



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 23, 2000

H.R. 3236

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Utah, to use Weber Basin Project facilities for the impounding, storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 7, 2000

H.R. 3236 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District for impounding, storing, or carrying nonproject water using the facilities of the federally operated Weber Basin Project in Utah. The bill also would allow the Secretary to enter into contracts for using facilities at the Weber Basin Project to exchange water among project contractors. Under current law, the federal government may not use its facilities to move nonproject water for nonproject purposes.

H.R. 3236 would not require the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to reimburse the federal government for the full cost of handling nonproject water. Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, however, CBO expects that the Secretary of the Interior would only use the new authority to enter into contracts with the district that would fully reimburse the government. Under H.R. 3236, the federal government would receive reimbursement from the district, and would incur the costs of handling the nonproject water. CBO estimates that the costs of handling the nonproject water would be less than \$500,000 each year. Because H.R. 3236 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

H.R. 3236 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Summit County, and Park City, Utah, by facilitating water delivery agreements between these governments. The district might incur some costs under the contracts authorized by this bill, but these costs would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Rachel Applebaum (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.