

bill is sponsored by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Approximately 50 percent of the Bureau of Reclamation's dams were built between 1900 and 1950 before the state-of-the-art design practices were used. With more aging dams needing corrective action, the authorization level for the Safety of Dams Program will soon be exhausted. This bill not only gives the Bureau of Reclamation added financial tools to fix these structural problems for the next 10 years but requires the agency to consult with local beneficiaries on implementing these projects. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I join my colleagues in full support of S. 1727.

Farming communities and urban areas who benefit from Bureau of Reclamation projects will now be ensured that ongoing dam safety work will continue. In addition, the Bureau will now be required to consider ways of reducing cost for new dam safety projects.

We support the passage of S. 1727.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1727.

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.

AMENDING RECLAMATION PROJECTS AUTHORIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1992

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1284) to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the cost of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, line 15, strike out "\$12,500,000" and insert "\$6,500,000".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1284 introduced by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) increases the authorized Federal cost ceiling for the San Gabriel Demonstration Project by \$12.5 million. The bill, as amended, reduces the Federal share from \$12.5 million to \$6.5 million.

Local project sponsors have expressed a desire to expand the Demonstration Project, which treats contaminated groundwater and then delivers the effluent to nearby localities to justify the Federal cost ceiling increase. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, legislation to increase the spending cap imposed on the San Gabriel Basin Demonstration Project. The funding level for this program was capped at \$38 million in 1996. With the increase authorized by H.R. 1284, communities in southeast Los Angeles County are assured of continued financial support for their groundwater cleanup projects.

I extend my compliments to the gentlewoman from California for her tireless work on this bill and also wish to recognize the gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO), the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER for their assistance. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, legislation to increase the spending cap imposed on the San Gabriel Basin Demonstration Project. Funding level for this program authorized in 1992 was capped at \$38 million in 1996.

I want to thank my California colleagues on the other side of the aisle—Chairman DREIER, Chairman CALVERT and Chairman POMBO—for their continued assistance to me and other Members who are working to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for their local communities. I would also like to thank Ranking Member RAHALL and Congresswoman SOLIS for their support of this bill.

H.R. 1284, if enacted, would simply allow cities of Industry, El Monte and South El Monte located in and near my district throughout Southeast Los Angeles County to have the ability to request an additional \$6.5 million in funding for assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for cleanup of volatile organic compounds or VOC's once they are able to secure 75 percent State and local matching fund.

Although the authorizing amount under this bill was decreased from \$12.5 million to \$6.5

million by the Senate, local water agencies and municipalities serving residents throughout my district in the San Gabriel Valley remain supportive of this bill, and they are eager to continue their aggressive groundwater cleanup efforts with the assurance of continued Federal funding.

I urge my House colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1284, additional funding for the San Gabriel Valley Basin Demonstration Project.

The San Gabriel Valley is facing serious water quality and public health problems. The aquifer is contaminated with volatile organic compounds and perchlorate, or rocket-fuel. Water providers in the San Gabriel Valley draw water from the Basin, home to Superfund sites that span more than 170 square miles. Despite its contamination, the Basin is needed to provide water to more than 1.5 million people.

Our water agencies have done a wonderful job working to maintain a reliable, dependable and safe source of water, but they can not do it alone. This bill authorizes an additional \$6.5 million to expand the Basin Demonstration Project to El Monte, South El Monte, and Puente Valley.

I am proud to represent a community working so diligently to ensure long term reliability of its water supply, and I am proud that, together with Congresswoman NAPOLITANO and Congressman DREIER, that we could secure these funds to help ensure a safe, reliable and dependable source of water for southern California.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1284.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 434) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 434

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 "Idaho Panhandle National Forest Improvement Act of 2003".