

SIX-HUNDRED MILE RESOURCE  
STUDY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON  
ROUTE

ALEXANDER HAMILTON HOME  
LOCATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following bills en bloc: H.R. 4794 and H.R. 5478.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4794) to require the Secretary of the Interior to complete a resource study of the 600-mile route used by George Washington during the American Revolutionary War.

A bill (H.R. 5478) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire by donation suitable land to serve as the new location for the home of Alexander Hamilton.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills (H.R. 4794 and H.R. 5478) were read the third time and passed.

USE OF SOLANO PROJECT FACILITIES FOR NON-PROJECT WATER

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from the following bill and the Senate proceed to its consideration and the consideration of the following bill on the calendar: S. 1761 from the Energy Committee; Calendar No. 855, H.R. 1235.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1761) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conserve and enhance water supplies of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

A bill (H.R. 1235) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Solano County Water Agency, California, to use Solano Project facilities for impounding, storage, and carriage of non-project water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

AMENDMENT NO. 4352 TO S. 1761

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) for Mr. MURKOWSKI proposes an amendment numbered 4352.

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000".

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) STATE.—The term "State" means the Texas Water Development Board and any other authorized entity of the State of Texas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner.

(3) COMMISSIONER.—The term "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

(4) COUNTIES.—The term "counties" means the counties in the state of Texas in the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Area known as Region "M" as designated by the Texas Water Development Board and the counties of Hudspeeth and El Paso, Texas.

**SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds the following:

(a) Drought conditions over the last decade have made citizens of the Lower Rio Grande Valley region of Texas aware of the significant impacts a dwindling water supply can have on a region.

(b) As a result of the impacts, that region has devised an integral water resource plan to meet the critical water needs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley through the end of the year 2050.

(c) Implementation of an integrated water resource plan to meet the critical water needs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley is in the national interest.

(d) The Congress should authorize and provide Federal technical and financial assistance to construct improved irrigation canal delivery systems to help meet the critical water needs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley through the end of the year 2050.

**SEC. 4. LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

(a) The Secretary is authorized to undertake a program to improve the supply of water for the counties as provided in this Act.

(b) In cooperation with the State, water users in the counties, and other non-Federal entities, the Secretary shall conduct feasibility studies for the purpose of conserving and transporting raw water, including the following:

- (1) Irrigation canals;
- (2) Pipelines;
- (3) Flow control structures;
- (4) Meters; and
- (5) All associated appurtenances.

(c) If the Secretary determines that the following projects satisfy the eligibility criteria in subsection (d)(1)-(3), the Secretary, in cooperation with the State, water users in the counties, and other non-Federal entities, is authorized to conduct engineering work, infrastructure construction and improvements for the purpose of conserving and transporting raw water through the following projects:

(1) in the Hidalgo County, Texas Irrigation District #1, a pipeline project identified in the Melden & Hunt, Inc. engineering study dated July 6, 2000 as the Curry Main Pipeline Project;

(2) in the Cameron County, Texas La Feria Irrigation District #3, a distribution system improvement project identified by the 1993 engineering study by Sigler, Winston, Greenwood and Associates, Inc.;

(3) in the Cameron County, Texas irrigation District #2 canal rehabilitation and pumping plant replacement as identified as Job Number 48-05540-002 in a report by Turner Collie & Braden, Inc. dated August 12, 1998, and

(4) in the Harlingen Irrigation District Cameron #1 Irrigation District a project of meter installation and canal lining as identified in a proposal submitted to the Texas Water Development Board dated April 28, 2000.

(d) PROJECT ELIGIBILITY.—Within six months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, shall develop criteria for determining eligible projects under this Act. Such criteria shall include, but need not be limited to the following requirements:

(1) the project plan includes an engineer's estimate of the amount of water to be conserved;

(2) the design for the project includes a cost of project to water saved ratio; and

(3) there is a cost sharing agreement in place between all relevant parties delineating the proportionate share of costs to be paid on an annual basis.

Within one year of the date a project is submitted to the Secretary for approval, the Secretary shall determine whether the project meets the criteria established pursuant to this section.

**SEC. 5. COST SHARING.**

The non-Federal share of the costs of any activity carried out under, or with assistance provided under, this Act shall be 50 percent. Not more than 40 percent of the costs of such an activity may be paid by the State and the remainder of the non-Federal share may include in-kind contributions of goods and services, and funds previously spent on feasibility and engineering studies.

**SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary; but not to exceed \$7,500,000 for the purposes of section 4(c).

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment numbered 4352 to S. 1761 be agreed to, the bills be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4352) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1761), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The bill (H.R. 1235) was passed.

BEND PINE NURSERY LAND  
CONVEYANCE ACT

FISHERIES RESTORATION AND IRRIGATION MITIGATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate messages from the House with respect to S. 1936 and H.R. 1444.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNETT) laid before the Senate the following messages from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1936) entitled "An Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all