

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 870

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts to assist the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, California, to implement a Basin Management Plan for the elimination of ground water overdraft and seawater intrusion, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mr. FARR of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts to assist the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, California, to implement a Basin Management Plan for the elimination of ground water overdraft and seawater intrusion, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds and declares the following:

5 (1) A serious ground water overdraft problem
6 exists in the Pajaro Valley of Santa Cruz and Mon-
7 terey Counties, California.

1 (2) The ground water overdraft problem in the
2 Pajaro Valley has resulted in seawater intrusion and
3 water quality degradation.

4 (3) Agricultural production is the leading indus-
5 try in the Pajaro Valley, with gross receipts of more
6 than \$460,000,000 in 1994.

7 (4) The Pajaro Valley Water Management
8 Agency (in this Act referred to as the “Agency”)
9 was established by the State of California and the
10 citizens of the Pajaro Valley to eliminate the ground
11 water overdraft and preserve agricultural production.

12 (5) The Agency was directed by California stat-
13 ute to develop a comprehensive plan to stabilize
14 ground water supplies in an economically and envi-
15 ronmentally acceptable manner.

16 (6) The Agency has drafted and approved a
17 comprehensive plan, entitled the “Basin Manage-
18 ment Plan” and dated November 1993, which will,
19 when implemented, stabilize the water resources of
20 the basin and address the problems of overdraft and
21 seawater intrusion by emphasizing water conserva-
22 tion and by developing supplemental sources of
23 water.

1 (7) The Secretary of the Interior needs author-
2 ization in order to enter into contracts or agree-
3 ments to assist the Agency in implementing the
4 Basin Management Plan.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.**

6 Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the au-
7 thority of the Secretary to enter into long-term contracts
8 or agreements, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized
9 to enter into such contracts or agreements as the Sec-
10 retary shall deem necessary to assist the Pajaro Valley
11 Water Management Agency to implement the provisions
12 of the Basin Management Plan, dated November 1993,
13 to prevent long-term ground water overdraft, land subsid-
14 ence, and water quality degradation in Santa Cruz and
15 Monterey Counties, California.

○