

Feinstein's drought package splits from GOP strategy

By Carolyn Lochhead, San Francisco Chronicle

WASHINGTON – California Sen. Dianne Feinstein introduced a sweeping drought bill Wednesday that takes a much broader approach to the state's water shortages than her failed effort last year to work almost exclusively with House Republicans to deliver more water to San Joaquin Valley farmers.

Feinstein's new measure is important for one big reason: Feinstein introduced it. The state's senior senator has made herself an authority on California water policy, and no bill dealing with the state's drought has much chance of passage without her approval.

In contrast to a recently passed House measure that focuses mainly on getting water to valley farms – and rolling back environmental protections to do it – Feinstein included something for almost everyone.

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