

**Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
May 15, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

Oversight Hearing on
“U.S. Department of the Interior Budget and Policy Priorities for FY 2020.”

Questions from Rep. Cox for David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior

1. Thank you for your Department’s work on increasing the CVP allocations last month to 65 percent. It’s great that we’re having a wet water year and it’s important to bank for the future, however I hope to that Reclamation will revise that number up. In fact, in the days following your hearing between eight and fifteen inches of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley received some welcome rainfall. Historically, in wet years like this, there has been a higher—even 100 percent—allocation for south of the Delta water users. What were the factors prohibiting the Bureau of Reclamation from setting a higher allocation and what steps is the Department taking to ensure future years like this result in the highest possible allocations?
2. The final biological opinions for the CVP and California State Water Project are due out next month. What additional resources has your department made available to ensure the biops are adequately completed in time? Is there a process in place between the agencies to resolve conflicting requirements that may come out of the draft biological opinions?