

In August of 1965, Congress enacted P. L. 89-118 which expanded and accelerated the saline water conversion program and included technical development work on modules, components, and pilot plants. The law authorized an appropriation of \$90 million--plus additional sums not to exceed \$189 million--to carry out the program during fiscal years 1967-72.

In 1967, the enactment of P. L. 90-18 authorized the construction and operation of a large dual-purpose prototype sea water desalting plant in partnership with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Also participating in the project were two private power utilities and the Department of Water and Power of the City of Los Angeles. The project failed to carry forward because of estimated cost increases which would have resulted in the project not being economical. An amendment to the 1967 Act strengthened the concept of test beds and prototype plants as steps in process development and designated the former demonstration plants as test beds.

In this same year, Senator Howard H. Baker of Tennessee introduced Senate Resolution 155. By its passage on December 12, 1967, the Senate expressed a strong concern to see desalting technology used to achieve peace in the Middle East as originally proposed in the Eisenhower/Strauss plan.