

Obama proposes new approaches to Western water shortages

By Carolyn Lochhead, San Francisco Chronicle

WASHINGTON – Spurning dams for research in water technology, President Obama laid out a striking contrast Tuesday to the strategies adopted by California lawmakers in both parties on how to remedy Western water shortages.

In a final budget plan that was dead even before its arrival on Capitol Hill, the administration's vision of investing \$269 million in research on water desalination, recycling and efficiency will find little traction in the Republican-controlled Congress.

But it does lay out an alternative to the dams, water tunnels and other giant building projects that Gov. Jerry Brown, Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and Central Valley House Republicans have embraced to varying degrees.

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