

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9826

To modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National
Wildlife Refuge, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “San Pablo Bay Na-
5 tional Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. BOUNDARY MODIFICATION, ACQUISITION, AND AD-**
7 **MINISTRATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be included within the
9 boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge the approxi-
10 mately 5,658 acres of lands, marshes, tidal flats, salt

1 ponds, submerged lands, and open waters generally de-
2 picted on the Map as “Proposed Boundary Expansion
3 Area”.

4 (b) MAP.—

5 (1) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary may make
6 clerical and typographical corrections to the Map.

7 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; EFFECT.—The Map
8 and any corrections made to the Map under para-
9 graph (1) shall—

10 (A) be publicly available on the website of
11 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

12 (B) be on file and available for public in-
13 spection in the appropriate offices of the United
14 States Fish and Wildlife Service, including the
15 office located at 2100 Sears Point Road,
16 Sonoma, California 95476; and

17 (C) have the same force and effect as if in-
18 cluded in this Act.

19 (c) ACQUISITION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
21 land, water, or interests therein, including conserva-
22 tion easements, within the boundaries of the Na-
23 tional Wildlife Refuge, as modified by this Act, by
24 donation, purchase from willing sellers with donated
25 or appropriated funds, or exchange.

1 (2) NO USE OF CONDEMNATION OR EMINENT
2 DOMAIN.—The Secretary may not acquire any of the
3 land, water, or interests therein under this section or
4 for the purposes of this Act by condemnation or emi-
5 nent domain.

6 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing
7 rights, the Secretary shall administer the lands, waters,
8 and interests therein acquired under this section—

9 (1) as part of the National Wildlife Refuge; and

10 (2) in accordance with—

11 (A) the National Wildlife Refuge System
12 Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd
13 et seq.); and

14 (B) this Act.

15 (e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS REGARDING NON-
16 FEDERAL LANDS.—The Secretary may enter into cooper-
17 ative agreements with the State of California or any agen-
18 cy or political subdivision thereof and with any other per-
19 son for the voluntary co-management of lands owned by
20 such State, agency, subdivision, or person and located
21 within or adjoining the boundaries of the National Wildlife
22 Refuge, as modified by this Act.

23 (f) TRANSFER FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
24 Any Federal property located within or adjoining the
25 boundaries of the National Wildlife Refuge, as modified

1 by this Act, that is under the administrative jurisdiction
2 of a department or agency of the Federal Government
3 other than the Department of the Interior may, with the
4 mutual concurrence of the head of the administering de-
5 partment or agency and the Secretary, be transferred
6 without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of
7 the Secretary for the purposes of this Act.

8 (g) PRIORITY USES.—In providing opportunities for
9 compatible fish and wildlife dependent recreation, the Sec-
10 retary, in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4) of sec-
11 tion 4(a) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Adminis-
12 tration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(a)), shall ensure
13 that hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography,
14 and environmental education and interpretation are pri-
15 ority public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge.

16 (h) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that the Secretary should acquire land, water, or in-
18 terests therein, including conservation easements, from
19 willing sellers within or adjoining the boundaries of the
20 National Wildlife Refuge, as modified by this Act, includ-
21 ing by—

22 (1) including in each annual budget submission
23 of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31,
24 United States Code, a request for funding for Fed-
25 eral purposes from the Land and Water Conserva-

1 tion Fund established under section 200302 of title
2 54, United States Code, for such acquisition pur-
3 poses; and

4 (2) prioritizing using such funding made avail-
5 able each fiscal year for such acquisition purposes.

6 (i) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall
7 provide an opportunity for public participation in devel-
8 oping the land protection plan for the area generally de-
9 picted on the Map as “Proposed Boundary Expansion
10 Area”, giving special consideration to public and private
11 entities, individuals, and residential communities located
12 within Napa, Marin, Sonoma, and Solano Counties, Cali-
13 fornia.

14 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map ti-
16 tled “San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge
17 Boundary Modification Act” and dated July 26,
18 2024.

19 (2) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.—The term
20 “National Wildlife Refuge” means the San Pablo
21 Bay National Wildlife Refuge located in Marin,
22 Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties, California.

23 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-

1 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
2 ice.

3 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

4 Section 3 of Public Law 92–330 (86 Stat. 399) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “he” each place it appears and
7 inserting “the Secretary”;

8 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Secertary”
9 and inserting “Secretary”; and

10 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “him” and in-
11 serting “the Secretary”.

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