

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1732, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning and construction of facilities to reclaim and reuse water in Williamson County, Texas. Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Texas. The Texas Water Development Board has concluded that existing water wells are being overdrawn, and surface water supplies are not meeting current drinking water demands. This bill will allow the communities to stretch potable water resources by replacing drinking water with recycled water on parks, golf courses and school grounds.

This bill is a commonsense solution for communities that want to safeguard drinking water supplies for future generations. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

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

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1732. This bill provides the Secretary of the Interior with authority to help finance a water recycling project to serve residents of Williamson County, Texas. As my colleagues know, these water recycling projects are becoming not only increasingly popular but necessary with communities who need reliable and cost-effective ways to firm up their community clean water supplies. It is unfortunate, however, that this administration refuses to understand and fund the potential of these projects. We will continue to press the administration to support these projects.

H.R. 1732 is not controversial. I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support H.R. 1732 which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, water recycling and reuse project. I am proud to represent Williamson County, or most of it, and I have been living there for over 30 years. During this time, I have witnessed Williamson County become one of the fastest growing communities in the entire Nation and it has been consistently the fastest growing county for over a decade. I have observed the needs of this county because it has a limited supply of water. Today some would say that water has replaced oil as the commodity most important to the future of

Texas. Unfortunately, current water supplies will simply not meet the growing needs of Williamson County and that community.

To meet this need, I introduced H.R. 1732 to allow the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority and local communities to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to design, build and construct permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in Williamson County. This partnership will be an essential part of the county's water planning efforts.

In short, this legislation will ensure current and future sources of drinking water are made available for the residents of Williamson County. I am excited about this partnership and believe it is a great example of Federal and local agencies working together to make a positive difference.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) and their staffs for their efforts in having this legislation brought to the floor in a timely manner. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), my neighbor to the north, for joining me in this effort. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

I am very happy to hear the remarks of my colleagues. Water reuse, water recycling has been a very, very critical project and favorite subject of mine. Having been born and raised in Brownsville, Texas, I understand a lot of the Texas issues with the drought along the border that is creating havoc with farming and the economy thereof. I hope that we can continue to address and include funding to be able to expand not only to those areas that are in critical need but also those areas that can be used.

We have no new water in this world. It is all the same water that Mother Earth is recycling for us and we are helping recycle. We just trust that we can convince the administration of its need and begin doing it before we face very critical needs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the coauthor of this bill.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership in this very, very important area. I also want to congratulate my colleague and neighbor in Williamson County (Mr. CARTER) for offering this important piece of legislation. Just as oil and gas was the economic engine for Texas in the 20th century, the availability of water will be the economic engine to Texas in the future in the 21st century.

As someone who represents part of Williamson County, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) represents about 80 percent of that county, it is one of the largest, fastest-growing

counties in the country. Water usage there is increasing dramatically. Yet our water supply is limited. I was very glad to cosponsor this bill with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and will look forward to working with him to try to see that we find the appropriations to fund this important piece of legislation.

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

Mr. OSBORNE. 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 Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1732, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORRECTING TECHNICAL ERROR FROM UNIT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1066) to correct a technical error from Unit T-07 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1066

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

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The map described in subsection (b) is replaced by the map entitled “John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Matagorda Peninsula Unit T07/T07P” and dated July 12, 2002.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF REPLACED MAP.—The map referred to in subsection (a) is the map relating to the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Matagorda Peninsula Unit T07/T07P that is subtitled “T07/T07P” and included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” and referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)).

(c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the replacement map referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. 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 Nebraska?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1066 introduced by Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON will remove 19 acres of private property that has been mistakenly included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. An identical bill, H.R. 154, has been proposed by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL). I compliment him for his leadership on behalf of this measure.

Specifically, the Matagorda dunes subdivision in Matagorda, Texas, was placed into the system despite the fact that a full complement of infrastructure, including roads and electricity, existed prior to 1977 and that it exceeded the number of structures per acre rule that is required for inclusion under the act.

For more than 20 years, these homeowners were told they were not within the system and therefore eligible for both Federal flood insurance and State wind insurance. These policies have now been canceled, and it is essential that this mistake be corrected so that their property can be protected from any future flooding problems. It is difficult, if not impossible, to sell coastal property or obtain a home mortgage without access to Federal flood insurance.

During the hearing before the Committee on Resources on this legislation, the administration expressed strong support and a local county judge testified, "A mistake was made 21 years ago that placed this little subdivision in CBRA. It does not matter who made the mistake, but now since the mistake has come to light, please help us fix it."

Finally, the House version of this bill was unanimously approved by the Committee on Resources. I urge my colleagues to support Senate 1066. I again compliment the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) for representing his constituents in such an effective way.

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

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

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, S. 1066 is a noncontroversial piece of legislation that is identical to companion legislation, H.R. 154, passed and reported by the Committee on Resources earlier this year as was just addressed by my colleague.

By all evidence this technical correction appears to be genuine and needed to fix a legitimate error in the maps depicting the Matagorda subdivision in Unit T-07. For this reason and because this legislation would not undermine the policies of the Coastal Barrier Re-

sources Act, Members should not oppose this legislation, and I recommend they vote for it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support S. 1066, the Senate version of my H.R. 154, which I introduced on the first day of the 108th Congress. This legislation fixes a mistake in the official Fish and Wildlife Services' maps by removing a 19-acre area known as Matagorda Dunes, in Matagorda County, Texas, from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources Act (COBRA). This change is fully supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, a Fish and Wildlife Service created map, dated July 12, 2002, acknowledges the error.

This change will ensure property owners who had already begun developing this area are able to obtain insurance. Congress never intended to deny these landowners access to insurance. Matagorda Dunes was included in COBRA as a result of a drafting error when the COBRA maps were revised in the early eighties. Unless this mistake is fixed, the result could be catastrophic for these property owners who invested in developing Matagorda Dunes under the belief that the land was excluded from COBRA. A failure to fix this mistake could also be quite costly to the American taxpayers.

Fixing this mistake is also quite important to the people of Matagorda County, which is why a county official traveled to Washington to testify at a hearing on this bill in September. In conclusion, I thank Chairman POMBO and my colleague from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, for their work on this issue and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

Mr. OSBORNE. 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 Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1066.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CARPINTERIA AND MONTECITO WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2003

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1648) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1648

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 "Carpinteria and Montecito Water Distribution Systems Conveyance Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OF THE CACHUMA PROJECT, CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior—

(1) may convey to the Carpinteria Valley Water District, located in Santa Barbara County, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Carpinteria Distribution System of the Cachuma Project, California, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement entitled "Agreement Between the United States and the Carpinteria Valley Water District to Transfer Title to the Federally Owned Distribution System to the Carpinteria Valley Water District" (Agreement No. 00-XC-20-0364); and

(2) may convey to the Montecito Water District, located in Santa Barbara County, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Montecito Water Distribution System of the Cachuma Project, California, consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement entitled "Agreement Between the United States and the Montecito Water District to Transfer Title to the Federally Owned Distribution System to the Montecito Water District" (Agreement No. 01-XC-20-0365).

(b) LIABILITY.—Effective upon the date of conveyance of a distribution system under this section, the United States shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the distribution system, except for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by its employees or agents prior to the date of conveyance. Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (popularly known as the Federal Tort Claims Act) on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) BENEFITS.—After conveyance of a water distribution system to the Carpinteria Valley Water District or the Montecito Water District under this section—

(1) such water distribution system shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project; and

(2) such water district shall not be eligible to receive any benefits with respect to any facility comprising that distribution system, except benefits that would be available to a similarly situated person with respect to such a facility that is not part of a Federal reclamation project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. 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 Nebraska?

There was no objection.

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

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to transfer specific water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project of the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District in Santa Barbara County, California.