred works facilities. Funding decisions are informed by condition assessments, performance metrics, and asset management data. These investments extend asset life, reduce long-term costs, and ensure continued delivery of authorized project benefits.

Reclamation reports its Major Rehabilitation and Replacement activities to Congress through the biennial Reclamation Asset Management Report. The most recent report, provided to Congress in March 2025, identified over 2,400 such activities planned over the next 30 years.

### **Aging Infrastructure Account**

The Aging Infrastructure Account supports partnerships with non-Federal operating entities to rehabilitate Federal infrastructure through extended repayment mechanisms. Funds repaid to the account are available for expenditure without further appropriation to support future infrastructure rehabilitation while protecting Federal ownership interests.

### **Hydropower and Energy Operations**

Reclamation owns 77 hydroelectric power plants and operates 53 of those facilities, producing approximately 14 percent of the Nation's hydroelectric generation. Annual generation averages roughly 40 million megawatt-hours, producing more than \$1 billion in gross power revenues for the Federal Government. Reclamation's power operations support electric reliability across the West and provide cost-based power to preference customers. Reclamation's power operations support electric reliability across the West and provide cost-based power to preference customers. Funding supports operations, maintenance, and compliance activities necessary to sustain hydropower performance. Reclamation is implementing the Hydropower Action Plan developed in 2025 that prioritizes capital improvements at hydropower facilities, efforts to simplify and streamline permitting for federal and non-federal projects, and the use of advanced monitoring and analytics to reduce downtime and increase output. Collectively, these actions aim to expand hydropower capacity, reduce costs, and strengthen grid resilience. Reclamation also works with partners to implement non-Federal hydropower projects where the development doesn't conflict with current facility authorized purposes and resultant operations.

### **Environmental Compliance Responsibilities**

Reclamation carries out its operations in compliance with Federal environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. These activities are statutorily required for the continued operation of authorized water and power projects. Funding supports required recovery and compliance programs associated with major water projects such

as the Central Valley Project, the Colorado River system, and Columbia and Snake River facilities. These activities are integral to continued project operations and the delivery of authorized water and power benefits.

### **Account-Level Overview**

The FY 2027 budget allocates resources based on objective, performance-based criteria to support Reclamation's operation and maintenance of its highest-priority water infrastructure.

#### **Water and Related Resources: \$1,112,000,000**

The Water and Related Resources account supports five major program areas, organized under Resources Management and Development and Operations, Maintenance and Rehabilitation.

- Resources Management and Development (RMD)
  - Water and Energy Management and Development supports the management, development, and implementation of water supplies and hydropower resources, including water delivery operations, drought response activities, and applied science and engineering. In FY 2027, \$19.5 million under RMD supports implementation of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, including authorized water supply reliability actions and basin-scale management activities associated with the Yakima Integrated Plan. Also, \$31.5 million supports Reclamation's role as water master, including development of annual operating plans, coordination of Lake Powell and Lake Mead operations, administration of shortage and surplus determinations, and implementation of drought contingency and conservation actions.
  - Land Management and Development supports stewardship and management of Reclamation-administered lands and real property interests, including land use planning, cultural and natural resource protection, land records management, and compliance with applicable Federal requirements.
  - Fish and Wildlife Management and Development supports environmental compliance and implementation of Congressionally authorized fish and wildlife mitigation, restoration, and recovery activities necessary to sustain continued operation of Reclamation projects. In the Columbia and Snake River basins, \$13.0 million supports fish and wildlife mitigation and recovery activities associated with Reclamation facilities, including efforts to address impacts to anadromous fish populations. For the Central Valley Project, \$37.3 million supports CVP, Environmental Compliance and Ecosystem Development program activities required to operate CVP facilities in accordance with biological opinions and other regulatory requirements. These activities include implementation of habitat restoration, fish passage and screening measures, flow and operational actions,

monitoring, and coordination with Federal and State resource agencies to sustain project operations while protecting listed species.

- Operations, Maintenance and Rehabilitation
  - Facility Operations funds the operation of Reclamation’s water and power infrastructure and supports the Federal workforce required to deliver authorized water, power, flood control, recreation, and environmental benefits in compliance with law. For the Central Valley Project, \$79.7 million supports facility operations, including execution of water service and power contracts, operation of conveyance and storage facilities, and operation of fisheries laboratories and monitoring facilities required to support environmental compliance and project operations. Funding ensures continuous coordination of water deliveries and operational responsiveness across the CVP system. On the Lower Colorado River, \$53.1 million supports operation of dams, diversion structures, and related facilities that deliver water to entitlement holders in Arizona, California, and Nevada. Activities include routine operations, inspection and maintenance of facilities, and support for system-wide coordination necessary to meet interstate and international delivery obligations.
  - Facility Maintenance and Rehabilitation supports extraordinary maintenance, major rehabilitation, and replacement activities to address aging infrastructure, reduce risk, and ensure the long-term safety and reliability of Reclamation facilities. Dam Safety is a principal driver within this program area. \$147.3 million supports Reclamation’s Dam Safety Program, including \$44.0 million for Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams, \$102.0 million to initiate and advance corrective action projects, and \$1.3 million for participation in the Department of the Interior Dam Safety Program. These activities focus on identifying, prioritizing, and reducing risk at high- and significant-hazard dams, ensuring continued compliance with Federal safety standards and protection of downstream communities, water supplies, and economic activity. Reclamation continues to prioritize dam safety activities using risk-informed decision-making and will advance corrective actions at the highest-risk facilities as resources allow.

Together, these activities support the safe, reliable, and legally compliant operation of Federal water and power infrastructure. Water and Related Resources represents Reclamation’s largest principal operating account for discretionary resources.

### **Central Valley Project Restoration Fund (CVPRF): \$66,951,000**

This fund was established by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Title XXXIV of P.L. 102-575, October 30, 1992, to protect, restore, and enhance fish, wildlife, and associated habitats in the Central Valley and Trinity River Basins of California and to mitigate impacts of the Central Valley Project. The budget of \$66.951 million is expected to be offset by discretionary receipts based on what can be collected from project beneficiaries under provisions of Section 3407(d) of the Act. The discretionary receipts are not to exceed \$30.0 million (October 1992 price levels) on a three-year rolling average basis. The budget was developed after considering

the effects of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009), which redirects certain fees, estimated at \$2.0 million in FY 2027, collected from the Friant Division water users to the San Joaquin Restoration Fund.

**California Bay-Delta Restoration Fund: \$32,000,000**

The California Bay-Delta Restoration Fund supports Reclamation's California Bay-Delta Restoration Program that focuses on improving water supply reliability and restoring ecosystems within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and its tributaries. This program is a key component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program authorized by the CALFED Bay-Delta Restoration Act (P.L. 108-361), as amended. Multiple Federal agencies participate in the implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program as outlined in the August 28, 2000, Record of Decision (ROD) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report. The FY 2027 Budget continues to support Reclamation's activities in improving water supply reliability and restoring the Delta ecosystem.

**Policy and Administration: \$64,000,000**

Policy and Administration (P&A) supports centralized implementation of bureau-wide policy, oversight, and administrative functions that cannot be efficiently or appropriately charged to individual projects or program accounts. This funding supports consistent implementation of laws, regulations, and performance management requirements across Reclamation's regional, area, and program offices, as well as shared services across the Bureau. These activities ensure sound stewardship of taxpayer resources and strengthen internal controls and oversight of the agency's execution of its Congressionally authorized water and power programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to summarize the President's FY 2027 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation.