

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.

This legislation recognizes that States have primacy over groundwater but provides limited Federal assistance to help the State carry out its efforts and help water consumers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 1904.

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.

RECOGNIZING 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 483) recognizing the 63rd Anniversary of Big Bend National Park, established on June 12, 1944.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 483

Whereas Big Bend National Park is a scenic treasure of southwest Texas encompassing more than 800,000 acres;

Whereas Big Bend National Park manages nearly one quarter of the approximately 1000 mile stretch of the Rio Grande River that also serves as the boundary between the United States and Mexico;

Whereas along the boundary of the park, the flow of the Rio Grande River shifts from a southeasterly direction to the northeast, forming the bend after which the park is named;

Whereas Big Bend National Park is unique because it covers a variety of different ecosystems ranging from the Chihuahuan Desert to the Chisos Mountains;

Whereas Native people inhabited the area for thousands of years;

Whereas many people have traversed the Big Bend region in the past 150 years, including Spanish explorers, Comanche Indians, Mexican settlers, and American ranchers;

Whereas in 1933 the Texas Legislature, led by Everett Ewing Townsend, established the Texas Canyons State Park;

Whereas later that year the park was expanded and renamed Big Bend State Park;

Whereas Townsend later became known as the Father of Big Bend National Park;

Whereas between 1934 and 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corps worked diligently to make the park suitable for visitors; and

Whereas 63 years ago Big Bend National Park, "Texas' Gift to the Nation", was officially established on June 12, 1944: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 63rd anniversary of the founding of Big Bend National Park; and

(2) honors the National Park Service for their service to the Big Bend region and Big Bend National Park.

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, House Resolution 483 was introduced by our colleague from Texas, Representative CIRO RODRIGUEZ. And I know that Representative RODRIGUEZ wanted to be here today in the Chamber as we speak to this legislation but has been caught in the storms outside.

H. Res. 483 recognizes the 63rd anniversary of Big Bend National Park in west Texas and honors the National Park Service for their service to the Big Bend region and Big Bend National Park.

I want to commend Representative RODRIGUEZ for his efforts to bring congressional recognition to this special place and to the agency and hard-working employees who care for it.

Big Bend National Park is a spectacular 800,000-acre scenic treasure on the Rio Grande in west Texas. The park protects the largest representative example of the Chihuahuan Desert ecosystem within the United States. The park's river, desert and mountain environments support an extraordinary richness of biological diversity, including unique plants and animals that exist nowhere else in the world. The park provides outstanding recreation opportunities to over 300,000 visitors a year.

Big Bend is not only nationally significant but also internationally significant. Big Bend National Park manages nearly one-quarter of the approximately 1,000-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River that also serves as the boundary between the United States and Mexico.

Together with two Mexican protected areas, Big Bend is now part of the largest transboundary protected areas in North America, serving as a model for international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 483 recognizes the importance of Big Bend National Park to the ecology, history and economy of west Texas. It also recognizes the hard work of the National Park Service and its employees and honors their service to the region and the country as a whole.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

The majority has adequately explained this resolution. We join with

them in recognizing the 63rd anniversary of Big Bend National Park and hope this occasion will further highlight the need to secure our public lands from the ecological devastation caused by unfettered, illegal crossers and drug traffickers.

I urge colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 483, to recognize the anniversary of Big Bend National Park.

Sixty-three years ago the State of Texas bestowed the 800,000 acres of pristine desert and mountain terrain that now make up the Big Bend National Park upon the United States of America.

Big Bend began as a small State park, but in 1942, just following the Great Depression, Texas purchased 600,000 acres of land from private landowners at the price of \$1.5 million.

The cost was high at the time, but Texas donated the land to the Federal Government for the establishment of a national park.

With that gesture, the State of Texas provided the Nation and its citizens with a majestic national park that has been enjoyed for over a half a century so far.

This resolution pays tribute not only to the picturesque landscape of the park itself, but to those who made it possible to preserve this land for generations to come.

Everett Ewing Townsend, known as the father of Big Bend National Park, was the champion of this effort.

In 1894 Townsend traveled to the Chisos Mountains and later recalled that the breathtaking southern view from the mountains made him "see God as he had never seen Him before."

He vowed to preserve the region in some way, and 63 years later we can see that he has made good on his promise.

His efforts, first in the State Legislature and later as the Commissioner of the national park, provided the United States with an unspoiled tract of land that has since been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Big Bend National Park, encompassing the region where the Chihuahuan Desert intersects with the Chisos Mountains features a distinct landscape.

The park is surrounded on the south by the mighty Rio Grande.

The outer boundary is marked by the area where the flow of the river shifts from southeast to northeast, forming the giant bend after which the park is named.

With river, mountain and desert all in one, Big Bend National Park could easily be considered three parks in one.

However, west Texas is fortunate to have such a diverse environment preserved within the boundaries of one awe-inspiring park.

The establishment of Big Bend National Park in 1944 allowed the vast expanse of land to be conserved.

At the same time, it protected the rich history of the region.

Native people have inhabited the area for thousands of years, and in more recent years diverse groups of people have traversed the Big Bend.

In the past century and a half Spanish explorers, Comanche Indians, Mexican settlers and American ranchers have all traveled through or lived within the park's terrain.

Thus, this important resolution recognizes the 63rd anniversary of the establishment of