

Desalination Drought Protection Act of 2005 (HR 1071)

The Desalination Drought Protection Act of 2005 will accelerate the development of both seawater and brackish water desalination projects by establishing a new performance based, competitive grant program within the Department of Energy that will provide energy assistance grants to eligible desalination projects. High energy costs pose the greatest financial burden associated with desalination. In fact, nearly 40% of the cost of desalinated water is a result of energy costs. H.R. 1071 will provide energy assistance grants of \$0.62 cents per thousand gallons of desalinated water produced and sold to competitively selected projects for a limited term of ten years. Although this will result in a Federal cost-share of only approximately 18% of the total cost, it will dramatically increase the financial viability of both seawater and brackish water desalination projects for the local sponsors.