



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 20, 2000

H.R. 3986

A bill to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington

As reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 19, 2000

SUMMARY

The Kennewick and Columbia Irrigation Districts in Washington use water diverted from the Yakima River. H.R. 3986 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study, prepare an environmental assessment, and acquire right-of-way areas necessary to divert water from the Columbia River rather than the Yakima River to meet the needs of these irrigation districts.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3986 would cost \$6 million over the 2001-2003 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting H.R. 3986 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 3986 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3986 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	6	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	2	3	0	0

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that the feasibility study and the environmental assessment authorized by the bill would cost \$4 million, and that the acquisition of right-of-way areas for this water diversion project would cost \$2 million.

Current law authorizes the appropriation of \$4 million for an electrification project at the Chandler pumping plant. Although H.R. 3986 authorizes the exchange of water as an alternative to this electrification project, appropriated funds for the electrification project have already been spent by the bureau to study this project and on other activities. Consequently, H.R. 3986 appears to provide new authority to study the exchange of water from the Yakima to the Columbia River and for the acquisition of right-of-way areas.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3986 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local or tribal governments.

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