

SEC. _____. WATER SUPPLY RULE.

(a) Applicability of Certain Provisions of Law.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 708), shall not apply to a project in a State located wholly or partly west of the 98th meridian, except that nothing in this section affects or interferes with a contract authorized under that section 6 in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Easement for Access to Corps Reservoirs.—In accordance with the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 701–1), the Secretary shall allow access to project reservoirs located in States located wholly or partly west of the 98th meridian for purposes of appropriating water for beneficial uses pursuant to State law.

(c) Application of State Law for Impounding Water in Storage Space in Reservoir Projects.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the policy set forth in section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b), the impoundment of water in storage space in a project reservoir in a State located wholly or partly west of the 98th meridian for present or anticipated future demand or need for municipal, industrial, or other beneficial uses shall proceed in conformity with applicable laws of the applicable State relating to the control, appropriation, use, or distribution of water.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this subsection affects or interferes with a contract authorized under section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b) that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) Savings Provision.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 708), or section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b) may be interpreted or applied to interfere with the laws of any State relating to the control, appropriation, use, or distribution of water, or any vested right acquired under a State law.

(2) INTERSTATE STREAMS.—Nothing in this section affects the right of the Federal Government, a State, or a landowner, appropriator, or user of water to use any interstate stream or the water of an interstate stream.