

These projects will help the cities of Concord, Dublin, Petaluma, Redwood City, Antioch, and throughout the Palo Alto area including Stanford University.

But more importantly, these water projects will help the state as a whole.

This bill—and others like it, is a critical piece of the puzzle. We cannot solve California's water situation without a significant investment in recycling wastewater and putting it to beneficial use.

This program is a smart and efficient way to conserve water supplies, lessen our impact on our natural resources, and create jobs and support local businesses.

Today's bill expands on a successful partnership that the Congress has already authorized—in total, the 14 water reuse projects that the Bay Area partnership is building will produce nearly 100,000 acre-feet of water per year.

The bill before us today allows us to take some of the pressure off the Bay-Delta, and it authorizes cities across the Bay Area to join in a strong Federal-State-local partnership that is providing our region a sustainable and reliable clean water supply.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2442.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. 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 Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2442, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. 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 motion will be postponed.

#### ALLOWING FOR PREPAYMENT OPERATION FOR UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT CONTRACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2950) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2950

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

#### SECTION 1. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN REPAYMENT CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UTAH WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT.

*The Secretary of the Interior shall allow for prepayment of the repayment contract no. 6-05-01-00143 between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District dated June 3, 1976, and supplemented and amended on November 1, 1985, and on December 30, 1992, providing for repayment of municipal and indus-*

*trial water delivery facilities for which repayment is provided pursuant to such contract, under terms and conditions similar to those used in implementing section 210 of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (Public Law 102-575), as amended. The prepayment—*

*(1) shall result in the United States recovering the net present value of all repayment streams that would have been payable to the United States if this Act was not in effect;*

*(2) may be provided in several installments to reflect substantial completion of the delivery facilities being prepaid, and any increase in the repayment obligation resulting from delivery of water in addition to the water being delivered under this contract as of the date of enactment of this Act;*

*(3) shall be adjusted to conform to a final cost allocation including costs incurred by the Bureau of Reclamation, but unallocated as of the date of the enactment of this Act that are allocable to the water delivered under this contract;*

*(4) may not be adjusted on the basis of the type of prepayment financing used by the District; and*

*(5) shall be made such that total repayment is made not later than September 30, 2019.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2950, as amended, would allow a water district in central Utah to pay off the debt it owes to the Federal Government early. The bill, sponsored by Congressman JIM MATHESON of Utah, has broad bipartisan support.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this legislation. This bill would allow the Uintah Water Conservancy District to prepay its contractual commitment to the U.S. Treasury. This prepayment will bring much-needed funds to the Federal Treasury over a 10-year period.

Unfortunately, current Federal law does not allow most water districts with Federal water contracts to prepay their balances. This is similar to prohibiting a homeowner from prepaying a mortgage loan. Congress must enact a law each time a water district wants to prepay its balance on a Bureau of Reclamation project.

For this reason, Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member TOM MCCLINTOCK has indicated that he may author general legislation to allow more water districts to prepay their contracts without congressional approval. That would mean that water

districts are not saddled with longer-term debts and taxpayers will benefit.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), the author of this legislation, such time as he may consume.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I would really like to thank Chairman RAHALL for moving this bill so quickly, and folks on both sides of the aisle on the Resources Committee have been very helpful in moving this bill.

As was discussed, this legislation will allow the Uintah Water Conservancy District to better use its resources to prepay its debt to the Federal Government.

Rural counties in Utah—the second-most arid State in the Nation—have a significant need for water that has only increased over time. The water in Uintah County is utilized by both municipalities, irrigators, and manufacturing industries. This bill will move us towards greater assurance of the development of water supplies in that part of our State.

I will just point out the Uintah Water Conservancy District has operated and maintained both the Vernal and Jensen units of the Central Utah Project since 1956. It has been around for a long time, and the debt that the county would like to prepay, which is the subject of this legislation, was incurred to construct a water project that is part of the original Central Utah Project.

Now, the district has always made its payments on time, but we have a circumstance now where its capability and its financing create a situation where it makes economic sense for it to prepay its debt; and, interestingly enough, at the same time, the CBO scores this as a positive for the Federal Government as well. So this is one of those classic win-wins, where a local water conservancy district can prepay its debt and do right by its constituents, and it also assists the Federal Government in terms of a positive score from CBO in terms of how it affects the Federal finances as well.

As was mentioned, the bill has broad bipartisan support. I do want to thank everyone on both sides of the aisle—both members and staff on the Resources Committee—for helping us with this.

I would add one other point that the gentleman from Virginia mentioned. It is unfortunate that we have to do a bill every time to allow for this type of prepayment. This is pretty common sense, and a decision in the private sector gets made all the time. And so I would encourage the effort to try to come up with a broader piece of legislation that will allow us to look at this issue in a more extensive way.

I encourage passage of the bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this very important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2950, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3123) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3123

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

#### SECTION 1. LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2009”.

(b) **TUNNEL REMEDIATION.**—The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) is amended as follows:

(1) By striking section 705.

(2) In section 708(a)—

(A) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(a)(1)”;

(B) by striking “The Secretary shall have” and inserting “Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The Secretary shall participate in the implementation of the operable unit 6 remedy for the California Gulch Superfund Site, including, but not limited to, the following actions:

“(A) Treating water behind any blockage or bulkhead in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, including surface water diverted into the Tunnel workings as part of the remedy.

“(B) Managing and maintaining the mine pool behind such blockage or bulkhead at a level that precludes surface runoff and releases and minimizes the potential for tunnel failure due to excessive water pressure in the tunnel.”.

(3) In section 708(f), by striking “and 708” and inserting “, 708, and 709”.

(4) By adding at the end of title VII the following:

#### “SEC. 709. TUNNEL MAINTENANCE.

“The Secretary shall take such steps to repair or maintain the structural integrity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) as may be necessary in order to prevent tunnel failure and to preclude uncontrolled release of water from any portion of the tunnel.”.

(5) In the table of sections contained in section 2—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 705; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

“Sec. 709. Tunnel maintenance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which 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 Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3123, introduced by our colleague, Representative DOUG LAMBORN, would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to remedy problems caused by collapses in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. Due to structural deterioration, contaminated water has backed up in the tunnel, posing a public health threat and an environmental threat.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill's passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this legislation offered by our Colorado colleague, DOUG LAMBORN. This legislation has been supported on a bipartisan basis and deserves passage today because it will help prevent a potential human safety disaster in Leadville, Colorado.

The Leadville Mine Tunnel was supposed to be used for a nearby Federal water project; however, it has ended up becoming a public danger because of its potential to burst with chemical-laden water on nearby residents. Since the Federal Government owns this tunnel, it is therefore a Federal responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to support this necessary legislation which fell victim to party politics earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel was originally constructed by the Federal Bureau of Mines in the 1940s and 1950s to facilitate the extraction of lead and zinc ore for the World War II and Korean war efforts. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired the tunnel in 1959 hoping to use it as a source of water for the Frypan-Arkansas project.

With the passage and subsequent signing into law of H.R. 429 during the 102d Congress in 1992, the Bureau of Reclamation constructed and continues to operate a water treatment plant at the mouth of the tunnel. This treatment plant removes metal contaminants from the water.

Groundwater levels at the tunnel have fluctuated in recent years.

□ 1430

In addition, a collapse in the tunnel has increased the tunnel's mine pool

significantly, leading to new seeps and springs in the area. Estimates suggest that at one time up to 1 billion gallons of water may have accumulated.

Emergency measures are currently being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure in the vicinity. However, legislation attempting to address this matter and authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to rehabilitate this tunnel dates back to at least 1976.

In response to the request for action from the local community, I have again worked together with Senator MARK UDALL of Colorado in a bipartisan manner and reintroduced H.R. 3123. The bill would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure behind blockages in the tunnel, permanently manage the mine pool behind any blockage to prevent any releases of contaminated water, and manage the tunnel in such a way to prevent failure of the structure.

I remind Members that only minor technical changes have been made since this bill was originally passed by the House of Representatives in the previous Congress. I respectfully request each Member to support this legislation. Human safety and environmental integrity need to be appropriately and responsibly addressed.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time and would inquire of the minority whether they have any additional speakers.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the minority has no additional speakers, and with that I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3123, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND UNDERWATER PRESERVE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 905) to expand the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 905

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