

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam 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 gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. H.R. 177, introduced by our colleague from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) provides Federal assistance for three water projects aimed at drought-proofing Southern California.

The bill will help develop wetlands to naturally clean surface water in the Santa Ana watershed. The bill also authorizes Federal assistance for the design and construction of a regional wastewater pipeline and a desalting plant.

The Federal cost share of these projects will not exceed 25 percent. This legislation promotes the development of new water technologies that create reliable water supplies and help reduce Southern California's dependence on imported water.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much 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. Madam Speaker, we support passage of H.R. 177, the water recycling and desalting projects authorized in this bill. These projects will be eligible for limited financial assistance under the Bureau of Reclamation's title XVI water recycling program. These projects will reduce Southern California's dependency on imported water from the Sacramento River Delta, and will dramatically improve the reliability of water supplies in Southern California.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER).

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 177, the Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2005.

I want to thank Resources Chairman POMBO and Water Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH for recognizing the importance of this bill, basically providing innovative water solutions to the challenges posed by chronic water shortages in Southern California.

This bill will authorize water resource reliability projects in the Southern California region and dra-

matically improve the water supply reliability of the Santa Ana River watershed and the water basin in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties.

Water scarcity issues and wastewater treatment are particularly important to my region. If you want to sustain our Nation's economic growth and provide for rapidly increasing population, we must ensure there is an efficient and reliable access to water resources and pursue modernized sanitation infrastructure. It is critical that we find innovative solutions to the challenges posed by chronic water shortages in Southern California.

In Southern California, water supply deficiency discourages economic growth, endangers the environment, and compromises the health and safety of residents. Because of limited supplies and increased demands, Southern California communities continue to seek nontraditional methods to produce reliable, dependable resources, including water through recycling and desalination.

This bill would help reduce Southern California's dependence on imported water supply by constructing the recycling project, desalination demonstration reclamation project, the regional brine line project and will help in the study of technologies of water recycling.

The Federal Government's specific role in water recycling and desalination projects is in title XVI of the reclamation wastewater and groundwater studies in the Facilities Act, which direct the Department of the Interior to award Federal grants to communities developing nontraditional water supplies.

The significant local cost share and minimal Federal share makes these projects attractive to private financing partnerships and encourages regional solutions to complex water problems.

Upon full implementation, these projects will create an estimated 200,000 new acre feet of water for the region, upon full implementation, some 65.2 million gallons of water; and that is significant for our region.

It reduces the impact of water from the Colorado River in Northern California. As this bill moves forward, I ask my colleagues to support this. This is good for the environment, good for people, and good for the region.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority and minority staff and especially Steve Lanich.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 177, particularly with regard to Section 5, which will increase the ceiling of the federal share for the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment project. I introduced this section as a stand-alone bill in the 108th Congress, and it was passed by the House last year. I am pleased to see this legislation being passed again in its current form.

Section 5 will increase the authorized Federal share for the Orange County California

Groundwater Replenishment, OCGWR. This will help Orange County to complete this important and much-needed project, which will serve about 2.3 million residents of north and central Orange County, and it will create a new water supply of 72,000 acre-feet per year.

The OCGWR project is not just important to Orange County, California, but also to the entire western United States. By recycling our own water, we in Orange County would not have to rely so heavily on water from the Colorado River Aqueduct or the San Francisco Bay Delta.

Moreover, the OCGWR is a highly innovative recycling project—a pilot project for other future water recycling projects. Experts in public water management systems, from other states and from countries around the world, have come to Orange County to look at the tertiary cleaning system housed there. The project is of national and even international significance.

I am pleased that this project has received strong support from Members on both sides of the aisle. As I mentioned previously, the Committee on Resources very generously allowed this same bill to be considered under Suspension of the Rules last year. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Chairman POMBO from California, Ranking Member RAHALL from West Virginia, as well as former Subcommittee Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO of California for their overwhelming support of this bill.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from Orange County for their continued support. Mr. MILLER, the former Representative Mr. COX, Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. ROYCE are strong supporters of this project. Securing funding for the OCGWR has always been, and will continue to be, a bipartisan effort.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 177 which contains this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam 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 gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 177, 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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 55) to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 55

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 “Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL PARCEL.**—The term “Federal parcel” means the parcel of approximately 70 acres of Federal land near MacGregor Ranch, Larimer County, Colorado, as depicted on the map.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map numbered 121/80,154, dated June 2004.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL PARCELS.**—The term “non-Federal parcels” means the 3 parcels of non-Federal land comprising approximately 5.9 acres that are located near MacGregor Ranch, Larimer County, Colorado, as depicted on the map.

(4) **PARK.**—The term “Park” means Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **EXCHANGE OF LAND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall accept an offer to convey all right, title, and interest in and to the non-Federal parcels to the United States in exchange for the Federal parcel.

(2) **CONVEYANCE.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an offer under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall convey the Federal parcel in exchange for the non-Federal parcels.

(3) **CONSERVATION EASEMENT.**—As a condition of the exchange of land under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall reserve a perpetual easement to the Federal parcel for the purposes of protecting, preserving, and enhancing the conservation values of the Federal parcel.

(b) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT; MANAGEMENT OF LAND.**—On acquisition of the non-Federal parcels under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall—

(1) adjust the boundary of the Park to reflect the acquisition of the non-Federal parcels; and

(2) manage the non-Federal parcels as part of the Park, in accordance with any laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**. Madam 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 gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 55 is identical to H.R. 774, which I introduced earlier this year. S. 55 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept a conveyance of 5.9 acres and in return convey approximately 70 acres to the MacGregor Ranch Trust in order to consolidate trailheads and improve visitor access in Rocky Mountain National Park.

According to the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park is the fifth most visited park in the system. With the popularity of Rocky Mountain National Park, the park officials must continuously find ways to improve visitor access and enjoyment.

For this reason, Senator **ALLARD** and I introduced the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005. This is a straightforward piece of legislation, and it is legislation that is needed to enhance enjoyment and ease of access to a popular trailhead.

S. 55 would convey three strategic pieces of land to the park system from the MacGregor ranch, a historic working cattle ranch that is located within the boundary of the park. The new parcels of land would be used to build a new parking lot and road to offer improved access for the public, while protecting the historic integrity of the ranch.

The MacGregor ranch would, in turn, receive much-needed grazing land. I believe this is a long-term solution for both the park and the MacGregor ranch.

Madam Speaker, S. 55 is supported by the majority and the minority, and I urge passage of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **UDALL** of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much 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. Madam Speaker, as the majority has explained, S. 55 provides for a land exchange at Rocky Mountain National Park in order to facilitate the relocation of a park trailhead.

Madam Speaker, the proposed exchange will include private property within the park that will further the public use and enjoyment of a popular hiking trail. In addition, the legislation requires that a conservation easement be maintained on Federal land being conveyed in order to protect, preserve, and enhance the conservation values of that land.

Madam Speaker, the terms of the exchange are satisfactory to both parties, and we know of no problems with the legislation. That being the case, we have no objection to the adoption of S. 55 by the House today.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to just thank the majority and minority staff and especially Rick Healy of the Resources Committee.

Mr. **UDALL** of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which is the companion to a House bill, H.R. 774, introduced by our colleague, Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**, that I have cosponsored with my Colorado colleagues Mr. **BEAUPREZ** and Mr. **TANCREDO**.

It directs the Secretary of Interior to enter into a land exchange to benefit Rocky Mountain National Park, and adjusts the boundary of the park in order to facilitate that exchange.

Rocky Mountain National Park is one of Colorado's outstanding natural treasures. Es-

tablished by Congress in 1915, it includes about 266,000 acres whose spectacular high alpine scenery and abundant wildlife attract over 3 million visitors annually.

Not all the land within the park's boundaries is owned by the United States. One private inholding is the historic McGregor Ranch. Part of that ranch is a private access road that hikers and rock climbers have been using to reach the Twin Owls Trailhead just inside the park boundary and from there to visit various parts of the park.

Over the last 20 years the popularity of the Twin Owls trailhead has grown steadily and in recent years overflow parking from the trailhead has had adverse effects on the ranch while the increase in traffic on the one-lane access road has diminished the historic character of the area.

For several years the National Park Service, NPS, and the McGregor Ranch have been working to find a solution to the traffic and parking problems. In 2003, after a process that involved public participation and an environmental assessment, the NPS decided to relocate the Twin Owls parking lot to the east end of the McGregor Ranch, a location well away from the historic homestead. Construction of a new access road and a larger parking lot for the trailhead is planned at the new location.

In order to enforce NPS regulations on the new access road and at the new trailhead, the land must be located within the park boundary. This legislation is necessary to authorize the land exchange and to adjust the park boundary to include the newly acquired lands.

Under the bill, the McGregor Trust—owner of the ranch—will convey 5.9 acres of land to the NPS to facilitate the construction and management of the new facilities. In exchange, the McGregor Trust will acquire up to 70 acres to be used for the purpose of growing hay and cattle.

The difference in the acreages reflects a difference in market value. The land now held by the ranch, which will be transferred to the United States, is suitable for residential use and therefore of higher per acre value than the grazing land that will be transferred to the ranch. To maintain the character of the land being transferred to the ranch, the National Park Service will retain a conservation easement that will allow grazing but prohibit construction of buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is good for the McGregor Ranch, for Rocky Mountain National Park, and for the public. I urge its approval.

Mr. **UDALL** of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**. Madam 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 gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. **MUSGRAVE**) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 55.

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.