

TUALATIN RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT
ACT OF 2003

NOVEMBER 17, 2003.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 625]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (S. 625) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 625 is to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, and for other purposes.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

This Act provides authority to the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to determine alternatives available for developing additional water resources in the Tualatin River Basin. The Tualatin River watershed drains 711 square miles in northwestern Oregon. The watershed has seen a number of changes in recent years that influence water resources management.

According to an Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy developed in 1997 by the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Partnership, there is region-wide consensus on the need to develop additional water sources, and various efforts aimed at such developments are underway. This area has a population of approximately 470,000 people, and has almost doubled its population in the last 20 years. Demand for water in the Tualatin Basin is expected to

double by the year 2050, which means the basin will need an additional 50,000 acre-feet per year. The Strategy identified the need for a Feasibility Study to study the impacts and benefits of a range of water source options to meet the long-term water resource needs for drinking water, agricultural irrigation, water quality, and instream flow.

The total cost of completing the Feasibility Study (Planning Report/Final Environmental Impact Statement) is estimated to be \$6.87 million. The majority of funds, \$3.8 million (55%), will be provided by local water resource agencies. The request for federal funding assistance is \$2.9 million (45%).

COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 625 was introduced by Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR). On June 16, 2003, the Senate passed the bill with an amendment by unanimous consent. S. 625 was then referred to the Committee on Resources and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. On October 15, 2003, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On October 29, 2003, the Full Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

SECTION-BY-SECTION

Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the “Tualatin River Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2003.”

Section 2. Authorization to conduct feasibility studies

This section describes the objectives of the feasibility study are to (1) identify ways to meet future water needs for multiple water use purposes; (2) identify water conservation opportunities and water storage measures; (3) identify measures to improve water quality, enhance the environment, and protect species; and (4) evaluate basin-wide and integrated water resource management options. The federal share of the costs shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of total, which shall be non-reimbursable and non-returnable.

Section 3. Authorization of appropriations

This section authorizes such funds as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill is to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies in the Tualatin River Basin in Oregon, and for other purposes.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 625, the Tualatin River Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2003.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Lanette J. Walker.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 625—Tualatin River Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2003

S. 625 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a feasibility study of the Tualatin River Basin water supply. The study would identify ways to meet future water supply needs and to improve water quality, as well as water conservation and storage measures.

Based on information from the bureau, CBO estimates that the total cost of the feasibility study would be \$7 million. Under the act, 50 percent of the cost would be paid by the federal government. To date, the bureau has spent about \$200,000 on initial parts of the study. CBO estimates that implementing S. 625 would cost an additional \$3 million over the 2004–2008 period, assuming the

availability of appropriated funds. Enacting S. 625 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 625 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any state or local government choosing to participate in this study would do so voluntarily.

On May 29, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 625 as ordered reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 21, 2003. The language of the two versions of the legislation and the two cost estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

