

County, California, may be used for purposes other than the purpose for which those lands were being used prior to the conveyance to the Mammoth County Water District and such lands may be transferred as authorized under State law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 356 removes congressionally imposed restrictions on the use of lands transferred in 1987 from the United States to the Mammoth Community Water District in California. This legislation would allow the District to modify the use of these lands so that those 12 acres of land now used for material storage may be put to a more beneficial use.

In 2004, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on similar legislation. In the 109th Congress, similar legislation was favorably reported by the committee and passed by the House.

We have no objections on this non-controversial bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 356. H.R. 356, introduced by our colleague from California, BUCK McKEON, removes land use restrictions on property acquired from the Forest Service by the Mammoth Community Water District in Mono County, California.

In 1987, the U.S. Forest Service conveyed 25 acres to the Water District under land use conditions at the time. Of these lands, 12 acres are now needed for different uses, including much-needed water utility operations. Implementation of this noncontroversial bill will ultimately benefit the local water consumer and will adhere to all Federal, State, and local environmental laws.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for HR 356, legislation I introduced earlier this year to remove restrictions on 25 acres of land patented to the Mammoth County Water District.

Prior to 1987, the District occupied this land through a special use permit with the Forest

Service. Of these 25 acres, 12 acres were used for the storage of materials, and prior to 1987, for oxidation ponds, which had become obsolete by that year.

After that time, Congress passed Public Law 97-465 that allowed these lands to be transferred directly to the District. While the law allowed for acquisition of these lands, it also directed that they could only be used for those purposes prior to the time of the conveyance.

Today, however, these 12 acres are no longer needed for the storage of materials and the community would like to utilize this land in a more economically and socially viable manner.

Such restrictions as those currently placed on the aforementioned acreage hinder the Mammoth community's ability to respond to the growing needs of its citizens and visitors.

As such, passage of this legislation would allow the town to accommodate for the growing economic and social needs of the region. In particular I am pleased to inform my colleagues of plans to use these acres for enhanced emergency services availability for the people of Mammoth Lakes.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Chairman RAHALL for bringing this legislation to the floor and ask my colleagues to support its passage here today.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 356.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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#### YAKIMA-TIETON IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 386) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 386

*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 “Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Conveyance Act of 2007”.

#### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND LANDS OF THE YAKIMA PROJECT, WASHINGTON.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, located in Yakima County, Washington, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agree-

ment titled “Agreement Between the United States and the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District to Transfer Title to Certain Federally Owned Buildings and Lands, With Certain Property Rights, Title, and Interest, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District” (Contract No. 5-07-10-L1658).

(b) LIABILITY.—Effective upon the date of conveyance under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the conveyed buildings and lands, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents before the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act), on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) BENEFITS.—After conveyance of the buildings and lands to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District under this section—

(1) such buildings and lands shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such irrigation district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any buildings and lands conveyed, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such buildings and lands that are not part of a Federal reclamation project.

(d) REPORT.—If the Secretary of the Interior has not completed the conveyance required under subsection (a) within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that explains the reason such conveyance has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 386 would transfer title for approximately 9 acres of land and several buildings to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District. The terms of the transfer are included in a formal agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and the irrigation district. Other parts of the reclamation project, including the Tieton diversion dam and associated canals, would not be affected.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on similar legislation. That bill was favorably reported by the committee and passed by this House. We have no objection to this legislation.

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 386 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 386, sponsored by our colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), conveys 9 acres of federally owned land and administrative buildings to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District in Washington State. No project facilities, such as dams, diversion structures or canals, are included in this title transfer. The transfer has been in the works for almost a decade.

This legislation, also introduced by the junior Senator from Washington State, will enhance more private ownership and decrease the Federal Government's liability. It is a win for the local community and a win for the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 386 is a pretty straightforward bill. This legislation would authorize the transfer of about 9 acres of Federal property along with a few associated structures from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District in central Washington.

The irrigation district has fully repaid its obligations to the Federal Government related to these properties and now simply pays the bureau for their operation and maintenance. This conveyance would enable the irrigation district to make needed improvements, while allowing the bureau to focus its limited resources where they are more urgently needed.

This legislation is based on a formula agreement negotiated between the bureau and the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District in 2004. I commend the irrigation district and the staff of the bureau for working together at the local level to resolve the concerns of the parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, this same legislation passed unanimously during the previous Congress, but didn't get through during the final parts of the session. So I urge my colleagues to support this bill again today so that we may move it on to the other body.

I want to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG of the Natural Resources Committee and their staff for their assistance in expediting this bill.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 386.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. 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.

#### AMERICAN RIVER PUMP STATION PROJECT TRANSFER ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 482) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 482

*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 "American River Pump Station Project Transfer Act of 2007".

##### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER.

The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project located at Auburn, California, which includes the Pumping Plant, associated facilities, and easements necessary for permanent operation of the facilities, to the Placer County Water Agency, in accordance with the terms of Contract No. 02-LC-20-7790 between the United States and Placer County Water Agency and the terms and conditions established in this Act.

##### SEC. 3. FEDERAL COSTS NONREIMBURSABLE.

Federal costs associated with construction of the American River Pump Station Project located at Auburn, California, are non-reimbursable.

##### SEC. 4. GRANT OF REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.

The Secretary is authorized to grant title to Placer County Water Agency as provided in section 2 in full satisfaction of the United States' obligations under Land Purchase Contract 14-06-859-308 to provide a water supply to the Placer County Water Agency.

##### SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before conveying land and facilities pursuant to this Act, the Secretary shall comply with all applicable requirements under—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(3) any other law applicable to the land and facilities.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act modifies or alters any obligations under—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

##### SEC. 6. RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.

Effective on the date of transfer to the Placer County Water Agency of any land or

facility under this Act, the United States shall not be liable for damages arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the land and facilities, consistent with Article 9 of Contract No. 02-LC-20-7790 between the United States and Placer County Water Agency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 482 directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and the water pumping facility under construction on the American River to the Placer County Water Agency in California. Currently, the Bureau of Reclamation is obligated by a previous agreement to supply temporary pumping service to satisfy the water rights of the Placer County Water Agency. This temporary pumping is done at considerable cost to the Bureau of Reclamation. The American River Pump Station will provide a permanent facility for the delivery of water to that agency.

H.R. 482 allows the bureau to satisfy its contractual obligations by transferring this facility and eliminates the continued cost of providing temporary pumping service to that agency.

In the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on similar legislation, and the bill was subsequently favorably reported by the committee and passed by the House. We have no objections to this legislation.

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 482, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 482, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), directs the Secretary of the Interior to transfer ownership of the American River Pump Station Project to the Placer County Water Agency in Northern California. To facilitate construction of the Auburn Dam nearly 40 years ago, the Federal Government removed a locally owned pump station located at the dam site.

The dam was never built. Now the Federal Government is building a permanent pump station to replace the