

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 432

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project.

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 “Contra Costa Canal
5 Transfer Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **ACQUIRED LAND.**—The term “acquired
9 land” means land in Federal ownership and land
10 over which the Federal Government holds an interest

1 for the purpose of the construction and operation of
2 the Contra Costa Canal, including land under the ju-
3 risdiction of—

4 (A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

5 (B) the Western Area Power Administra-
6 tion; and

7 (C) the Department of Defense in the case
8 of the Clayton Canal diversion traversing the
9 Concord Naval Weapons Station.

10 (2) CONTRA COSTA CANAL.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Contra
12 Costa Canal” means the Contra Costa Canal
13 Unit of the Central Valley Project, which exclu-
14 sively serves the Contra Costa Water District in
15 an urban area of Contra Costa County, Cali-
16 fornia.

17 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Contra
18 Costa Canal” includes pipelines, conduits,
19 pumping plants, aqueducts, laterals, water stor-
20 age and regulatory facilities, electric sub-
21 stations, related works and improvements, and
22 all interests in land associated with the Contra
23 Costa Canal Unit of the Central Valley Project
24 in existence on the date of enactment of this
25 Act.

1 (C) EXCLUSION.—The term “Contra Costa
2 Canal” does not include the Rock Slough fish
3 screen facility.

4 (3) CONTRA COSTA CANAL AGREEMENT.—The
5 term “Contra Costa Canal Agreement” means an
6 agreement between the District and the Bureau of
7 Reclamation to determine the legal, institutional,
8 and financial terms surrounding the transfer of the
9 Contra Costa Canal, including compensation to the
10 reclamation fund established by the first section of
11 the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter
12 1093), equal to the net present value of miscella-
13 neous revenues that the United States would other-
14 wise derive over the 10 years following the date of
15 enactment of this Act from the eligible lands and fa-
16 cilities to be transferred, as governed by reclamation
17 law and policy and the contracts.

18 (4) CONTRACTS.—The term “contracts” means
19 the existing water service contract between the Dis-
20 trict and the United States, Contract No. 175r-
21 3401A–LTR1 (2005), Contract No. 14–06–200–
22 6072A (1972, as amended), and any other contract
23 or land permit involving the United States, the Dis-
24 trict, and Contra Costa Canal.

1 (5) DISTRICT.—The term “District” means the
2 Contra Costa Water District, a political subdivision
3 of the State of California.

4 (6) ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Rock
6 Slough fish screen facility” means the fish
7 screen facility at the Rock Slough intake to the
8 Contra Costa Canal.

9 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Rock Slough
10 fish screen facility” includes the screen struc-
11 ture, rake cleaning system, and accessory struc-
12 tures integral to the screen function of the
13 Rock Slough fish screen facility, as required
14 under the Central Valley Project Improvement
15 Act (Public Law 102–575; 106 Stat. 4706).

16 (7) ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY
17 TITLE TRANSFER AGREEMENT.—The term “Rock
18 Slough fish screen facility title transfer agreement”
19 means an agreement between the District and the
20 Bureau of Reclamation to—

21 (A) determine the legal, institutional, and
22 financial terms surrounding the transfer of the
23 Rock Slough fish screen facility; and

1 (B) ensure the continued safe and reliable
2 operations of the Rock Slough fish screen facil-
3 ity.

4 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND AND FACILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, in consideration for the Dis-
9 trict assuming from the United States all liability for the
10 administration, operation, maintenance, and replacement
11 of the Contra Costa Canal, consistent with the terms and
12 conditions set forth in the Contra Costa Canal Agreement
13 and subject to valid existing rights and existing recreation
14 agreements between the Bureau of Reclamation and the
15 East Bay Regional Park District for Contra Loma Re-
16 gional Park and other local agencies within the Contra
17 Costa Canal, the Secretary shall offer to convey and assign
18 to the District—

19 (1) all right, title, and interest of the United
20 States in and to—

21 (A) the Contra Costa Canal; and

22 (B) the acquired land; and

23 (2) all interests reserved and developed as of
24 the date of enactment of this Act for the Contra
25 Costa Canal in the acquired land, including existing

1 recreation agreements between the Bureau of Rec-
2 lamation and the East Bay Regional Park District
3 for Contra Loma Regional Park and other local
4 agencies within the Contra Costa Canal.

5 (b) ROCK SLOUGH FISH SCREEN FACILITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall convey
7 and assign to the District all right, title, and inter-
8 est of the United States in and to the Rock Slough
9 fish screen facility pursuant to the Rock Slough fish
10 screen facility title transfer agreement.

11 (2) COOPERATION.—No later than 180 days
12 after the conveyance of the Contra Costa Canal, the
13 Secretary and the District shall enter into good faith
14 negotiations to accomplish the conveyance and as-
15 signment under paragraph (1).

16 (c) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—The District shall pay to
17 the Secretary any administrative and real estate transfer
18 costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the convey-
19 ances and assignments under subsections (a) and (b), in-
20 cluding the cost of any boundary survey, title search, ca-
21 dastral survey, appraisal, and other real estate transaction
22 required for the conveyances and assignments.

23 (d) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Before carrying out the con-
25 veyances and assignments under subsections (a) and

1 (b), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable re-
2 quirements under—

3 (A) the National Environmental Policy Act
4 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

5 (B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973
6 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

7 (C) any other law applicable to the Contra
8 Costa Canal or the acquired land.

9 (2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act modifies or
10 alters any obligations under—

11 (A) the National Environmental Policy Act
12 of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

13 (B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973
14 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

15 **SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING CENTRAL VALLEY**

16 **PROJECT CONTRACTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act affects—

18 (1) the application of the reclamation laws to
19 water delivered to the District pursuant to any con-
20 tract with the Secretary; or

21 (2) subject to subsection (b), the contracts.

22 (b) AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTS.—The Secretary
23 and the District may modify the contracts as necessary
24 to comply with this Act.

25 (c) LIABILITY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the United States shall not be liable for
3 damages arising out of any act, omission, or occur-
4 rence relating to the Contra Costa Canal or the ac-
5 quired land.

6 (2) EXCEPTION.—The United States shall con-
7 tinue to be liable for damages caused by acts of neg-
8 ligence committed by the United States or by any
9 employee or agent of the United States before the
10 date of the conveyance and assignment under section
11 3(a), consistent with chapter 171 of title 28, United
12 States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort
13 Claims Act”).

14 (3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act increases
15 the liability of the United States beyond the liability
16 provided under chapter 171 of title 28, United
17 States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort
18 Claims Act”).

19 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

20 If the conveyance and assignment authorized by sec-
21 tion 3(a) is not completed by the date that is 1 year after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
23 mit to Congress a report that—

24 (1) describes the status of the conveyance and
25 assignment;

- 1 (2) describes any obstacles to completing the
- 2 conveyance and assignment; and
- 3 (3) specifies an anticipated date for completion
- 4 of the conveyance and assignment.

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