

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 986

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Griffith Project to the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1999

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. BRYAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Griffith Project to the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Griffith Project Pre-
5 payment and Conveyance Act.”

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **AUTHORITY.**—The term “Authority” means
9 the Southern Nevada Water Authority, organized
10 under the laws of the State of Nevada.

1 (2) GRIFFITH PROJECT.—The term “Griffith
2 Project” means the Robert B. Griffith Water
3 Project, authorized by Public Law 89–292 (com-
4 monly known as the “Southern Nevada Water
5 Project Act”) (79 Stat. 1068), including all pipe-
6 lines, conduits, pumping plants, intake facilities,
7 aqueducts, laterals, water storage and regulatory fa-
8 cilities, electric substations, and related works con-
9 structed and all interests in land acquired under
10 Public Law 89–292.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior.

13 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF GRIFFITH PROJECT.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—In consideration of the assump-
15 tion by the Authority from the United States of all liability
16 for administration, operation, and maintenance of the
17 Griffith Project and subject to the payment by the Author-
18 ity of the net present value of the remaining repayment
19 obligation (as determined in accordance with Office of
20 Management and Budget Circular A–129, as in effect on
21 the date of payment and conveyance), the Secretary shall
22 convey and assign to the Authority all right, title, and in-
23 terest of the United States in and to the Griffith Project.

24 (b) RIGHT TO USE AND OCCUPY PUBLIC LAND.—
25 On and after the date of the conveyance under subsection

1 (a), the Authority shall have the right to use and occupy
2 without charge all public land, including withdrawn public
3 land—

4 (1) on which the Griffith Project is situated; or
5 (2) that is used for the purposes of the Griffith
6 Project as of that date.

7 (c) REPORT.—If the conveyance under subsection (a)
8 has not occurred by July 1, 2000, the Secretary shall sub-
9 mit to Congress a report on the status of the conveyance.

10 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary completes
12 the conveyance under subsection (a) before the dead-
13 line under subsection (c), 50 percent of the cost of
14 administrative action and environmental compliance
15 for the conveyance shall be paid by the Secretary,
16 and 50 percent shall be paid by the Authority.

17 (2) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If the Sec-
18 retary fails to complete the conveyance under this
19 Act before the deadline under subsection (c), 100
20 percent of the cost described in paragraph (1) shall
21 be paid by the Secretary.

22 **SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING OPERATIONS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act expands or
24 changes the use or operation of the Griffith Project from

1 its use and operation as of the day before the date of en-
2 actment of this Act.

3 (b) **FUTURE ALTERATIONS.**—If the Authority
4 changes the use or operation of the Griffith Project, the
5 Authority shall comply with all applicable laws (including
6 regulations) governing the changes at that time.

7 **SEC. 5. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING CONTRACTS.**

8 The Secretary and the Authority may modify Con-
9 tract No. 7-07-30-W004 as necessary to conform the
10 contract to this Act.

11 **SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.**

12 On conveyance of the Griffith Project under section
13 3, the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 391 et seq.), and
14 all Acts amendatory of that Act or supplemental to that
15 Act shall not apply to the Griffith Project.

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