

(C) the percentage of construction completed;

(D) the estimated cost remaining until completion of the project; and

(E) a brief explanation of the reasons for the delay.

SA 4684. Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 728, to provide for the consideration and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 76 between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

SEC. 2007. WATER RESOURCES CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PRIORITIZATION REPORT.

(a) **PRIORITIZATION REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—On the third Tuesday of January of each year beginning January 2007, the Water Resources Planning Coordinating Committee established under section 2006(a) (referred to in this section as the “Coordinating Committee”) shall submit to the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Appropriations of the Senate, the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Management and Budget, and make available to the public on the Internet, a prioritization report describing Corps of Engineers water resources projects authorized for construction.

(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, a description of—

(A) each water resources project included in the fiscal transparency report under section 2004(b)(1);

(B) each water resources project authorized for construction—

(i) on or after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) during the 10-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) other water resources projects authorized for construction, as the Coordinating Committee and the Secretary determine to be appropriate.

(3) **PRIORITIZATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each project described in a report under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) be categorized by project type; and

(ii) be classified into a tier system of descending priority, to be established by the Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary, in a manner that reflects the extent to which the project achieves national priority criteria established under subsection (b).

(B) **MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS.**—Each multipurpose project described in a report under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) be classified by the project type that best represents the primary project purpose, as determined by the Coordinating Committee; and

(ii) be classified into the tier system described in subparagraph (A)(ii) within that project type.

(C) **TIER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.**—In establishing a tier system under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall ensure that—

(i) each tier is limited to \$5,000,000,000 in total authorized project costs; and

(ii) includes not more than 100 projects.

(4) **REQUIREMENT.**—In preparing reports under paragraph (1), the Coordinating Committee shall balance, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) stability in project prioritization between reports; and

(B) recognition of newly-authorized construction projects and changing needs of the United States.

(b) **NATIONAL PRIORITY CRITERIA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In preparing a report under subsection (a), the Coordinating Committee shall prioritize water resources construction projects within the applicable category based on an assessment by the Coordinating Committee of the following criteria:

(A) For flood and storm damage reduction projects, the extent to which the project—

(i) addresses critical flood damage reduction needs of the United States, including by reducing the risks to loss of life by considering current protection levels; and

(ii) avoids increasing risks to human life or damages to property in the case of large flood events, avoids adverse environmental impacts, or produces environmental benefits.

(B) For navigation projects, the extent to which the project—

(i) addresses priority navigation needs of the United States, including by having a high probability of producing the economic benefits projected with respect to the project and reflecting regional planning needs, as applicable; and

(ii) avoids adverse environmental impacts.

(C) For environmental restoration projects, the extent to which the project—

(i) addresses priority environmental restoration needs of the United States, including by restoring the natural hydrologic processes and spatial extent of an aquatic habitat while being, to the maximum extent practicable, self-sustaining; and

(ii) is cost-effective or produces economic benefits.

(2) **BENEFIT-TO-COST RATIOS.**—In prioritizing water resources projects under subsection (a)(3) that require benefit-to-cost ratios for inclusion in a report under subsection (a)(1), the Coordinating Committee shall assess and take into consideration the benefit-to-cost ratio and the remaining benefit-to-cost ratio of each project.

(3) **FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.**—In preparing reports under subsection (a)(1), the Coordinating Committee may take into consideration any additional criteria or subcriteria, if the criteria or subcriteria are fully explained in the report.

(4) **STATE PRIORITIZATION DETERMINATIONS.**—The Coordinating Committee shall establish a process by which each State may submit to the Coordinating Committee for consideration in carrying out this subsection any prioritization determination of the State with respect to a water resources project in the State.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coordinating Committee shall submit to Congress proposed recommendations with respect to—

(A) a process to prioritize water resources projects across project type;

(B) a process to prioritize ongoing operational activities carried out by the Corps of Engineers;

(C) a process to address in the prioritization process recreation and other ancillary benefits resulting from the construction of Corps of Engineers projects; and

(D) potential improvements to the prioritization process established under this section.

(2) **CONTRACTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.**—The Coordinating Committee may offer to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration or any similar entity to assist in developing recommendations under this subsection.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 3638, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects to plan, design, and construct water supply projects and to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to encourage the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the State of California; S. 3639, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to provide standards and procedures for the review of water reclamation and reuse projects; H.R. 177, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, and for other purposes.; H.R. 2341, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas; and 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.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Joshua Johnson at 202-224-5861 or Steve Waskiewicz at 202-228-6195.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the