

BREAKING: Valadao introduces dam-raising bill

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Reporter

Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, introduced legislation Friday in the U.S. House of Representatives that would raise the elevation of dams to increase California's water storage capability.

HR 2749 would allow the Secretary of the Interior to consider increased water storage possibilities as part of regular reviews of the maintenance needs of the state's aging dams.

California is now deep into the fourth year of a punishing drought that is draining above and below-ground water supplies.

Proposals for new dams or higher dams have met with opposition from the state's environmental organizations, which tend to emphasize conservation over expanded surface water storage that would fill more river valleys and douse more wildlife habitat.

"While government cannot make it rain, Congress can expand our water infrastructure and storage to ensure a reliable water supply for future years," Valadao said in a statement.

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