

District boundary adjustments or transfer of water rights to other acres within the District generally do not require legislation. These changes do not affect repayment ability by the District, impact the operation and maintenance of project facilities, or change the assessment base of the District. These proposed changes are typically approved after environmental compliance requirements have been met.

On the other hand, changes in the size of the District that either individually or cumulatively affects water rights, Consensus Plan, repayment ability, operation and maintenance, or repayment obligations of the District are not generally straightforward. These actions could be of such magnitude that the nature of the Reclamation project, irrigation debt service, aid-to irrigation, and financial viability of Districts could be affected.

Proposals for downsizing or removing acres from a District need to be considered on a case by case basis. If the District would like Reclamation to consider a proposal for downsizing, then a detailed proposal should be submitted in writing. At that time, we could work with your District in the development of a plan that could be the basis for your pursuing necessary legislation. The development of a plan to downsize or remove acres from the District is the first step. With respect to drafting legislation, I would like to clarify that Reclamation drafts legislation in response to a request from a senator or congressperson.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Ronshaugen at 308-389-5300.

Sincerely,

ALICE E. JOHNS

Alice E. Johns
Area Manager

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