



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 20, 2004

### **H.R. 1598**

### **Irvine Basin Surface and Groundwater Improvement Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on February 11, 2004*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1598 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Irvine Ranch Water District, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat surface water, reclaim groundwater, and dispose of brine in the San Diego Creek Watershed. The act would limit the federal share of all project costs to 25 percent.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1598 would cost \$19 million over the 2005-2009 period. Enacting H.R. 1598 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1598 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Enacting this legislation would benefit local governments, particularly the Irvine Ranch Water District and nearby city and county governments. These governments would incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this act, but these costs would be voluntary.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1598 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	5	5	5	4	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	7	5	3

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## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1598 will be enacted before the end of fiscal year 2004 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated in each fiscal year starting in 2005. Based on information about the plans for this project from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost \$19 million over the 2005-2009 period.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1598 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Enacting this legislation would benefit local governments, particularly the Irvine Ranch Water District and nearby city and county governments. These governments would incur some costs to match the federal funds authorized by this act, but these costs would be voluntary.

## **PREVIOUS ESTIMATE**

On October 6, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1598 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 24, 2003. Except for a change in the assumed enactment date, the cost estimates are identical.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Julie Middleton

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Selena Caldera

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis