

process as quickly as possible and in full compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Both Acts require discharge permits to be protective of human health and the Delta ecosystem.

The Water Boards are committed to the use of sound science to guide regulatory decisions. We are following the National Academy of Sciences review last fall of the federal agencies' "biological opinions" related to the Delta smelt and the Chinook salmon, and similar scientific review efforts by Federal and State agencies. The State Water Board recently concluded three days of testimony on flow criteria for the Delta ecosystem. As part of the flow criteria proceeding, the State Water Board heard extensive scientific and expert testimony on flow and other factors, including ammonia that impacts the Delta ecosystem. The scientific information from these proceedings will be used in future proceedings to protect and restore the Delta.

The same commitment to sound science guides the Central Valley Water Board's development of the draft permit for the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The recent studies by Doctors Glibert and Werner are part of a large body of research being reviewed for permit development. Central Valley Water Board staff has met with both Dr. Glibert and Dr. Werner to understand the application of their respective studies.

The Central Valley Water Board greatly appreciate and value your concern and interest in this matter, and we look forward to working with you and other federal and state elected officials in trying to resolve the complex water quality challenges facing the Delta today. Many challenges remain ahead, and these challenges can only be overcome by the collective resolve of all parties to work toward a common good and collectively beneficial result. As the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board opined on May 21, 2010, such an effort "would be far more productive than continuing with the current pattern of finger-pointing and scientific cherry-picking."

Very truly yours,

PAMELA C. CREEDON,  
*Executive Officer.*

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### OUR AMERICAN FLAG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CRITZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this July 4th as the 234th anniversary of our great country and also as the 50th anniversary of the Stars and Stripes that fly above our Capitol and across our Nation today. On July 4, 1960, the red, white, and blue flag rose high above our Nation as an emblem of our national pride and freedom, representing the now 50 States that came together to form a more perfect union.

Old Glory originally came to be by an act of the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. It is marked in the

journal of the Continental Congress "that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

From this day forward, the symbol of our great Nation was born. The flag itself was not produced until the late 18th century, characterized by the famous circle of 13 stars representing the 13 original colonies of Delaware, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.

Although not enunciated by any act of Congress, the colors of the flag have come to have a special meaning. In a report written by Secretary of the Continental Congress Charles Thomson, the colors and the seal of the United States are defined as: white, signifying purity and innocence; red, hardiness and valor; and blue, signifying vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Through the centuries of its existence, the flag has undergone a number of changes. The first went into effect after the signing of the Flag Act of 1794 by President George Washington. This act of Congress changed the number of stars on the flag to 15 to accommodate for Kentucky and Vermont, the newly admitted States into the Union. It also called for 15 stripes to go on the flag, the only official flag not to possess 13 stripes.

The Flag Act of 1818, signed into law by President James Monroe, the last Founding Father to serve as President, set the common standard for today's flag. It pronounced that all official United States flags must have 13 stripes to represent the original 13 colonies and one star to represent each State in the Union.

The final change to our Nation's great emblem of freedom came by an Executive order issued in 1959 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It announced the addition of Hawaii into the Union and also prescribed the arrangement of the stars in nine rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically.

More than 1,500 designs for the new flag were submitted to the White House. It was a 50-star flag created for a class project by a young man named Robert Heft that would become adopted by our country. Young Robert, a 17-year-old student from Lancaster, Ohio, originally received a B minus for the project. Our Nation received a new symbol of our freedom.

As stated by law, on July 4 of the following year, the flag was hoisted up and now stands as the great emblem of our Nation. It is with purity in our hearts that every American, especially our valorous servicemembers here at home and abroad, look to the red, white, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

As we all celebrate our Nation's birth this Fourth of July, I would like to re-

flect upon our independence, our values, and what it means to be an American as a fitting tribute to the 50th anniversary of the current flag of the United States of America.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5585

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor from the bill H.R. 5585.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE WAR THAT'S NOT A WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, in January 1991, we went to war in the Middle East against Saddam Hussein, Iraq's dictator who was our ally during the Iran-Iraq war. A border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq broke out after our State Department gave a green light to Hussein's invasion.

After Iraq's successful invasion of Kuwait, we reacted with gusto and have been militarily involved in the entire region 6,000 miles from our shores ever since. This has included Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia. After 20 years of killing and a couple trillion dollars wasted, not only does the fighting continue with no end in sight, but our leaders threaten to spread our bombs of benevolence on Iran.

For most Americans, we are at war, at war against a tactic called terrorism, not a country. This allows our military to go anyplace in the world without limits as to time or place. But how can we be at war? Congress has not declared war, as required by the Constitution, that is true. But our Presidents have, and Congress and the people have not objected. Congress obediently provides all the money requested for the war.

People are dying. Bombs are dropped. Our soldiers are shot at and killed. Our soldiers wear a uniform; our enemies do not. They are not part of any government. They have no planes, no tanks, no ships, no missiles, and no modern technology. What kind of a war is this anyway, if it really is one? If it was a real war, we would have won it by now. Our stated goal since 9/11 has been to destroy al Qaeda.

Was al Qaeda in Iraq? Not under Saddam Hussein. Our leaders lied us into