

Father Joe Carroll to run this project. We are ready to go.

Our contribution of this land will enable new workers to enter the workforce, provide shelter and assume other functions that will take the burden off the local, State and Federal governments. The relative cost of this land will come back to us tenfold. In short, this is a perfect example of how a private-public partnership can work for the betterment of so many.

So while I fully realize H.R. 3874 does not create new broad sweeping national policy, it helps people I really care about the people I really care about and that is reward enough.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a very special thank you to Chairman RICHARD POMBO who is responsible for this bill being on the floor of the House today. My heartfelt thanks go out also to Chairman RADANOVICH and Ranking Member RAHALL for shepherding this legislation through committee. These three gentlemen showed great care and dedication in moving this bill through the process. And thanks also to their very able staff, especially Rob Howarth, as well as my staff, Linda Valter, for their help on this important piece of legislation.

I look forward to your support of this bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3874, 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.

INCREASING CEILING ON FEDERAL SHARE OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, REGIONAL WATER RECLAMATION PROJECT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1156

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN CEILING ON FEDERAL SHARE OF WATER RECLAMATION PROJECT.

Section 1631(d) of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h-13(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Federal share of the costs of the project authorized by section 1624 shall not exceed \$80,000,000.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1156, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1156, introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ), increases the authorized Federal cost ceiling of the phase I Regional Water Reclamation Project in Orange County, California, by \$60 million.

Local project sponsors have expressed a desire to expand the groundwater replenishment system, which injects highly treated wastewater blended with other sources of water into the local groundwater aquifer. This project will provide an additional water supply for future use and create a freshwater barrier to prevent seawater intrusion.

The project reduces the region's dependency on imported water supplies and provides drought-proofing safeguards.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, the Colorado River Basin is now experiencing the worst drought in 500 years. H.R. 1156 authorizes a modest increase in Federal financial support to expand water recycling in southern California's Orange County water district.

There is a strong Federal interest in completing this project, as it will help reduce the amount of water that now must be imported from the Colorado River. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for introducing this important legislation.

I urge support for H.R. 1156.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1156, a bill that I authored. I am

pleased to see that the bill is on the Suspension Calendar today, and I thank the leadership for putting it on today's calendar.

H.R. 1156 would increase the authorized Federal share for the Orange County, California, groundwater replenishment system from \$20 million to \$80 million. This will allow Orange County to complete its innovative groundwater replenishment system. The groundwater replenishment system will serve about 2.3 million residents of north and central Orange County, and it will create a new water supply of 72,000 acre-feet per year. It is basically a recycling program, a very innovative one; and many States and nations around the world have come to Orange County to look at our tertiary cleaning system that we have.

What this bill does is to increase the Federal share of the project, bringing it closer to the 25 percent level, the level at which almost every other reclamation project is funded in the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992 and the Reclamation Cycling and Water Conservation Act.

The project is not just important to Orange County, California, but is important to the entire western United States because by recycling our own water, we would not rely so heavily on the Colorado River Aqueduct or the San Francisco Bay Delta water.

Members from both sides of the aisle recognize the need for this project, and I would like to particularly recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) for his cosponsorship and his continued support. The gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) is also offering H.R. 142 today, authorizing the Interior Secretary to participate in Inland Empire water projects; and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of that, and I urge my colleagues to support that as well.

At the same time, I would like to thank the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO); the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL); as well as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT); and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) for their overwhelming support of H.R. 1156.

I would also like to say in a very bipartisan manner, the rest of the Orange County delegation, including the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), have been strong supporters of H.R. 1156; and I thank them as well.

Lastly, let me thank Denis Bilodeau, Virginia Grebbien, Craig Miller, and everyone affiliated with the Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District for their hard work and leadership in groundwater recycling. Their innovation has

put Orange County in the forefront of water recycling and groundwater replenishment technology. I thank them for their continued support.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers; I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1156.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEWLANDS PROJECT HEAD- QUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE YARD FACILITY TRANSFER ACT

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2831) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2831

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 "Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility Transfer Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF NEWLANDS PROJECT HEADQUARTERS AND MAINTENANCE YARD FACILITY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—*The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, Nevada, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act and in accordance with all applicable law and the terms of the memorandum of agreement between the District and the Secretary dated June 9, 2003 (Contract No. 3-LC-20-8052), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to real property within the Newlands Projects, Nevada, known as 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada, and identified for disposition on the map entitled "Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility".*

(b) TREATMENT OF PROCEEDS FROM FALLON FREIGHT YARD AS CONSIDERATION.—*Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, amounts received by the United States for the lease and sale of Newlands Project lands comprising the Fallon Freight Yard shall, for purposes of this section, be treated as payment in full of consideration for the property conveyed under subsection (a).*

(c) REPORT.—*If the Secretary has not completed such conveyance within 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress explaining the reasons the conveyance has not been completed and stating the date by which the conveyance will be completed.*

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW, REMEDIATION, AND REMOVAL.—*The Secretary may not make any conveyance under this section until the completion with respect to the conveyance, in accordance with the memorandum of agreement referred to in subsection (a), of—*

(1) *compliance with requirements relating to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. et seq. 4321 et seq.) and cultural resources; and*

(2) *environmental site assessments, remediation, or removal.*

(e) LIABILITY.—*The United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act or omission by, or occurrence relating to, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District or its employees, agents, or contractors relating to the property conveyed under this section and occurring prior to, on, or after the date of such conveyance.*

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2831, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 2831, authored by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), our distinguished Committee on Resources vice chairman, directs the Secretary of the Interior to transfer 35 acres to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District as soon as practicable. This transfer, which includes the Newlands Projects headquarters and maintenance yard facility, would occur after adjustments for the lease and sale of other project lands have been included in the valuation process.

The bill also stipulates that environmental analyses, including those under the National Environmental Policy Act, must be completed prior to the transfer.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

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

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2831 would provide for the transfer of the Bureau of Reclamation land in Nevada to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. My Republican colleagues have already explained the legislation, and we have no objection.

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH), for yielding me the time on which to speak on this bill. I also would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the chairman, and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the subcommittee chairman, for working with me to bring this important piece of legislation to the floor today.

H.R. 2831, Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have already heard, will require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, or TCID, as we say in Nevada, all rights, title and interest of the Newlands Reclamation Project located in Fallon, Nevada.

On June 9, 2003, a little over a year ago, the Bureau of Reclamation and the TCID reached an agreement and signed a Memorandum of Agreement specifying the details of this transfer. This transfer of approximately 35 acres will allow the irrigation district to make permanent improvements on the property for the continued operation and maintenance of the Newlands Reclamation Project. This transfer is necessary so that financing can be obtained for these improvements.

It is important to note that in 1996, the Bureau of Reclamation certified that the TCID had repaid to the United States all of the original construction charges that were designated for repayment to the U.S. Government on this project.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is of utmost importance to the people of the State of Nevada and especially those in the Second District of Nevada. Consequently, I have received letters of support from the governor of the State of Nevada, Mr. Kenny Guinn; Churchill County Commissioners; the mayor of Fallon; State representatives Grady and Goicoechea; as well as State senator Mike McGinness.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of support and common-sense agreement on this bill, and so I would urge all Members of this body to vote in favor of H.R. 2831.

□ 1430

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2831, 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.