

Host families: Nestor and Laurie Jaramillo, Stephen and Elizabeth Smith, John and Mary O'Toole.

Nuestros Pequeños Hermandos (NPH) Central America: Father Ron Hicks.

The U.S. Embassy in San Salvador: thanks to Consul General Virginia Hotchner and the entire staff of the Consular Section for their assistance in providing non-immigrant visas for the children.

Mr. Chao Lee from my St. Paul office: special thanks to Chao for his hard work and tenacity in working with Friends of the Orphans and the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador to secure non-immigrant visas for the children.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the staff of Friends of the Orphans, U.S. Embassy staff in San Salvador, and the doctors, pediatricians and nurses of the Fairview Southdale Hospital and compassionate citizens who made an impact on the lives of the five Salvadoran orphans, I submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in introducing legislation to help the San Francisco Bay Area to solve its water challenges. The bill is a revision of legislation I first introduced in the 109th Congress, and will provide local agencies with the Federal partner that they need to implement an ambitious and forward-thinking regional water recycling program.

The City of Pittsburg and the Delta Diablo Sanitation District, in my congressional district, have been leading the charge, investing time, energy, and local funds in developing water recycling projects to help meet regional water needs.

My new legislation, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Authorization Act of 2007, would authorize a federal partner for the effort in Pittsburg, as well as for similar programs in Antioch, Palo Alto, Mountain View, Pacifica, South Santa Clara County, Redwood City, and San Jose.

We put the tools for these Federal-local water recycling partnerships in place with the historic Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, which not only included my Central Valley Project Improvement Act but featured a provision now known simply as the "Title XVI" water recycling program.

In my introductory remarks for last year's version of the bill, I made the case for the Title XVI program and the importance of water recycling. Although the Bush administration continues to oppose funding water recycling, the case has only gotten stronger since then, as evidenced by the breadth of local support for this bill and for the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program. I am also including in the record an editorial from the Contra Costa Times supporting the earlier bill.

The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program is a collaboration of public utilities

that helps to meet our region's and state's growing water needs through a set of recycling and reclamation projects. The projects in this coalition have been repeatedly vetted, both internally at the local level and through each step of the Title XVI review process.

Although these worthy projects have supplied local funding, and secured matching State funding, they still need the Federal partner to step up. There is a clear Federal interest in these projects, as there is in the other successful regional recycling programs like those of Southern California. A good water recycling program stretches existing supplies and provides certainty to all of the water users in the area; conflict can be reduced even in a critically dry year. As we all know, a stable and reliable regional water supply makes good neighbors.

This new bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the following Bay Area water reuse projects: Antioch Recycled Water Project (Delta Diablo Sanitation District, City of Antioch); Pacifica Recycled Water Project (North Coast County Water District); Mountain View/Moffett Area Water Reuse Project (City of Palo Alto, City of Mountain View); Pittsburg Recycled Water Project (Delta Diablo Sanitation District, City of Pittsburg); Redwood City Recycled Water Project; South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project (Santa Clara Valley Water District, South County Regional Wastewater Authority); and South Bay Advanced Recycled Water Treatment Facility (Santa Clara Valley Water District, City of San Jose).

These seven projects are estimated to make 12,205 acre-feet of water available annually in the short term, and 37,600 acre-feet annually in the long term, all while reducing demand on the Delta and on existing water infrastructure. The new bill also directs the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to fully fund the San Jose Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Project, first authorized in the original Title XVI legislation.

These programs are a fiscal and environmental win-win, and encouraging them is sound federal policy. I commend my original cosponsors for joining in this effort to support our region's water recycling initiative: Reps. ANNA ESHOO, ELLEN TAUSCHER, TOM LANTOS, MIKE HONDA, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, and PETE STARK.

I'm glad to be working with my Bay Area colleagues to help our region's water reuse program, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

[From the Contra Costa Times, Jan. 25, 2007]

FUND WATER RECYCLING

One of the most effective ways to protect our environment and efficiently use natural resources is recycling. It is particularly true of water, which can be used more than once.

There is no good reason to flush wastewater into rivers, bays, estuaries and the ocean if it can be treated and used again for other purposes such as irrigating parks and golf courses.

That is the philosophy behind six Bay Area water recycling projects ready to begin once they are fully funded. They are in Pittsburg, Antioch, Pacifica, Palo Alto-Mountain View, Redwood City and South Santa Clara County.

The recycled water will be treated and piped to water golf courses, parks, school grounds and roadway medians, and will be used by some businesses.

Half of the money for the projects will come from local sources. One-fourth will

come from the state, including Proposition 50 funds. Another one-fourth will come from the federal government under a bill sponsored by Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez.

Pittsburg has taken the lead in the recycling effort, has raised local money, has some of the infrastructure in place and already is doing some recycling. Antioch is not far behind.

Both cities are at the top of the list for the second round of state funding for recycled-water projects.

However, the Department of Water Resources, which can approve the money by administrative decision, needs a bit of prodding by local legislators.

Miller's bill, HR 6218, which has bipartisan support, also needs quick approval.

Together, the six Bay Area projects would recycle nearly 10,000 acre-feet of water per year. That is not a large percentage of the total volume of water used in the area, but it is a significant amount and would help spur more recycling efforts.

The total cost of the six projects is \$74.8 million. But the state and federal governments' share is only \$18.7 million each. The state money already is available, and there is no reason to believe the federal funds will not be forthcoming.

Recycling is not the only way to meet the Bay Area's and California's water needs, but it must be part of the solution. Not only does it use water effectively, it also reduces pollution of the Delta, San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay.

We trust state and federal officials will agree and act quickly to help local efforts to recycle an essential resource.

THE WYLAND FOUNDATION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 14, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Wyland Foundation for its outstanding achievements in environmental education programs. Since 1993, the Wyland Foundation has dedicated itself to protecting the earth's oceans by bridging the world of art and science.

The Wyland Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's oceans, waterways, and marine life. The foundation, led by the artist Wyland, encourages environmental awareness through education programs, life-size public arts projects, and community events. The Wyland Foundation strives to inspire as many people as possible—especially school children—to learn more about our oceans and aquatic habitats.

Perhaps the Wyland Foundation's best known initiative is the Whaling Walls: Art in Public Places. Through Whaling Walls, the Wyland Foundation works with communities to paint large-scale murals of migrating gray whales, breaching humpbacks, blue whales, and other marine life. The program is predicated on the idea that the best way to teach someone about environmental conservation is to show them what they are conserving.

The 81st Whaling Wall was painted at the Aquarium of Niagara in Niagara Falls, New York in 1998. The project allowed children ranging from three to eighteen years old to