

bill is sponsored by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Approximately 50 percent of the Bureau of Reclamation's dams were built between 1900 and 1950 before the state-of-the-art design practices were used. With more aging dams needing corrective action, the authorization level for the Safety of Dams Program will soon be exhausted. This bill not only gives the Bureau of Reclamation added financial tools to fix these structural problems for the next 10 years but requires the agency to consult with local beneficiaries on implementing these projects. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I join my colleagues in full support of S. 1727.

Farming communities and urban areas who benefit from Bureau of Reclamation projects will now be ensured that ongoing dam safety work will continue. In addition, the Bureau will now be required to consider ways of reducing cost for new dam safety projects.

We support the passage of S. 1727.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1727.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING RECLAMATION PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1992

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1284) to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the cost of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 15, strike out "\$12,500,000" and insert "\$6,500,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1284 introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) increases the authorized Federal cost ceiling for the San Gabriel Demonstration Project by \$12.5 million. The bill, as amended, reduces the Federal share from \$12.5 million to \$6.5 million.

Local project sponsors have expressed a desire to expand the Demonstration Project, which treats contaminated groundwater and then delivers the effluent to nearby localities to justify the Federal cost ceiling increase. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, legislation to increase the spending cap imposed on the San Gabriel Basin Demonstration Project. The funding level for this program was capped at \$38 million in 1996. With the increase authorized by H.R. 1284, communities in southeast Los Angeles County are assured of continued financial support for their groundwater cleanup projects.

I extend my compliments to the gentlewoman from California for her tireless work on this bill and also wish to recognize the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER for their assistance. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, legislation to increase the spending cap imposed on the San Gabriel Basin Demonstration Project. Funding level for this program authorized in 1992 was capped at \$38 million in 1996.

I want to thank my California colleagues on the other side of the aisle—Chairman DREIER, Chairman CALVERT and Chairman POMBO—for their continued assistance to me and other Members who are working to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for their local communities. I would also like to thank Ranking Member RAHALL and Congresswoman SOLIS for their support of this bill.

H.R. 1284, if enacted, would simply allow cities of Industry, El Monte and South El Monte located in and near my district throughout Southeast Los Angeles County to have the ability to request an additional \$6.5 million in funding for assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for cleanup of volatile organic compounds or VOC's once they are able to secure 75 percent State and local matching fund.

Although the authorizing amount under this bill was decreased from \$12.5 million to \$6.5

million by the Senate, local water agencies and municipalities serving residents throughout my district in the San Gabriel Valley remain supportive of this bill, and they are eager to continue their aggressive groundwater cleanup efforts with the assurance of continued Federal funding.

I urge my House colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, additional funding for the San Gabriel Valley Basin Demonstration Project.

The San Gabriel Valley is facing serious water quality and public health problems. The aquifer is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and perchlorate, or rocket-fuel. Water providers in the San Gabriel Valley draw water from the Basin, home to Superfund sites that span more than 170 square miles. Despite its contamination, the Basin is needed to provide water to more than 1.5 million people.

Our water agencies have done a wonderful job working to maintain a reliable, dependable and safe source of water, but they can not do it alone. This bill authorizes an additional \$6.5 million to expand the Basin Demonstration Project to El Monte, South El Monte, and Puente Valley.

I am proud to represent a community working so diligently to ensure long term reliability of its water supply, and I am proud that, together with Congresswoman NAPOLITANO and Congressman DREIER, that we could secure these funds to help ensure a safe, reliable and dependable source of water for southern California.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1284.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 434) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 434

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Idaho Panhandle National Forest Improvement Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 3. SALE OR EXCHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, sell or exchange any or all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the following National Forest System land and improvements:

(1) Granite/Reeder Bay, Priest Lake Parcel, T61N, R4E, Boise Principal Meridian, section 17, S½NE¼ (80 acres, more or less).

(2) North South Ski area, T43N, R3W, Boise Principal Meridian, section 13, SE¼SE¼SW¼, S½SW¼SE¼, NE¼SW¼SE¼, and SW¼SE¼SE¼ (50 acres, more or less).

(3) Shoshone work camp (including easements for utilities), T50N, R4E, Boise Principal Meridian, section 5, a portion of the S½SE¼ (19 acres, more or less).

(b) **DESCRIPTIONS.**—The Secretary may modify the descriptions in subsection (a) to correct errors or to make minor adjustments to the parcels in order to facilitate the conveyance of the parcels.

(c) **CONSIDERATION.**—Consideration for a sale or exchange of land under subsection (a)—

(1) shall be equal to the fair market value of the land; and

(2) may include cash or improved or unimproved land.

(d) **APPLICABLE LAW.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, any sale or exchange of National Forest System land under subsection (a) shall be subject to the laws applicable to the conveyance and acquisition of land for the National Forest System.

(e) **VALUATION.**—The market value of the land and the improvements to be sold or exchanged under this Act shall be determined by an appraisal that is acceptable to the Secretary and conforms with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.

(f) **CASH EQUALIZATION.**—Notwithstanding section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), the Secretary may accept a cash equalization payment in excess of 25 percent of the value of land exchanged under subsection (a).

(g) **SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may solicit offers for the sale or exchange of land under this section on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) **REJECTION OF OFFERS.**—The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(h) **METHODS OF SALE.**—The Secretary may sell land under subsection (a) at public or private sale (including at auction), in accordance with any terms, conditions, and procedures that the Secretary determines to be in the best interests of the United States.

SEC. 4. DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.

(a) **DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.**—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of a sale or the cash equalization proceeds, if any, from an exchange under section 3(a) in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a).

(b) **USE OF PROCEEDS.**—Amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation—

(1) for the acquisition of, construction of, or rehabilitation of existing facilities for, a new ranger station in the Silver Valley portion of the Panhandle National Forest; or

(2) to the extent that the amount of funds deposited exceeds the amount needed for the purpose described in paragraph (1), for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation

of other facilities in the Panhandle National Forest.

(c) **NONDISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS.**—Proceeds from the sale or exchange of land under this Act shall not be paid or distributed to States or counties under any provision of law, or otherwise treated as money received from a national forest, for purposes of—

(1) the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500);

(2) section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the "Weeks Law") (16 U.S.C. 500); or

(3) the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Land transferred to or otherwise acquired by the Secretary under this Act shall be managed in accordance with—

(1) the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the "Weeks Law") (16 U.S.C. 480 et seq.); and

(2) other laws relating to the National Forest System.

(b) **EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS.**—Part 1955 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), shall not apply to any actions taken under this Act.

(c) **WITHDRAWALS AND REVOCATIONS.**—

(1) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all land described in section 3(a) is withdrawn from—

(A) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(B) the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) **REVOCATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDERS.**—As of the date of this Act, any public land order withdrawing land described in section 3(a) from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws is revoked with respect to any portion of the land conveyed by the Secretary under this section.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate 434, introduced by Senator LARRY CRAIG, would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for national forest purposes.

This legislation would sell or exchange roughly 150 acres, comprised of three separate parcels, and deposit the proceeds in the fund established under the Sisk Act. The bill promotes good

stewardship by consolidating scattered parcels of public land while generating revenue for property improvements rather than using taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, it will finally allow for the construction of a public sewer system in the area that has been contingent on the land acquisition authorized in Senate 434.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to S. 434 and support the passage of this bill by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 434.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALASKA LAND TRANSFER ACCELERATION ACT

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1466) to facilitate the transfer of land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1466

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—STATE SELECTIONS AND CONVEYANCES

Sec. 101. Community grant selections and conveyances.
Sec. 102. Prioritization of land to be conveyed.
Sec. 103. Selection of certain reversionary interests held by the United States.
Sec. 104. Effect of hydroelectric withdrawals.
Sec. 105. Entitlement for the University of Alaska.
Sec. 106. Settlement of remaining entitlement.
Sec. 107. Effect of Federal mining claims.
Sec. 108. Land mistakenly relinquished or omitted.

TITLE II—ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

Sec. 201. Land available after selection period.
Sec. 202. Combined entitlements.
Sec. 203. Authority to convey by whole section.
Sec. 204. Conveyance of cemetery sites and historical places.