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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
No. 2467

AUTHORIZING WORKS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND FURNISHING OF
WATER SUPPLIES FOR WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT, LOWER
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT, CALIFORNIA

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8144]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8144) to authorize works for development and furnishing of water supplies for waterfowl management, lower San Joaquin Valley, Central Valley project, California, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 2, line 15, after the dollar sign insert the figure "400,000".

Page 2, lines 19 through 21, strike out all of section 4 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 4. Works constructed under the authorization of section 1, for the purpose of supplying State wildlife management areas with water, shall become the property of the State of California when constructed.

Page 2, lines 22 through 24, and page 3, lines 1 through 3, strike out all of section 5 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SEC. 5. Subject to the priority of deliveries of water for agricultural purposes, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to deliver between September 15 and June 1 of each year 50,000 acre-feet of water, measured at Mendota pool, to public organizations or private associations for use in maintaining waterfowl habitat in the Grasslands area of the San Joaquin Valley. Such water shall be delivered from the Central Valley Project if and when available as determined by the Secretary of the Interior at a price not to exceed \$1.50 per acre-foot. The Secretary may also construct, operate, and maintain works of the type described in section 1 of this Act and furnish water therefrom to such organizations or associations at a reasonable charge which shall take into account the cost of construction and operation and maintenance of such works.

2 AUTHORIZE WATER SUPPLIES FOR WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT

EXPLANATION AND PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct works for the development of ground water supplies and furnishing of water supplies for waterfowl management to certain State and Federal management areas of the grasslands of the San Joaquin Valley, Calif. The bill, as amended, has the additional purpose of authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to deliver water from the Central Valley project to public organizations and private associations. Delivery of water for waterfowl management purposes is to be subordinate to the priority of deliveries of water for agricultural purposes. Delivery of water from the Central Valley project for waterfowl management purposes also is to be made in the period from September 15 to June 1 of each year so as to not conflict with the primary irrigation purposes of the Central Valley project. This authorization permits the delivery of water by the Secretary of the Interior in an amount not to exceed 50,000 acre-feet per annum for which the public organizations or private associations must pay \$1.50 per acre-foot.

The legislation is supported by the California Department of Fish and Game. The details of the program are outlined in the Department of the Interior's report entitled "Waterfowl Conservation in the Lower San Joaquin Valley," dated October 1950. The report includes the results of a study made jointly by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, with the California division of fish and game participating.

This legislation will provide water supplies for the preservation of ducks and geese in the Pacific flyway. It has been estimated that 50 percent of all of the Pacific coast flight of birds winter in California.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends the passage of the bill, H. R. 8144.

