



H.R. 816 – ORCHARD DETENTION BASIN FLOOD CONTROL ACT

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 816 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jon C. Porter (R-NV) on February 5, 2007. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported as amended by unanimous consent on February 13, 2008.

H.R. 816 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 4, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 816 authorizes approximately 65 acres of land known as the Orchard Detention Basin from the designation of being “wilderness.” The Orchard Detention Basin is located in the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area of Clark County, Nevada.

Additionally, the legislation authorizes the Secretary to grant Clark County a right-of-way for the construction and maintenance of the Orchard Detention Basin Project on the land.

BACKGROUND

The Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area is located on the east side of the Las Vegas Valley, and includes the Frenchman and Sunrise Mountains. The Orchard Detention Basin is situated at a central point in the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area for the purpose of flood control, and is a part of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District’s master plan to protect the rapidly growing Las Vegas Valley from floods. The legislation would allow for the construction of a regional flood control project known as the Orchard Detention Basin and Collection System. This system is designed to protect 1,200 acres of urban land from flash floods and help lessen the potential risks posed to the areas residential communities, homes, schools and businesses.

An “instant study area” is a Federal designation that protects environmentally sensitive areas by restricting development in that area.

COST

Based on information from Bureau of Land Management, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting H.R. 816 would have no significant effect on the federal budget.

STAFF CONTACT

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