



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 18, 2000

**H.R. 4847
Reclamation Reform Refund Act of 2000**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000

H.R. 4847 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million to refund certain payments made by water districts to the Bureau of Reclamation (bureau) before January 1, 1994. Until that time, the bureau charged the full cost of providing irrigation water, rather than a reduced rate, to those water districts whose customers failed to file the appropriate forms. Currently, the bureau assesses a \$260 fee for failure to file such forms.

This bill would authorize and direct the bureau to refund the difference between the full cost rate and the reduced rate for providing irrigation water, less a \$260 fee, to certain districts with customers who did not complete the bureau's required paperwork prior to January 1, 1994. Based on information from the bureau, CBO estimates that about 80 districts would be owed a total of about \$650,000 under the refund formula specified in the bill. Hence, although the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million, we estimate that implementing the bill would cost about \$1 million in 2001.

H.R. 4847 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would benefit some water districts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lisa Cash Driskill. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.