

yield of usable water, and be cheaper along the way. So something that is good for all sides.

The Federal involvement here would only be 25 percent of the entire project, as 75 percent of the cost is being carried by local public agencies. So I appreciate the support on both sides of the aisle for this project and would urge its passage.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3929, the Dana Point Desalination Project Authorization Act. My legislation will authorize Federal participation in a relatively small ocean desalination project that could have an enormous impact on the future development of desalination projects.

As our country continues to look for new sources of water, particularly in the West, the expansion of our desalinated ocean water capability is essential. While extensively utilized in other parts of the world, most notably in the Middle East, the U.S. has only recently begun to consider large-scale ocean water desalination projects. There are a number of factors that have limited the viability of desalination projects. The major issues confronting ocean desalination are the cost of producing potable water and the potential negative impacts on ocean ecosystems.

The Dana Point Desalination Project is not a typical ocean desalination project. The project will use a unique subsurface ocean intake system that will collect water that naturally seeps through the ocean floor. The system provides a number of benefits over traditional intake systems, including removing the negative impacts on marine life as well as potentially reducing the need for extensive pretreatment filtration. If constructed and successful, the system would remove various concerns expressed by environmental advocates as well as improve the feasibility of future ocean desalination projects.

The Dana Point Desalination Project, to the best of my knowledge, is the only ocean desalination project supported by the Surfrider Foundation. Their support is a direct result of the unique subsurface intake technology that avoids negative impacts to the marine ecosystem. I would like to submit a letter from the Surfrider Foundation detailing their support for the Dana Point project for the record.

The Dana Point Desalination Project could have significant regional and national benefits. H.R. 3929 simply authorizes Federal participation in the project and limits the Federal obligation to \$2.5 million to assist with preliminary engineering and environmental studies. No construction dollars are authorized in H.R. 3929.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dana Point Desalination Project and passing H.R. 3929.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION,

January 10, 2006.

Re Support for MWDOK Beach Well Feasibility Study.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I am writing on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation in support of efforts by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOK) to investigate the feasibility of sub-surface beach wells to supply seawater for ocean desalination.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people,

through conservation, activism, research and education.

In general, Surfrider Foundation believes that future demands for water supplies should first be met by fully utilizing water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and stormwater management that will capture runoff for beneficial uses. We feel very strongly that these supply alternatives combine the benefit of meeting our future water needs while simultaneously reducing polluted runoff and ocean discharges. Ocean desalination should be the lowest priority for water supply choices and only employed using the most environmentally protective methods and technology.

We are pleased to see this approach to water supply alternatives reflected in MWDOK's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan. Furthermore, we are very supportive of the measured approach MWDOK is taking toward filling a limited role for ocean desalination in their water supply portfolio. Sub-surface "feedwater" intakes for desalination will avoid the unnecessary destruction of marine life, and disruption of healthy marine ecosystems, that accompanies open ocean intakes.

We look forward to the results of the sub-surface beach well feasibility study MWDOK is proposing in Dana Point.

Sincerely,

JOE GEEVER,

Southern California Regional Manager.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers and yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of H.R. 3929.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3929, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3418) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3418

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 "Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

"SEC. 16. CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.

"(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Waco and other par-

ticipating communities in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in McLennan County, Texas.

"(b) *COST SHARE.*—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.

"(c) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(d) *SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.*—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section."

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102-575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16 the following:

"Sec. 16. Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. 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 under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3418, introduced by Congressman CHET EDWARDS, authorizes Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. As central Texas cities experience rapid population growth and increased water demand, these communities are being proactive to better utilize their existing water supplies.

This legislation is part of the effort to create new water supplies. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, we support passage of H.R. 3418. We commend Congressman CHET EDWARDS for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this important project. The city of Waco is keenly aware that additional sources of water will be required to meet future water demands.

The city has decided to meet the expected water supply shortfall in part by implementing aggressive water conservation and water recycling and reclamation programs. The water recycling project identified in this bill will be eligible for limited financial assistance under the Bureau of Reclamation's title XVI water recycling program.

Water recycling and desalinization projects are proven technologies that can help stretch limited water supplies in areas such as Texas and the West.

I want to express our full support for this legislation. I offer my congratulations to Congressman EDWARDS for his leadership.

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

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the hard-working Member from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), who works tirelessly for his district.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. UDALL for his kind comments, and both Mr. UDALL and Mr. PEARCE for their excellent floor management of all of these bills today.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and Nation have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. That is why I introduced H.R. 3418, the Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2006. This bill will authorize Federal matching funds, 25 percent Federal, 75 percent local, to help build an innovative water recycling program partnership in my home town of Waco, Texas, and several neighboring communities in McLennan County.

Instead of wasting valuable drinking water for use in factories and on golf courses, we will be able to use lower-cost recycled wastewater for those purposes and save enough drinking water for 20,000 family households in McLennan County. The bottom line is this: being good stewards of our water supply, we will reduce water costs for businesses, save central Texas taxpayers millions of dollars, encourage economic growth in our area, and improve water quality in our central Texas rivers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman POMBO and ranking member RAHALL for their support of this measure, and the subcommittee chairman, Mr. RADANOVICH, the ranking subcommittee member, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for their key role in this bill's passage. This is the kind of bipartisan effort that shows what Congress can accomplish when we work together on a bipartisan basis.

I also want to thank the mayor, city council, and staff in the cities of Waco, Lorena, Robinson, Hewitt, Woodway, Bellmead and Lacy-Lakeview for their cooperative efforts that made this bill's passage possible.

Finally, I want to extend special credit to the city of Waco, my hometown, to its city manager, Larry Groth, for his extraordinary leadership on this bill. Without his leadership, hard work and professionalism, we would not be here today. And as a citizen of Waco, I am grateful for his outstanding service to my hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan passage of H.R. 3418.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to my colleagues, Mr. EDWARDS and Mr. UDALL, for their work on this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3418, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ITALY UPON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE 2006 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 697) congratulating the people and Government of Italy, the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, the International Olympic Committee, the United States Olympic Committee, the 2006 United States Olympic Team, and all international athletes upon the successful completion of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 697

Whereas from February 17 to February 26, 2006, Turin, Italy, hosted the 2006 Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas this is the third time Italy has hosted the Olympic Games, with the prior Winter Games having been held in 1956 in Cortina d'Ampezzo and the Summer Games having been held in 1960 in Rome;

Whereas the people of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas have opened their hearts to the world, demonstrated their passions for sports, art, and culture, and strengthened the bonds between the city of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas;

Whereas the city of Turin accommodated nearly 2,600 athletes, more than 2,700 trainers and escorts, 18,000 volunteers, 9,500 members of the media, and nearly 1,000,000 spectators at 7 competition sites and 3 Olympic villages;

Whereas in light of a global terror threat, Italian authorities implemented extraordinary security measures and successfully coordinated the efforts of 10,000 police officers and 2,500 Italian military personnel, providing effective and efficient protection, while also ensuring a secure and stable environment for both athletes and spectators alike;

Whereas through the stewardship of the International Olympic Committee and the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, athletes representing 80 different countries competed in 15 disciplines of winter sport with the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, furthering the Olympic legacy of "peace between nations, equality, fair play, loyalty and respect";

Whereas well over 200 members of the United States Olympic Team participated in the Games and embodied the spirit of this Nation with resolve and determination and won 25 medals, including 9 gold medals;

Whereas 477 athletes from 39 countries competed for 9 days in March 2006 in Turin

at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, which were organized in 1948 as a venue for injured World War II veterans to compete, demonstrating not an individual's disability, but rather the individual's achievements in athleticism; and

Whereas the United States Olympic Team ranked second among all nations in the number of medals won at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and the United States Paralympic Team ranked seventh among all nations in the number of medals won at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people and Government of Italy, and specifically the people of Turin and the surrounding Alpine areas, the Torino Olympic Organizing Committee, and the International Olympic Committee on the successful completion of the 2006 Olympic Winter Games;

(2) congratulates the United States Olympic Committee, the 2006 United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and all international athletes for their outstanding performances at the 2006 Olympic Winter Games; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the thousands of volunteers and others who made the 2006 Olympic Winter Games exciting, safe, and successful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to request my colleagues' support of House Resolution 697, a resolution congratulating the people and the Government of Italy, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams, and other individuals and committees from around the world on the successful completion of the 20th Winter Olympic Games, which were held in Turin, Italy.

"Passion Lives Here" was the slogan for the Italian Winter Games. The world watched the Games from the opening to the closing ceremonies and witnessed the emotion of the event that stems from thousands of athletes and trainers from every corner of the globe participating in a competition that knows no border or political dispute.

For North and South Korea to march together for the first time during a Winter Olympics opening ceremony, although these two countries are still technically at war, the hope for continued progress toward peace among many differing nations was clearly evident.

This is what the spirit of the Olympics means for all of us for a few short