

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

Water District, which provides drinking water to nearly 18 million people throughout southern California.

The funding authorized in my legislation will take significant steps toward enacting the Integrated Resource Plan that has a total cost of around \$103 million. The results of this plan are primarily three things: an expansion of local recycled water resources; a dependable conversion of water used in the agriculture sector to a recycled and raw water system; and a facility to desalinate recycled water for agricultural use.

Put in more simple terms, the benefits to the area are clear: As this part of Riverside County continues to see more residential growth, the IRP project will free up enough treated water to supply up to 70,000 households. The capability to reuse over 16,000 acre-feet of recycled water will be in place, keeping the local agricultural sector vibrant and maximizing local water storage.

It is also important to note that, in May, the local water districts completed a year-long feasibility study which, in part, indicated a gross savings of \$789 million in purchased water costs over the 30 years after the project is completed. The savings to the area and modernization of local water infrastructure is something crucial for this part of my district.

As you know, the value of thoughtful water usage in this area of southern California is extremely high. The strong support this legislation received within the Natural Resources Committee shows a bipartisan understanding other Members have of improving water delivery to both residential and agricultural users.

Once again, I would like to thank the chairman, the ranking member, their staff, and my own Chris Foster, for all of their help.

I ask for the support of Members from both sides of the aisle on H.R. 1725, the legislation I'm proud to have authored.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. 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. 1725.

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.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1904) to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1904

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 "New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey.

(2) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of New Mexico.

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the Governor of the State and subject to subsections (b) through (f), the Secretary shall—

(1) provide to the State technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans;

(2) conduct water resources mapping in the State; and

(3) conduct a comprehensive study of groundwater resources (including potable, brackish, and saline water resources) in the State to assess the quantity, quality, and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) acquisition of hydrologic data, groundwater characterization, database development, and data distribution;

(2) expansion of climate, surface water, and groundwater monitoring networks;

(3) assessment of existing water resources, surface water storage, and groundwater storage potential;

(4) numerical analysis and modeling necessary to provide an integrated understanding of water resources and water management options;

(5) participation in State planning forums and planning groups;

(6) coordination of Federal water management planning efforts;

(7) technical review of data, models, planning scenarios, and water plans developed by the State; and

(8) provision of scientific and technical specialists to support State and local activities.

(c) ALLOCATION.—In providing grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, allocate—

(1) \$5,000,000 to develop hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the New Mexico Rio Grande main stem sections and Rios Pueblo de Taos and Hondo, Rios Nambe, Pojoaque and Teseque, Rio Chama, and Lower Rio Grande tributaries;

(2) \$1,500,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for the San Juan River and tributaries;

(3) \$1,000,000 to complete the hydrographic survey development of hydrologic models and acquire associated equipment for Southwest New Mexico, including the Animas Basin, the Gila River, and tributaries;

(4) \$4,500,000 for statewide digital orthophotography mapping; and

(5) such sums as are necessary to carry out additional projects consistent with subsection (b).

(d) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The non-Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out using a grant provided under subsection (a) shall be 50 percent.

(2) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share under paragraph (1) may be in

the form of any in-kind services that the Secretary determines would contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the activity assisted.

(e) NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS.—Any assistance or grants provided to the State under this Act shall be made on a non-reimbursable basis.

(f) AUTHORIZED TRANSFERS.—On request of the State, the Secretary shall directly transfer to 1 or more Federal agencies any amounts made available to the State to carry out this Act.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SEC. 5. SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.

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 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. 1904, as introduced by our colleague from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), is to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide New Mexico with technical assistance and grants for the development of a comprehensive State water plan. This includes a survey and mapping of water resources in New Mexico, a study of groundwater quality and quantity, and a study on the relationships between groundwater and surface water in the State.

A key understanding of our most precious resource is required if we are to meet the water supply needs of our growing communities and our environment. H.R. 1904 seeks just such an understanding from New Mexico.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1904.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1904 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1904, introduced by our colleague, HEATHER WILSON, directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide New Mexico with technical assistance and grants for the development of comprehensive State water plans and to assess the quality, quantity and interaction of groundwater and surface water resources in the State.