increasing wildfire hazards; and limiting human use of the waterways.

While each of these points is important to one or more constituencies, the single most critical problem is that salt cedar steals water. The West may be losing 2 million to 4.5 million acre-feet of water per year due to the presence of salt cedar, which is beyond what native plants would likely use. The water needs of 20 million people or one million acres of irrigated farmland could be met with that amount of water.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2720 would address this problem by requiring the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, in association with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Defense, to create and deploy an assessment and demonstration program for salt cedar and Russian olive.

This program would first assess the extent of the infestation of both species in the western U.S., develop and demonstrate strategic solutions for long-term management and funding strategies of salt cedar and Russian olive and the reestablishment of native vegetation, and assess the economic means to dispose of biomass created as a result of removal of salt cedar and Russian olive trees.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2720 is essential to dealing with the salt cedar and Russian olive problem in the West, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this much-needed legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, again I express my appreciation to Mr. UDALL from New Mexico for his hard work and support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time, requesting all Members to support H.R. 2720.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2720.

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.

□ 1515

## DANA POINT DESALINATION PROJECT AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3929) to amend the Water Desalination Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in research and development, environmental and feasibility studies, and preliminary engineering for the Municipal Water District of Orange County, California, Dana Point Desalination Project located at Dana Point, California, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3929

*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 ''Dana Point Desalination Project Authorization Act''.*

***SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR DANA POINT DESALINATION PROJECT.***

*The Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104–298) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

***''SEC. 10. DANA POINT DESALINATION RESEARCH AND FEASIBILITY RELATED COSTS.***

*''(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may assist in research and development, environmental and feasibility studies, and preliminary engineering for the Municipal Water District of Orange County, California, Dana Point Desalination Project located at Dana Point, California.*

*''(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section 7, the Federal share of the costs for the project assisted under subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total costs of the project.*

*''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $2,500,000 to carry out this section.*

*''(d) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this section.''.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. 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 New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3929, introduced by our distinguished colleague, KEN CALVERT, authorizes Federal participation in a unique desalination research and development project in Southern California.

Water consumers in that area of the State depend on imported water, and local efforts are being undertaken to develop nearby water supplies to reduce this dependence.

Desalination and water recycling are some of the most important ways to create new local water supplies. This legislation provides limited Federal assistance to develop a unique subsurface ocean water collection system that can reduce desalination's cost and eliminate impacts on the environment.

This project will not only help Southern California, but could also be a model for future desalination operations nationwide. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we support passage of H.R. 3929. We need to do more, not less, to help communities that are working to apply new technologies to their water supply problems. This bill provides limited financial assistance for engineering and environmental studies. It does not authorize funds for construction.

The project sponsors are exploring the feasibility of an ocean water desalinization plant using subsurface intake wells, which are protective of the marine environment. If this design is successful, it could encourage other coastal communities that are considering ocean desalinization as a way to stretch their limited water supplies without causing damage to marine life.

It is unfortunate that the Bush administration opposes this bill. Their opposition to H.R. 3929 is short-sighted and ill advised. This administration appears to be on a crusade against the use of innovative technologies to help solve water supply problems.

I hope the bill will be enacted despite their objections.

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL).

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I have some familiarity with the project, since it is located in the district which I have the privilege to represent. Water is an issue. It is an issue in the West; it is an issue in California.

We will probably be dealing this week and over the next few weeks and perhaps months with some of the issues of a shortage of various energy projects. We can avoid shortages in water if we work on it early, if we get on some of these projects now.

What this project does, as both the previous speakers indicated, is it is not just something that is good for the district I represent or the area I represent, but is in fact a test project for this new type of desalinization, where you are getting the water, rather than directly out of the ocean on the coast, you are actually bringing the water out underneath the sand, and then back to a desalinization plant, which is off the coast.

That is why it does not have the negative environmental impacts putting a plant directly on the coast right against the water would be. But, also, the sand itself has the effect, we believe, of filtering this water on its way to the desalinization plant, which both reduces the cost, reduces the waste that is created in desalinization, and possibly, we believe, makes the project considerably more efficient and therefore cheaper.

So what this project, if it is successful, will do is it will create desalinization that will be both less impactful on the environment, result in a higher

yield of usable water, and be cheaper along the way. So something that is good for all sides.

The Federal involvement here would only be 25 percent of the entire project, as 75 percent of the cost is being carried by local public agencies. So I appreciate the support on both sides of the aisle for this project and would urge its passage.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3929, the Dana Point Desalination Project Authorization Act. My legislation will authorize Federal participation in a relatively small ocean desalination project that could have an enormous impact on the future development of desalination projects.

As our country continues to look for new sources of water, particularly in the West, the expansion of our desalinated ocean water capability is essential. While extensively utilized in other parts of the world, most notably in the Middle East, the U.S. has only recently begun to consider large-scale ocean water desalination projects. There are a number of factors that have limited the viability of desalination projects. The major issues confronting ocean desalination are the cost of producing potable water and the potential negative impacts on ocean ecosystems.

The Dana Point Desalination Project is not a typical ocean desalination project. The project will use a unique subsurface ocean intake system that will collect water that naturally seeps through the ocean floor. The system provides a number of benefits over traditional intake systems, including removing the negative impacts on marine life as well as potentially reducing the need for extensive pretreatment filtration. If constructed and successful, the system would remove various concerns expressed by environmental advocates as well as improve the feasibility of future ocean desalination projects.

The Dana Point Desalination Project, to the best of my knowledge, is the only ocean desalination project supported by the Surfrider Foundation. Their support is a direct result of the unique subsurface intake technology that avoids negative impacts to the marine ecosystem. I would like to submit a letter form the Surfrider Foundation detailing their support for the Dana Point project for the record.

The Dana Point Desalination Project could have significant regional and national benefits. H.R. 3929 simply authorizes Federal participation in the project and limits the Federal obligation to $2.5 million to assist with preliminary engineering and environmental studies. No construction dollars are authorized in H.R. 3929.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Dana Point Desalination Project and passing H.R. 3929.

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION,
*January 10, 2006.*

Re Support for MWDOC Beach Well Feasibility Study.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I am writing on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation in support of efforts by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) to investigate the feasibility of sub-surface beach wells to supply seawater for ocean desalination.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

In general, Surfrider Foundation believes that future demands for water supplies should first be met by fully utilizing water conservation, wastewater reclamation, and stormwater management that will capture runoff for beneficial uses. We feel very strongly that these supply alternatives combine the benefit of meeting our future water needs while simultaneously reducing polluted runoff and ocean discharges. Ocean desalination should be the lowest priority for water supply choices and only employed using the most environmentally protective methods and technology.

We are pleased to see this approach to water supply alternatives reflected in MWDOC's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan. Furthermore, we are very supportive of the measured approach MWDOC is taking toward filling a limited role for ocean desalination in their water supply portfolio. Sub-surface ''feedwater'' intakes for desalination will avoid the unnecessary destruction of marine life, and disruption of healthy marine ecosystems, that accompanies open ocean intakes.

We look forward to the results of the subsurface beach well feasibility study MWDOC is proposing in Dana Point.

Sincerely,

JOE GEEVER,
*Southern California Regional Manager.*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers and yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of H.R. 3929.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3929, 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.

## CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING ACT OF 2006

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3418) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3418

*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 ''Central Texas Water Recycling Act of 2006''.*

***SEC. 2. PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.***

*(a) IN GENERAL.—The Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Public Law 102–575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 16____ the following new section:*

***''SEC. 16____. CENTRAL TEXAS WATER RECYCLING AND REUSE PROJECT.***

*''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in cooperation with the City of Waco and other participating communities in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in McLennan County, Texas.*

*''(b) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 percent of the total cost.*

*''(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the project described in subsection (a).*

*''(d) SUNSET OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this section.''.*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 2 of Public Law 102–575 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16____ the following:*

*''Sec. 16____. Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project.''.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. 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 New Mexico?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3418, introduced by Congressman CHET EDWARDS, authorizes Federal participation in a water reuse project in McLennan County, Texas. As central Texas cities experience rapid population growth and increased water demand, these communities are being proactive to better utilize their existing water supplies.

This legislation is part of the effort to create new water supplies. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, we support passage of H.R. 3418. We commend Congressman CHET EDWARDS for his persistence and hard work to secure authorization for this important project. The city of Waco is keenly aware that additional sources of water will be required to meet future water demands.

The city has decided to meet the expected water supply shortfall in part by implementing aggressive water conservation and water recycling and reclamation programs. The water recycling project identified in this bill will be eligible for limited financial assistance under the Bureau of Reclamation's title XVI water recycling program.