

H.R.429

Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)

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TITLE XVI--RECLAMATION WASTEWATER AND GROUNDWATER STUDIES

SEC. 1601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be referred to as the 'Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act'.

SEC. 1602. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

(a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter 'Secretary'), acting pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388) and Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto (hereafter 'Federal reclamation laws'), is directed to undertake a program to investigate and identify opportunities for reclamation and reuse of municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural wastewater, and naturally impaired ground and surface waters, for the design and construction of demonstration and permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse wastewater, and to conduct research, including desalting, for the reclamation of wastewater and naturally impaired ground and surface waters.

(b) Such program shall be limited to the States and areas referred to in section 1 of the Reclamation Act of 1902 (Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388) as amended.

(c) The Secretary is authorized to enter into such agreements and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this title.

(d) The Secretary shall not investigate, promote or implement, pursuant to this title, any project intended to reclaim and reuse agricultural wastewater generated in the service area of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project, California, except those measures recommended for action by the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program in the report entitled A Management Plan for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage and Related Problems on the Westside San Joaquin Valley (September 1990).

SEC. 1603. APPRAISAL INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) The Secretary shall undertake appraisal investigations to identify opportunities for water reclamation and reuse. Each such investigation shall take into account environmental considerations as provided by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and regulations issued to implement the provisions thereof, and shall include recommendations as to the preparation of a feasibility study of the potential reclamation and reuse measures.

(b) Appraisal investigations undertaken pursuant to this title shall consider, among other things--

(1) all potential uses of reclaimed water, including, but not limited to, environmental restoration, fish and wildlife, groundwater recharge, municipal, domestic, industrial, agricultural, power generation, and recreation;

(2) the current status of water reclamation technology and opportunities for development of improved technologies;

(3) measures to stimulate demand for and eliminate obstacles to use of reclaimed water, including pricing;

(4) measures to coordinate and streamline local, State and Federal permitting procedures required for the implementation of reclamation projects; and

(5) measures to identify basic research needs required to expand the uses of reclaimed water in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

(c) The Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate State, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of each appraisal investigation conducted pursuant to this title.

(d) Costs of such appraisal investigations shall be nonreimbursable.

SEC. 1604. FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) The Secretary is authorized to participate with appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local authorities in studies to determine the feasibility of water reclamation and reuse projects recommended for such study pursuant to section 1603 of this title. The Federal share of the costs of such feasibility studies shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total, except that the Secretary may increase the Federal share of the costs of such feasibility study if the Secretary determines, based upon a demonstration of financial hardship on the part of the non-Federal participant, that the non-Federal participant is unable to contribute at least 50 per centum of the costs of such study. The Secretary may accept as part of the non-Federal cost share the contribution of such in-kind services by the non-Federal participant that the Secretary determines will contribute substantially toward the conduct and completion of the study.

(b) The Federal share of feasibility studies, including those described in sections 1606 and 1608 through 1610 of this title, shall be considered as project costs and shall be reimbursed

in accordance with the Federal reclamation laws, if the project studied is implemented.

(c) In addition to the requirements of other Federal laws, feasibility studies authorized under this title shall consider, among other things--

- (1) near- and long-term water demand and supplies in the study area;
- (2) all potential uses for reclaimed water;
- (3) measures and technologies available for water reclamation, distribution, and reuse;
- (4) public health and environmental quality issues associated with use of reclaimed water; and,
- (5) whether development of the water reclamation and reuse measures under study would--
 - (A) reduce, postpone, or eliminate development of new or expanded water supplies, or
 - (B) reduce or eliminate the use of existing diversions from natural watercourses or withdrawals from aquifers.

SEC. 1605. RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

The Secretary is authorized to conduct research and to construct, operate, and maintain cooperative demonstration projects for the development and demonstration of appropriate treatment technologies for the reclamation of municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural wastewater, and naturally impaired ground and surface waters. The Federal share of the costs of demonstration projects shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total cost including operation and maintenance. Rights to inventions developed pursuant to this section shall be governed by the provisions of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-480) as amended by the Technology Transfer Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-502).

SEC. 1606. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMPREHENSIVE WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE STUDY.

(a) The Secretary is authorized to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of a comprehensive water reclamation and reuse system for Southern California. For the purpose of this title, the term 'Southern California' means those portions of the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernadino, Riverside, San Diego, and Ventura within the south coast and Colorado River hydrologic regions as defined by the California Department of Water Resources.

(b) The Secretary shall conduct the study authorized by this section in cooperation with the State of California and appropriate local and regional entities. The Federal share of the costs associated with this study shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the report authorized by this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives not later than six years after appropriation of funds authorized by this title.

SEC. 1607. SAN JOSE AREA WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROGRAM.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the city of San Jose, California, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and local water suppliers, shall participate in the planning, design and construction of demonstration and permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in the San Jose metropolitan service area.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the facilities authorized by subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 per centum of the total. The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of the project.

SEC. 1608. PHOENIX METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION STUDY AND PROGRAM.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the city of Phoenix, Arizona, shall conduct a feasibility study of the potential for development of facilities to utilize fully wastewater from the regional wastewater treatment plant for direct municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental purposes, groundwater recharge and direct potable reuse in the Phoenix metropolitan area, and in cooperation with the city of Phoenix design and construct facilities for environmental purposes, ground water recharge and direct potable reuse.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized by this section shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total. The Federal share of the costs associated with the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 per centum of the total. The Secretary shall not provide funds for operation or maintenance of the project.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the report authorized by this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives not later than two years after appropriation of funds authorized by this title.

SEC. 1609. TUCSON AREA WATER RECLAMATION STUDY.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the State of Arizona and appropriate local and regional entities, shall conduct a feasibility study of comprehensive water reclamation and reuse system for Southern Arizona. For the purpose of this section, the term 'Southern Arizona' means those portions of the counties of Pima, Santa Cruz, and Pinal within the Tucson Active Management Hydrologic Area as defined by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized by this section shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the report authorized by this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives not later than four years after appropriation of funds authorized by this title.

SEC. 1610. LAKE CHERAW WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE STUDY.

(a) The Secretary is authorized, in cooperation with the State of Colorado and appropriate local and regional entities, to conduct a study to assess and develop means of reclaiming the waters of Lake Cheraw, Colorado, or otherwise ameliorating, controlling and mitigating potential negative impacts of pollution in the waters of Lake Cheraw on groundwater resources or the waters of the Arkansas River.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized by this section shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the report authorized by this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives not later than two years after appropriation of funds authorized by this title.

SEC. 1611. SAN FRANCISCO AREA WATER RECLAMATION STUDY.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the city and county of San Francisco, shall conduct a feasibility study of the potential for development of demonstration and permanent facilities to reclaim water in the San Francisco area for the purposes of export and reuse elsewhere in California.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the study authorized by this section shall not exceed 50 per centum of the total.

(c) The Secretary shall submit the report authorized by this section to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives not later than four years after appropriation of funds authorized by this title.

SEC. 1612. SAN DIEGO AREA WATER RECLAMATION PROGRAM.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the city of San Diego, California or its successor agency in the management of the San Diego Area Wastewater Management District, shall participate in the planning, design and construction of demonstration and permanent facilities to reclaim and reuse water in the San Diego metropolitan service area.

(b) The Federal share of the costs of the facilities authorized by subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 per centum of the total. The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of the project.

SEC. 1613. LOS ANGELES AREA WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE PROJECT.

(a) The Secretary is authorized to participate with the city and county of Los Angeles, State of California, West Basin Municipal Water District, and other appropriate authorities, in the design, planning, and construction of water reclamation and reuse projects to treat approximately one hundred and twenty thousand acre-feet per year of effluent from the city and county of Los Angeles, in order to provide new water supplies for industrial, environmental, and other beneficial purposes, to reduce the demand for imported water, and to reduce sewage effluent discharged into Santa Monica Bay.

(b) The Secretary's share of costs associated with the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 per centum of the total. The Secretary shall not provide funds for operation or maintenance of the project.

SEC. 1614. SAN GABRIEL BASIN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) The Secretary, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Main San Gabriel Water Quality Authority or a successor public agency, is authorized to participate in the design, planning and construction of a conjunctive-use facility designed to improve the water quality in the San Gabriel groundwater basin and allow the utilization of the basin as a water storage facility; *Provided*, That this authority shall not be construed to limit the authority of the United States under any other Federal statute to pursue remedial actions or recovery of costs for work performed pursuant to this subsection.

(b) The Secretary's share of costs associated with the project described in subsection (a) shall not exceed 25 per centum of the total. The Secretary shall not provide funds for the operation or maintenance of the project.

SEC. 1615. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of sections 1601 through 1614 of this title.

SEC. 1616. GROUNDWATER STUDY.

(a) In furtherance of the High Plains Groundwater Demonstration Program Act of 1983 (98 Stat. 1675), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the Geological Survey, shall conduct an investigation and analysis of the impacts of existing Bureau of Reclamation projects on the quality and quantity of groundwater resources. Based on such investigation and analysis, the Secretary shall prepare a reclamation groundwater management and technical assistance report which shall include--

(1) a description of the findings of the investigation and analysis, including the methodology employed;

(2) a description of methods for optimizing Bureau of Reclamation project operations to ameliorate adverse impacts on groundwater, and

(3) the Secretary's recommendations, along with the recommendations of the Governors of the affected States, concerning the establishment of a groundwater management and technical assistance program in the Department of the Interior in order to assist Federal and non-Federal entity development and implementation of groundwater management plans and activities.

(b) In conducting the investigation and analysis, and in preparation of the report referred to in this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Governors of the affected States.

(c) The report shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations and Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate within three years of the appropriation of funds authorized by section 1617.

SEC. 1617. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1992, \$4,000,000 to carry out the study authorized by section 1616.