

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT FOR
H.R. 2898
OFFERED BY MS. LORETTA SANCHEZ OF
CALIFORNIA**

Page 92, after line 19, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . WESTERN DROUGHT RELIEF STRATEGIC TASK**
2 **FORCE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an inde-
5 pendent task force, which shall be known as the
6 Western Drought Relief Strategic Task Force (Task
7 Force).

8 (2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

9 (A) review the impact of the California and
10 southwest drought on the United States econ-
11 omy, agriculture, food prices, employment, en-
12 ergy, and other related factors;

13 (B) review climate predictions of authori-
14 tative sources regarding the likely length and
15 severity of the drought, including but not lim-
16 ited to research at institutions of higher learn-
17 ing and other related sources;

1 (C) evaluate how current policies, strate-
2 gies, state of emergency and other related pro-
3 grams by State and Federal agencies are miti-
4 gating the impact of the drought;

5 (D) investigate current innovative water
6 use efficiency projects throughout the State
7 that are effectively improving water supply and
8 access, such as groundwater systems, desalina-
9 tion plants, rainwater capture systems, reclama-
10 tion and reuse programs;

11 (E) evaluate the costs and investments re-
12 quired to implement and expand the projects in-
13 vestigated in subparagraph (D);

14 (F) evaluate the impact of the drought on
15 vulnerable populations including the impact of
16 public health on agricultural based commu-
17 nities, vulnerable populations, including children
18 and seniors; and

19 (G) evaluate and make recommendations
20 on how to alleviate said impacts reviewed in
21 subparagraph (A) and construct a national, co-
22 ordinated policy to prepare for and respond to
23 the urgency needed in dealing with the drought;
24 including short-term immediate solutions and

1 long-term solutions to State water infrastruc-
2 ture, and for other purposes.

3 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretaries of the Inte-
4 rior, Agriculture, and Commerce (Secretaries) shall
5 appoint members to the Task Force and shall be
6 comprised of individuals from Federal, State, and
7 local agencies as well as community stakeholders and
8 institutions of higher learning with expertise in
9 water regulation, conservation, agriculture, and envi-
10 ronmental infrastructure.

11 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
12 its first meeting, the Task Force shall submit to the
13 Secretaries and the appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees a final report containing—

15 (A) findings with respect to the duties of
16 the Task Force; and

17 (B) recommendations for best practices on
18 water regulation, conservation, environmental
19 infrastructure, agriculture, and other related
20 strategies and policies, including a rec-
21 ommendation as to whether the Task Force
22 should continue to operate.

