

SOUTHERN OREGON BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
REPAYMENT ACT OF 2005

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DECEMBER 6, 2005.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. POMBO, from the Committee on Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4195]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4195) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 4195 is to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Bureau of Reclamation's Rogue River Project, located in southern Oregon, provides water to three irrigation districts: Talent, Rogue River Valley, and Medford. Each district has a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation specifying terms for repayment of the federal construction cost of facilities (capital obligations) used to provide water to that District. Only one contract, that of the Talent Irrigation District, contains a provision allowing early repayment of capital obligations by individual landowners.

H.R. 4195 allows early repayment for the Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts. The effect of the legislation gives landholders within these two irrigation districts the same ability to repay their capital obligations early to the federal government as

those in the Talent Irrigation District. This action would release landholders within the Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts from certain ownership reporting requirements under the Reclamation Reform Act and would also provide an early revenue stream to the U.S. Treasury.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 4195 was introduced on November 1, 2005, by Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR). The bill was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Water and Power. On November 9, 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. On November 16, 2005, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. The Subcommittee on Water and Power was discharged from further consideration of the bill by unanimous consent. No amendments were offered and the bill was ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### *Section 1. Short title*

This section cites the bill as the “Southern Oregon Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2005.”

##### *Section 2. Early repayment*

This section states that any landowner within the Rogue River Valley or Medford Irrigation Districts may repay construction costs (capital obligations) allocated to that landowner’s land at any time. Upon repayment, those lands will not be subject to ownership limits and reporting requirements under the Reclamation Reform Act and other statutes.

##### *Section 3. Limitation*

This section states that this legislation does not modify contractual rights between the Rogue River Valley and Medford Irrigation Districts and the Bureau of Reclamation, or any rights, obligations, or relationships between the two districts and their landowners as provided under Oregon law.

##### *Section 4. Certification*

This section requires the Secretary of the Interior to provide certification of repayment to landowners who request it once they have completed repayment of construction costs allocated to their land.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

## COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that Rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

*H.R. 4195—Southern Oregon Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2005*

Currently, the Rogue River Valley, Talent, and Medford Water Districts received water from the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR's) Rogue River Project, located in southern Oregon. Each district has a contract with BOR that specifies terms for repayment of the construction costs of facilities used to provide water to each district. Only the contract with the Talent Water District provides for early repayment of construction costs by landowners. Enacting H.R. 4195 would authorize any landowner within either the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or the Medford Irrigation District to repay, at any time, the construction costs for federal water projects. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4195 would have no significant impact on offsetting receipts, and would not affect revenues.

Based on information from BOR, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would increase offsetting receipts (from the early repayment of construction costs) in 2006 by about \$70,000. As a result of the early repayment, the federal government would no longer receive payments of about \$4,000 each year through 2026.

H.R. 4195 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

## COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

## PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

