

Calif. water bill has three possible paths

By Michael Doyle, McClatchy Washington Bureau

House Republicans this week are adding a controversial California water bill to an unrelated Senate energy package, opening a new front in a fight that's already put Democrats on the defensive.

The unexpected energy bill maneuver gives San Joaquin Valley lawmakers a third vehicle they might propel all the way to the White House. At the least, it builds up steam for the GOP drive to boost California water storage and divert more irrigation deliveries to Valley farms.

Today, the leadership-controlled House Rules Committee is scheduled to pack the California water bill and about three dozen other bills onto the Senate energy legislation. The full House will then take up the massive package, spanning more than 1,000 pages, later this week.

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