

S 1277

Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: May 1, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (May 1, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1277>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		May 1, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 1, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2459	Identical bill	Jun 26, 2019: Subcommittee Hearings Held.

Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2019

This bill modifies and ratifies the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement agreement negotiated between the tribe, the United States, Arizona, and others, thus satisfying the tribe's claims for groundwater and surface water rights to water in Arizona, including the Verde River, the Bill Williams River, and the Colorado River.

The bill outlines the tribe's water rights, including the right to divert, use, and store 4,000 acre-feet of agricultural priority water of the Central Arizona Project that was previously allocated to nontribal agricultural entities, but retained by the Department of the Interior for reallocation to tribes in Arizona pursuant to the Central Arizona Project Settlement Act of 2004.

The Bureau of Reclamation must construct the Hualapai Water Project. The project must be designed to divert, treat, and convey at least 3,414 acre-feet of water per year from the Colorado River for municipal, commercial, and industrial uses on the Hualapai Reservation.

The bill provides for land to be added to the reservation and taken into trust for the benefit of the tribe. In the future, land located outside the reservation may only be taken into trust through an act of Congress.

The bill outlines (1) waivers, releases, and retentions of claims by the tribe and the United States under the settlement agreement; and (2) a limited waiver of sovereign immunity by the United States and the tribe with respect to certain claims.

Actions Timeline

- **May 1, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 1, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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