

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me thank the sponsors, Congressman BAIRD and Congressman WU, for this fine legislation and to remind our colleagues that this is the beginning of a process for a designation. This is the study process, and it is non-controversial. And as mentioned before, the organization opposing it has a protected record of opposing any heritage area, without any substantive qualification to that opposition.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 407, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. 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.

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1080) to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1080

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 "Grand Teton National Park Extension Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PARK.—The term "Park" means the Grand Teton National Park.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) SUBDIVISION.—The term "Subdivision" means the GT Park Subdivision, with an area of approximately 49.67 acres, as generally depicted on—

(A) the plat recorded in the Office of the Teton County Clerk and Recorder on December 16, 1997, numbered 918, entitled "Final Plat GT Park Subdivision", and dated June 18, 1997; and

(B) the map entitled "2006 Proposed Grand Teton Boundary Adjustment", numbered 136/80,198, and dated March 21, 2006, which shall be on file and available for inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may accept from any willing donor the donation of any land or interest in land of the Subdivision.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—On acquisition of land or an interest in land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) include the land or interest in the boundaries of the Park; and

(2) administer the land or interest as part of the Park, in accordance with all applicable laws (including regulations).

(c) DEADLINE FOR ACQUISITION.—It is the intent of Congress that the acquisition of land or an interest in land under subsection (a) be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER.—The Secretary shall not donate, sell, exchange, or otherwise transfer any land acquired under this section without express authorization from Congress.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1080 was introduced by our colleague from Wyoming, Representative BARBARA CUBIN. The legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundaries of the Grand Teton National Park to include approximately 50 acres that landowners in the adjacent Grand Teton Park Subdivision wish to donate to the park.

The subdivision is located adjacent to the park's eastern boundary and is visible from the park's main road. According to the National Park Service, the land is similar in character and quality to the adjacent parklands and offers unobstructed views of the Teton range and across the broad valley of Jackson Hole.

One lot in the subdivision was owned by the Gerald Halpin family. The remaining seven lots were donated by the Halpin family to private organizations, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the National Park Foundation, and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation.

All of these owners would like to donate their land to the park, but the parcels lie outside the existing park boundary. The 1950 law creating the park includes a provision forbidding expansion of any national park or monument in Wyoming without the express authorization of Congress.

H.R. 1080 would authorize the Secretary to accept the donation of lands within the subdivision and, upon acquisition, adjust the boundary of Grand Teton National Park. The bill would also prohibit the future sale, donation, exchange or other transfer of the acquired land without congressional approval.

Related legislation passed the other body in the 109th Congress and has been reintroduced by Senator CRAIG THOMAS of Wyoming and approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, the National Park Service has testified in support of the bill, and it cleared the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, and the full Natural Resources Committee on voice votes without any amendments.

Mr. Speaker, Representative CUBIN is to be commended for her work on this legislation. We support passage of H.R. 1080 and urge its adoption by the House today.

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

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

H.R. 1080, introduced by our colleague Congresswoman BARBARA CUBIN, would modify the boundaries of the Grand Teton National Park to include 49 acres of privately donated land. I commend Mrs. CUBIN for her work on this legislation. This highly valuable land, which has been valued at nearly \$20 million, is being conveyed to the Park Service at very minimal cost.

Representative CUBIN and her staff did an excellent job working with the private individuals and groups who are donating the land and with the Park Service. The 49 acres are beautiful and highly desirable land that will enhance Grand Teton National Park.

This noncontroversial bill was favorably reported by the Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1080.

I would also like to add that our thoughts and prayers are with Representative CUBIN and her husband, Dr. Cubin. We wish him a quick and speedy recovery.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1080.

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.

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 487) to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the

Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 487

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 “Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin program, authorized by section 9 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 891), was intended to promote the general economic development of the United States;

(2) the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project—

(A) is a major component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin program; and

(B) contributes to the national economy;

(3) the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project flooded the fertile bottom land of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, which greatly damaged the economy and cultural resources of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and caused the loss of many homes and communities of members of the Tribe;

(4) Congress has provided compensation to several Indian tribes, including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, that border the Missouri River and suffered injury as a result of 1 or more of the Pick-Sloan projects;

(5) on determining that the compensation paid to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe was inadequate, Congress enacted the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2365), which created the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Recovery Trust Fund; and

(6) that Act did not provide for additional compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe that lost land as a result of the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to provide that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Recovery Trust Fund may be used to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe that lost land as a result of the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project; and

(2) to provide for the capitalization of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Recovery Trust Fund.

SEC. 3. CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE COMPENSATION.

(a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—Section 102 of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2365) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) the United States did not justly or fairly compensate the Tribe and member landowners for the Oahe Dam and Reservation project, under which the United States acquired 104,492 acres of land of the Tribe and member landowners; and

“(B) the Tribe and member landowners should be adequately compensated for that land.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and member landowners” after “Tribe” each place it appears.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103 of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2365) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (1) as paragraph (3) and moving the paragraph so as to appear after paragraph (2); and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

“(1) MEMBER LANDOWNER.—The term ‘member landowner’ means a member of the Tribe (or an heir of such a member) that owned land (including land allotted under the Act of February 8, 1887 (24 Stat. 388, chapter 119)) located on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation that was acquired by the United States for the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project.”.

(c) CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBAL RECOVERY TRUST FUND.—Section 104 of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2365) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) FUNDING.—On the first day of the fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007 and on the first day of each of the following 4 fiscal years (referred to in this section as the ‘capitalization dates’), the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit into the Fund, from amounts in the general fund of the Treasury—

“(1) \$58,144,591.60; and

“(2) an additional amount equal to the amount of interest that would have accrued if—

“(A) the amount described in paragraph (1) had been—

“(i) credited to the principal account as described in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(I) on the first day of the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2001; and

“(ii) invested as described in subsection (c)(2)(C) during the period beginning on the date described in clause (i) and ending on the last day of the fiscal year before the fiscal year in which that amount is deposited into the Fund; and

“(B) the interest that would have accrued under subparagraph (A) during the period described in subparagraph (A)(ii) had been—

“(i) credited to the interest account under subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii); and

“(ii) invested during that period in accordance with subsection (c)(2)(D)(i).”;

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) INVESTMENTS.—

“(1) ELIGIBLE OBLIGATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall invest the Fund only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States issued directly to the Fund.

“(2) INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest the Fund in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) SEPARATE INVESTMENTS OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST.—

“(i) PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT.—The amounts deposited into the Fund under subsection (b)(1) shall be—

“(I) credited to a principal account within the Fund (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘principal account’); and

“(II) invested in accordance with subparagraph (C).

“(ii) INTEREST ACCOUNT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The interest earned from investing amounts in the principal account shall be—

“(aa) transferred to a separate interest account within the Fund (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘interest account’); and

“(bb) invested in accordance with subparagraph (D).

“(II) CREDITING.—The interest earned from investing amounts in the interest account, and the amounts deposited into the Fund under subsection (b)(2), shall be credited to the interest account.

“(C) INVESTMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT.—

“(i) INITIAL INVESTMENT.—Amounts in the principal account shall be initially invested in eligible obligations with the shortest available maturity.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT INVESTMENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the amount in the principal account is divisible into 3 substantially equal portions, each portion shall be invested in eligible obligations that are identical (except for transferability) to the next-issued publicly-issued Treasury obligations having a 2-year maturity, a 5-year maturity, and a 10-year maturity, respectively.

“(II) MATURITY OF OBLIGATIONS.—As each 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year eligible obligation under subclause (I) matures, the principal of the maturing eligible obligation shall be initially invested in accordance with clause (i) until the date on which the principal is reinvested substantially equally in the eligible obligations that are identical (except for transferability) to the next-issued publicly-issued Treasury obligations having 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year maturities.

“(iii) DISCONTINUATION OF ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS.—If the Department of the Treasury discontinues issuing to the public obligations having 2-year, 5-year, or 10-year maturities, the principal of any maturing eligible obligation shall be reinvested substantially equally in available eligible obligations that are identical (except for transferability) to the next-issued publicly-issued Treasury obligations with maturities of longer than 1 year.

“(D) INVESTMENT OF INTEREST ACCOUNT.—

“(i) BEFORE EACH CAPITALIZATION DATE.—For purposes of subsection (b)(2)(B), amounts considered as if they were in the interest account of the Fund shall be invested in eligible obligations that are identical (except for transferability) to publicly-issued Treasury obligations that have maturities that coincide, to the greatest extent practicable, with the applicable capitalization date for the Fund.

“(ii) ON AND AFTER EACH CAPITALIZATION DATE.—On and after each capitalization date, amounts in the interest account shall be invested and reinvested in eligible obligations that are identical (except for transferability) to publicly-issued Treasury obligations that have maturities that coincide, to the greatest extent practicable, with the date on which the amounts will be withdrawn by the Secretary of the Treasury and transferred to the Secretary of the Interior for use in accordance with subsection (d).

“(E) PAR PURCHASE PRICE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—To preserve in perpetuity the amount in the principal account, the purchase price of an eligible obligation purchased as an investment of the principal account shall not exceed the par value of the obligation.

“(ii) TREATMENT.—At the maturity of an eligible obligation described in clause (i), any discount from par in the purchase price of the eligible obligation shall be treated as interest paid at maturity.

“(F) HOLDING TO MATURITY.—Eligible obligations purchased pursuant to this paragraph shall be held to their maturities.

“(3) ANNUAL REVIEW OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—Not less frequently than once each calendar year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall review with the Tribe the results of the investment activities and financial status of the Fund during the preceding calendar year.

“(4) MODIFICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury determines that investing the Fund in accordance with paragraph (2) is not practicable or would result in adverse consequences to the Fund, the Secretary of the Treasury shall modify the requirements to

the least extent necessary, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) CONSULTATION.—Before making a modification under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with the Tribe with respect to the modification.”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) WITHDRAWAL OF INTEREST.—Beginning on the first day of the fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007, and on the first day of each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall withdraw and transfer all funds in the interest account of the Fund to the Secretary of the Interior for use in accordance with paragraph (2), to be available without fiscal year limitation.”; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) MEMBER LANDOWNERS.—

“(A) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the plan may provide for the payment of additional compensation to member landowners for acquisition of land by the United States for use in the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project.

“(ii) DETERMINATION OF HEIRS.—An heir of a member land owner shall be determined pursuant to the applicable probate code of the Tribe.

“(iii) EXCEPTION.—During any fiscal year, payments of additional compensation to a member landowner under clause (i) shall not—

“(I) be deposited or transferred into—

“(aa) the Individual Indian Money account of the member landowner; or

“(bb) any other fund held by the United States on behalf of the member landowner; or

“(II) exceed an amount equal to 44.3 percent of the amount transferred by the Secretary of the Interior to the Tribe under paragraph (2).

“(B) PROVISION OF RECORDS.—To assist the Tribe in processing claims of heirs of member landowners for land acquired by the United States for use in the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the Tribe, in accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), any record requested by the Tribe to identify the heirs of member landowners by the date that is 90 days after the date of receipt of a request from the Tribe.”.

(d) ELIGIBILITY OF TRIBE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.—Section 105 of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2365) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “or any member landowner” after “Tribe”.

(e) EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS.—Section 107 of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act (Public Law 106-511; 114 Stat. 2368) is amended to read as follows: “SEC. 107. EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the final payment is deposited into the Fund under section 104(b), all monetary claims that the Tribe has or may have against the United States for the taking by the United States of land and property of the Tribe for the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin program shall be extinguished.

“(b) EFFECT OF ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT.—On acceptance by a member landowner or an heir of a member landowner of any payment by the Tribe for damages resulting from the taking by the United States of land or prop-

erty of the Tribe for the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River Basin program, all monetary claims that the member landowner or heir has or may have against the United States for the taking shall be extinguished.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) 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 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.

I would like to commend my colleague from South Dakota, Representative HERSETH SANDLIN, for her very dedicated hard work and her persistence on this piece of legislation.

H.R. 487 makes several technical corrections to address inequities that surfaced after the enactment of the original Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act of 2000. In short, this legislation provides for accelerated compensation for tribal members and landowners impacted by the construction of the Oahe Dam in 1962. It also satisfies a request from the administration to amend the underlying structure of the compensation fund.

H.R. 487 will assist the tribe in addressing this loss and help to ensure a positive future for the Cheyenne River Sioux.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN), the bill's sponsor, to further describe the legislation.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman NAPOLITANO for her support of this important legislation to my constituents and for her leadership on the subcommittee.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 487, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Amendments Act of 2007. This legislation is the result of a collaborative effort between the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the South Dakota congressional delegation, the House Natural Resources Committee and the Department of the Treasury. I am very pleased to stand before my colleagues in the House today and urge final passage of this important bill.

The need for this legislation began more than 50 years ago with the construction of a series of dams and reservoir projects along the upper Missouri River basin. One of those

projects, the Oahe Dam and Reservoir, caused flooding on over 100,000 acres of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in north central South Dakota. The loss of these lands was particularly devastating to the tribe and included some of their most important cropland, wildlife habitat and spiritually significant places.

Though the tribe did receive some initial compensation for this loss, the amount was woefully inadequate and did not reflect the magnitude of the loss imposed on the tribe. In 2000, Congress recognized this injustice when it passed legislation to provide additional compensation for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and created a trust fund for additional tribal development. Unfortunately, the 2000 legislation was incomplete and flawed, requiring a number of amendments to the underlying law.

In addition to several technical changes advocated by the Department of the Treasury, H.R. 487 will allow for the immediate capitalization of the trust fund and also give the tribe the authority to redirect a limited amount of the fund towards private tribal landowners. Many of the 100,000-plus acres that were inundated due to the dam were actually privately owned by tribal members. Now tribal elders, these individuals have been waiting decades for fair compensation and will finally have that opportunity.

Not only will H.R. 487 capitalize the fund to allow immediate implementation of the tribe's poverty reduction program, it will help to right a historic wrong and ultimately saves the Federal Government approximately \$9 million.

The merits of this legislation are clear, both through its history and the spirit of bipartisan collaboration that brought it to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 487.

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

This well-intended legislation improves current law by directly compensating landowners whose tribal lands were flooded by the construction of the Federal Oahe Dam in South Dakota. It also releases Federal funding to the Cheyenne River Sioux who were affected by the dam and, in doing so, reduces Federal taxpayer expenditures throughout the life of the program.

In the last Congress, this bill had major issues, but all parties worked in good faith to resolve their disagreements. It now enjoys broad support.

We have no objection to this legislation and urge its adoption.

□ 1530

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this noncontroversial bill. I would like to thank my colleague on the other side and also, especially, the sponsor of the bill, Ms.

HERSETH SANDLIN, for her very hard work and strong leadership.

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. 487.

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.

CITY OF OXNARD WATER RECYCLING AND DESALINATION ACT OF 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1737) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1737

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, WATER RECLAMATION, REUSE, AND TREATMENT PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. ____ OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, WATER RECLAMATION, REUSE, AND TREATMENT PROJECT.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Oxnard, California, may participate in the design, planning, and construction of Phase I permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired water in the area of Oxnard, California.

"(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 following:

"(1) The operations and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).

"(2) The construction, operations, and maintenance of the visitor's center related to 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 the enactment of this section."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 is amended by inserting after the last item the following:

"Sec. ____ Oxnard, California, water reclamation, reuse, and treatment project."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) 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 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.

I would like to commend foremost my colleague from California (Mrs. CAPPS) again for the hard work and dedication to this great piece of legislation for her district.

The purpose of H.R. 1737 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design and planning and construction of permanent facilities for the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement Treatment project, the GREAT project.

H.R. 1737, when enacted, authorizes limited Federal financial assistance to develop a facility that will reclaim, reuse and treat impaired water in the Oxnard, California, area. It is my hope that the administration will understand the significance of this very critical litigation for Oxnard as the shining example of the role water recycling plays in balancing our water management portfolio.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1737.

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

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

This legislation will help meet the City of Oxnard, California, water supply needs through the year 2030 and will reduce the city's dependence on imported water. A provision in the bill ensures that no Federal taxpayer dollars will be used to construct or operate a nearby visitor center connected to this water project. We have no objection to this bill and urge its adoption.

Mrs. CAPPS. I rise in strong support of H.R. 1737, the City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act.

First, I want to thank the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL, and chairwoman or the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, as well as the ranking members of the full Committee and Subcommittee for expediting the consideration of this legislation and for bringing H.R. 1737 before us today. This bill was passed by the House of Representatives last year but was never acted on by the Senate.

H.R. 1737 would authorize a proposed regional water resources project—the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment or GREAT Program—located in my congres-

sional district. As you know many communities today are faced with the difficult task of providing reliable and safe water to their customers. The City of Oxnard is no exception.

Oxnard is one of California's fastest growing cities and is facing an ever growing crisis: it's running out of affordable water. The water needs for the city's agricultural and industrial base, together with its growing population, has exceed its local water resources. As a result, over 50 percent of its water has to be imported from outside sources.

However, through a series of local, state and federal restrictions the amount of imported water available to the city is shrinking, while the cost of that water is rising. Recognizing these challenges, Oxnard developed the GREAT Program to address its long term water needs.

The GREAT Program elements include:

A new regional groundwater desalination facility to serve potable water customers in Oxnard and adjacent communities;

A recycled water system to serve agricultural water users, and added protection against seawater intrusion and saltwater contamination; and

A wetlands restoration and enhancement component that efficiently reuses the brine discharges from both the groundwater desalination and recycled water treatment facilities.

Implementation of the GREAT Program will provide many significant regional benefits.

First, the new desalination project will serve ratepayers in Oxnard and adjacent communities, guaranteeing sufficient water supplies for the area.

Second, Oxnard's current water infrastructure delivers approximately 30 million gallons of treated wastewater per day to an ocean outfall. The GREAT Program will utilize the resource currently wasted to the ocean and treat it so that it can be reused by the agricultural water users in the area.

During the non-growing season, it will inject the resource into the ground to serve as a barrier against seawater intrusion and saltwater contamination. To alleviate severely depressed groundwater levels, this component also includes pumping groundwater into the aquifer to enhance groundwater recharge.

Finally, the brine produced as a by-product of the desalination and recycling plants will provide a year-round supply of nutrient rich water to the existing wetlands at Ormond Beach.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Natural Resources Committee for trying to find innovative and effective ways of extending water supplies in the West. In my view, the City of Oxnard Water Recycling and Desalination Act offers such a creative solution. It will reduce the consumption of groundwater for agricultural and industrial purposes, cut imported water delivery requirements, and improve local reliability of high quality water deliveries.

Again, I would like to thank the Natural Resources Committee for supporting this bill, and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, 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. 1737.