

"Sec. 16 ____ Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, California."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 122, introduced by Congressman DARRELL ISSA, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in a water recycling project with the Eastern Municipal Water District in Southern California. The project will allow the district to be less reliant on imported water.

As water demands grow and supply becomes more scarce in Southern California, this bill will help drought-proof this arid region. The infrastructure investment in this legislation will help the district as its customers transition from agriculture to urban uses. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, we on this side of the aisle support passage of H.R. 122. The majority has adequately explained this legislation, and I would simply note that the pending measure would enable the Eastern Municipal Water District to make improvements to its reclaimed water distribution system in Riverside County, California.

The Eastern Municipal Water District is the fifth largest water district in the State of California. This agency has been a leader in building water recycling projects, and this legislation is worthy of our support.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill H.R. 122.

I would like to thank Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE RADANOVICH and their staff for all their hard work in moving this bill to the floor.

My bill simply authorizes a Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, which will create a pressurized distribution system to deliver water from Eastern Municipal Water District's reclamation plants to area residents. When fully implemented it will provide greater local protection from drought and reduce the district's need to import water.

The area that the EMWD provides water for is one of the fastest growing in the country. Riverside County is facing constantly increasing pressure to find new sustainable ways to meet the areas water supply needs and to accommodate future growth. It is critical that Congress supports projects like this that will lead to an increased use of reclaimed water, especially in areas such as Southern California where the threat of shortages and drought are almost always present.

I appreciate the Resources Committee support for this bill, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 122.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 122, 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.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES WITHIN SNAKE, BOISE AND PAYETTE RIVER SYSTEMS IN IDAHO

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2563) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2563

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) *AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, is authorized to conduct feasibility studies on projects that address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and deemed appropriate for further study by the 2006 Bureau of Reclamation Boise Payette water storage assessment report. Studies conducted under this section must comply with Bureau of Reclamation policy standards and guidelines for studies.

(b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior \$3,000,000 to carry out this section.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers 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 California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 2563, introduced by Congressman BUTCH OTTER, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct feasibility studies to address water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho.

Water demands for agriculture, power generation, endangered species requirements and municipal needs are constantly growing and may quickly surpass the supply without long-term planning. It is anticipated that water demand in this region of Idaho will grow by 75 percent in the next 20 years, and new water supplies need to be found to meet these growing demands. Before any feasibility study can be performed, authorizing language must be enacted by Congress. This legislation authorizes such studies. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, we have no objection to passage of H.R. 2563. This legislation gives the Bureau of Reclamation the authority to conduct specific feasibility studies to look at projects that might address the water shortages in the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho.

We have no objection to the current system in its current form.

Mr. OTTER. Madam Speaker, today, we are debating H.R. 2563, a bill to provide broad authority for the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct feasibility studies of new and enhanced water storage opportunities on the Snake, Boise, and Payette Rivers in Idaho. I introduced this legislation and am working for its passage because I believe it is important to find new water resources rather than just dividing up the scarce resources we currently have.

I have been told that consumptive demand in the Boise and Payette basins will increase by at least 135,000 acre feet over the next 20 years. Growing demand now is being met by increased ground water use and conservation efforts, but those are short-term responses that beg the question of future needs.

We also know that most of the water supply in both basins already is allocated and there is little excess capacity to meet future demands. Further, the ability to capture and store additional water is limited by requirements for minimum fish flow, maintenance flows, flood control and annual refill of existing reservoirs. These factors make this undertaking difficult at best, but I believe it is worthwhile and necessary.

Our communities, our economy and our families all depend on water to survive, grow and prosper. Deciding how to use such a rare commodity in a way that does the greatest good for the greatest number, while hewing to the principles of law and equity on which our society is based, is an enormous challenge. The task is further complicated, and brought into sharp focus, by the 6-year drought Idaho recently experienced and is seen in much of the arid West.

Our energy, our economy and our environment all will depend on the ability to anticipate and prioritize future water needs. Our children, our grandchildren and generations to come all are depending on the choices we make today. Preserving water rights while providing for continued growth are a top priority of mine and I will continue to work to achieve that goal.

I encourage a "yes" vote on this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam 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 California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2563, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

MADERA WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3897) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply and Groundwater Enhancement Project, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3897

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 "Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) The term "District" means the Madera Irrigation District, Madera, California.

(b) The term "Project" means the "Madera Water Supply and Enhancement Project".

(c) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—Pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388) and Acts amend-

atory thereof and supplemental thereto, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, and in consultation and cooperation with the District, is authorized to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing the Project.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) TRANSMISSION.—Upon completion of the study authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing the results of the study, together with recommendations regarding any recommendation to construct the project.

(2) USE OF AVAILABLE MATERIALS.—In developing the report under this section, the Secretary shall make use of reports and any other relevant information supplied by the District.

(3) DEADLINE.—No later than December 30, 2006, the Secretary shall complete the report and transmit the report to Congress pursuant to subsection (b)(2).

(c) COST SHARE.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the feasibility study authorized by this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study.

(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION FOR NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may accept as part of the non-Federal cost share the contribution of such in-kind services by the District as the Secretary determines will contribute to the conduct and completion of the study.

SEC. 4. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.

All planning, design, and construction of the Project authorized by this Act shall be undertaken in accordance with a cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the District for the Project. Such cooperative agreement shall set forth in a manner acceptable to the Secretary and the District the responsibilities of the District for participating in the study and related environmental review, including, but not limited to:

- (1) preparation of an assessment of the need for the project;
- (2) preparation of feasibility and reconnaissance studies;
- (3) environmental review;
- (4) engineering and design;
- (5) construction; and
- (6) the administration of contracts pertaining to any of the foregoing.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MADERA WATER SUPPLY AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION.—Upon submission of feasibility report described in section 3 and a statement by the Secretary that the project is feasible, the Secretary, acting pursuant to the Federal reclamation laws (Act of June 17, 1902; 32 Stat. 388), and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, as far as those laws are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement through the Bureau with the District for the support of the design, and construction of the Project.

(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the capital costs of the Project shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost. Capital costs incurred by the District prior to the date of the enactment of this Act shall be considered a portion of the non-Federal cost share.

(c) IN-KIND SERVICES.—In-kind services performed by the District shall be considered a part of the local cost share to complete the Project authorized by subsection (a).

(d) CREDIT FOR NON-FEDERAL WORK.—The District shall receive credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of the Project for—

- (1) reasonable costs incurred by the District as a result of participation in the plan-

ning, design, and construction of the Project; and

(2) for the fair market value of lands used or acquired by the District for the Project.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of the Project authorized by this section. The operation and maintenance of the Project shall be the sole responsibility of the District.

(f) PLANS AND ANALYSES CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW.—Before obligating funds for design or construction under this section, the Secretary shall work cooperatively with the District to use, to the extent possible, plans, designs, and engineering and environmental analyses that have already been prepared by the District for the Project. The Secretary shall ensure that such information as is used is consistent with applicable Federal laws and regulations.

(g) TITLE; RESPONSIBILITY; LIABILITY.—Nothing in this section or the assistance provided under this section shall be construed to transfer title, responsibility or liability related to the Project to the United States.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized such sums as may be appropriated to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam 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 California?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3897, introduced by myself, authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the study, design, and construction of the Madera Water Supply and Enhancement Project. This important water bank project in my congressional district will help improve the water supply in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The over-13,000-acre ranch where the water bank is located is well suited for this project. The soils on and underneath the land are ideal for percolating water from the surface to the aquifer for storage. In addition, the land is valuable habitat for numerous species and contains large sections of the region's native grasslands.

Funding for this project is under way. Madera Irrigation District, which will operate and maintain this project, issued \$37.5 million in bonds to purchase the property. Also, the fiscal year 2006 Energy and Water Appropriations measure allocated \$200,000 to conduct a study on the feasibility of the water bank.