

like to reiterate Salem's strong commitment to protecting and preserving the Eight Mile River and the surrounding watershed. Resources such as this are critically important to the health and well being of all residents in this part of southeastern Connecticut, and need to be recognized for their intrinsic value.

Federal designation as a Wild and Scenic River is an important part of preserving this natural resource. The Town of Salem is pleased that you have chosen to sponsor this effort and guide it through the legislative process. Thank you, and if we can be of any additional assistance in support of your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

R. LARRY REITZ,  
First Selectman.

Mr. Speaker, as I said from the beginning, this is a locally driven effort, and over the course of this study there were forums, mailings, public meetings, and even a local land use commissioners summit, which demonstrated broad bipartisan support for the legislation.

Although located in a rural area of Connecticut, the watershed is no less susceptible to unchecked growth and development. But it is important, and, again, this I know was raised by the minority, to emphasize that the bill before us today preserves the rights of landowners. Section 2(g)(2) specifically prohibits the use of eminent domain-type powers for this system. And, again, we have experience in Connecticut with the Farmington River Wild and Scenic designation to know that that language is, in fact, a barrier for any kind of unwarranted intrusion by the Federal Government over private property rights. And, again, the amendment, which Mr. SARBANES referred to, in the subcommittee, if anything, beefed up that protection to make sure that any concerns which may exist about involuntary takings are addressed in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will next year celebrate its 40th year of successful environmental stewardship in this country. And it is important to add the Eightmile, a river with unique, intact natural resources, to the list of important rivers protected under this act. Designation as a member of the wild and scenic river system would facilitate long-term coordination among the towns within the watershed and increase local commitment to long-term river protection.

The entire Connecticut delegation is supportive of this endeavor; and to my colleagues in the House, I ask them to join me in support of this legislation. And, again, I thank Mr. SARBANES for his support.

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

Mr. SARBANES. 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 Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 986, 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. MCHENRY. 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.

#### CENTRAL OKLAHOMA MASTER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1337) to provide for a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the District, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1337

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

#### SECTION 1. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA MASTER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Thunderbird Lake, located on Little River in central Oklahoma, was constructed in 1965 by the Bureau of Reclamation for flood control, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife purposes;

(2) the available yield of Thunderbird Lake is allocated to the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, which supplies municipal and industrial water supplies to the cities of Norman, Midwest City, and Del City, Oklahoma; and

(3) studies conducted by the Bureau during fiscal year 2003 indicate that the District will require additional water supplies to meet the future needs of the District, including through—

(A) the drilling of additional wells;

(B) the implementation of a seasonal pool plan at Thunderbird Lake;

(C) the construction of terminal storage to hold wet-weather yield from Thunderbird Lake;

(D) a reallocation of water storage; and

(E) the importation of surplus water from sources outside the basin of Thunderbird Lake.

(b) STUDY.—Beginning no later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation shall conduct a feasibility study of alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the District, including recommendations of the Commissioner, if any.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation \$900,000 to conduct the study under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. 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 Maryland?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of H.R. 1337, introduced by our colleague, Congressman TOM COLE of Oklahoma, is to direct the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study on alternatives to augment the water supplies of the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District and cities served by the district.

The Norman Project was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation for municipal and industrial water supply, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife purposes in central Oklahoma. Population growth in the area is increasing pressure on already constrained water supplies, and the demand for water is expected to surpass the supply that the Norman Project in its present form can provide.

A preliminary report on alternative measures to augment water supplies at Lake Thunderbird has already been completed. The report concluded that a need exists to improve municipal and industrial water supplies from the Norman Project and that a number of alternatives are available to meet that need. A feasibility study is required to fully evaluate all the alternatives. H.R. 1337 directs the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct such a study.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1337.

This bill, which I authored, provides for a water feasibility study to ascertain additional sources of water for the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, which serves the cities of Norman, Midwest City, and Del City, Oklahoma. This bill provides limited Federal assistance, with the Conservancy District providing a local 50/50 match and demonstrating their dedication to this critical initiative. This legislation will help address and alleviate the water challenges facing these three cities. I would like to commend and sincerely thank all the parties involved in working hard to help see this bill pass into public law.

The primary source of water for the Conservancy District is Lake Thunderbird, completed in 1965 by the Bureau of Reclamation. Incidentally, since 1988 one of the cities serviced by the Conservancy District, Norman, Oklahoma, has on numerous occasions exceeded their annual share of Lake Thunderbird's supplies. As a result, Norman has been forced to pull additional water from its original water source used before Lake Thunderbird was built and create an emergency supply line from

nearby Oklahoma City. Recognizing that the projected demand on water supply will only increase as these three cities grow in population, the Conservancy District is taking proactive steps to find long-range solutions to their water needs.

In 2003, working with the Conservancy District and recognizing the water strain in central Oklahoma, Congress provided the Bureau of Reclamation with funding for an initial water study, which it completed in August of 2005. This appraisal explores and proposes much-needed viable opportunities to enhance the current and long-term water supply of the Conservancy District. I introduced H.R. 1337 both at the behest of the Conservancy District and in the same spirit that Congress previously funded the building of Lake Thunderbird and the appraisal investigation: to facilitate the long-term vitality and well-being of the citizens served by the Conservancy District and, as an extension, the vitality and well-being of Oklahoma as a whole. It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservancy District provides waters for more than 175,000 residents, meaning that no fewer than one out of every four of my constituents stands to benefit from this study.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely appreciate the chairman and ranking member's diligent work on this bill, and I strongly urge support and passage of H.R. 1337.

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

Mr. SARBANES. 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 Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1337, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SARBANES. 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.

#### RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT RECYCLED WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1725) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Rancho California Water District Southern Riverside County Recycled/Non-Potable Distribution Facilities and Demineralization/Desalination Recycled Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility Project.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1725

*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 "Rancho California Water District Recycled Water Reclamation Facility Act of 2007".

#### SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.

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

#### "SEC. 16. RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT PROJECT, CALIFORNIA.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the Rancho California Water District, California, may participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for water recycling, demineralization, and desalination, and distribution of non-potable water supplies in Southern Riverside County, California.

"(b) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project or \$20,000,000, whichever is less.

"(c) LIMITATION.—Funds provided by the Secretary under this section shall not be used for operation or maintenance of the project described in subsection (a)."

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

"Sec. 16. Rancho California Water District Project, California."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. 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 gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

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

The purpose of H.R. 1725, as introduced by our colleague from California (Mrs. BONO), is to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in an important water supply project for Southern Riverside County in California.

H.R. 1725 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Rancho California Water District, to participate in the design, planning and construction of permanent facilities for water recycling, demineralization, desalination and distribution of non-potable water supplies in Southern Riverside County. When completed, the project will significantly enhance scarce water resources in Rancho Cali-

fornia by quadrupling recycled water supplies.

H.R. 1725 seeks to help communities in Southern Riverside County as they try to drought-proof their water supplies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1725.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1725 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1725, introduced by our colleague, MARY BONO of California, authorizes funds to complete a three-stage plan for water recycling in Riverside County, California. Mr. Speaker.

This legislation would help ease the county's dependency on imported water and will help drought-proof this arid region of southern California.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentlelady from California (Mrs. BONO).

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to take this opportunity to thank Chairman RAHALL and Ranking Member YOUNG for their support of H.R. 1725, the Rancho California Water District, or RCWD, Recycled Water Reclamation Facility Act of 2007.

Thanks to the speed with which they were able to move this bill through regular order, with the help of Subcommittee Chairman NAPOLITANO and Ranking Member MCMORRIS RODGERS, we are now able to consider this legislation in the full House.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1725, which I introduced in March of this year, authorizes funding to begin implementation of the RCWD regional Integrated Resources Plan. The legislation directly affects water usage for an area of the Nation that continues to experience rapid population growth. Riverside County, where RCWD operates, is California's fourth largest county and experienced a population increase of 76 percent from 1980 to 1990. By the year 2000, this county's population was at over 1.5 million residents.

In particular, RCWD serves the City of Temecula, parts of the City of Murrieta and the surrounding area, which is represented by both myself and Congressman DARRELL ISSA. Southwest Riverside County continues to grow quickly, with numerous military families and those who commute to both Los Angeles and San Diego. Coupled with this residential growth, the area is also home to a strong agricultural industry. Citrus, avocados and wine grape fields dot the area and bring with them jobs, crop revenues and, not to mention, some extremely good wine.

H.R. 1725 also enjoys the support from the surrounding water districts, including Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts and Metropolitan