

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4606, authored by the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California. H.R. 4606 establishes the Southern California Basins Groundwater Remediation Fund within the U.S. Treasury to provide Federal cost-share monies to remediate groundwater supplies in the Santa Ana watershed. I urge adoption of this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend first the sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA), for bringing forth this very important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA).

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4606, the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act.

First of all, I would like to thank our minority leader and our majority leader for supporting this bill. Our majority leader happened to go in the Inland Empire to see what is going on in that area, and I appreciate that.

The Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act is a long-term solution to helping cities in Southern California remove perchlorate from their drinking water. Perchlorate groundwater contamination has become a crisis in Southern California. This includes my hometown of Rialto in California.

Perchlorate is a main ingredient in rocket fuel. It has been found in drinking water supplies in 40 States, including California. It has been linked to thyroid damage and may be especially harmful to infants and developing fetuses and the 1.2 million women of childbearing age in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties.

It is also harmful to those with weak immune systems, such as seniors and AIDS patients. There is a legal and moral obligation to provide safe and healthy water. Today, these obligations are in jeopardy. The hard-working families in these areas are not at fault and should not have to pay for these problems. We must protect the consumer. Southern California, and particularly the Inland Empire, has been greatly impacted by perchlorate. Perchlorate has been detected in 182 sources in the counties served by the Santa Ana River watershed.

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There is a perchlorate plume in the Inland Empire in California that is 7 miles long. It has affected 20 wells in San Bernardino County and jeopardized the water supplies of 500,000 residents.

The economic burden on these communities is almost as much of a concern as the potential health effects.

H.R. 4606 authorizes \$50 million in much-needed assistance. It is modeled after a successful program in the San Gabriel Basin in southern California that has also suffered from perchlorate-polluted water. And it is similar to H.R. 4459, a bill introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) that deals with perchlorate in northern California and passed this House last week.

I urge my colleagues to support this urgent bill for southern California so we can tell these communities that help is on the way. I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) for their support of H.R. 4606 and for moving this legislation forward quickly.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4606, 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.

MONTANA WATER CONTRACTS EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5009) to extend water contracts between the United States and specific irrigation districts and the City of Helena in Montana, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5009

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 "Montana Water Contracts Extension Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF WATER CONTRACTS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO EXTEND.—The Secretary of the Interior may extend each of the water contracts listed in subsection (b) until the earlier of—

(1) the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the contract would expire but for this section; or

(2) the date on which a new long-term water contract is executed by the parties to the contract listed in subsection (b).

(b) EXTENDED CONTRACTS.—The water contracts referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Contract Number 14-06-600-2078, as amended, for purchase of water between the United States of America and the City of Helena, Montana.

(2) Contract Number 14-06-600-2079, as amended, between the United States of

America and the Helena Valley Irrigation District for water service.

(3) Contract Number 14-06-600-8734, as amended, between the United States of America and the Toston Irrigation District for water service.

(4) Contract number 14-06-600-3592, as amended, between the United States and the Clark Canyon Water Supply Company, Inc., for water service and for a supplemental supply.

(5) Contract number 14-06-600-3593, as amended, between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District for water service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH).

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

H.R. 5009, authored by our distinguished committee colleague from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), extends five Bureau of Reclamation water service contracts with the city of Helena, Montana, and nearby irrigation districts for up to 2 years. These extensions are needed mainly to complete necessary Endangered Species Act studies on the Missouri River. Furthermore, these extensions will allow for continued water deliveries while providing more time for the Federal Government and contract holders to negotiate new long-term contracts.

I urge the adoption of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, we have no objection to the consideration of this measure.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5009.

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.

AINSWORTH UNIT, NEBRASKA WATER CONTRACT EXTENSION

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5016) to extend the water service contract for the Ainsworth Unit, Sandhills Division, Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Nebraska.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5016

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