

April 26, 1999

To: Board of Directors (Communications and Legislation Committee--Action)

From: General Manager _____

Submitted by: Ray Corley, Executive Legislative Representative _____

Subject: Express support for AB 1217 (Gallegos), AB 1420 (Margett), SJR 8 (Solis) and HR 910 (Dreier) – Water quality initiatives in the San Gabriel Valley

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Board adopt “support” positions on H.R. 910 (Dreier), SJR 8 (Solis), AB 1217 (Gallegos) and AB 1420 (Margett) to help fund cleanup of groundwater contaminated by Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) and Perchlorate in the Main San Gabriel Basin.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A package of federal and state legislation has been introduced by legislators from the San Gabriel Valley to assist local agencies in their efforts to cleanup groundwater in the Main San Gabriel Basin and prevent the spread of VOC and Perchlorate to the Central Basin.

H.R. 910 would authorize \$75 million in federal funds for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund and \$25 million for research and projects throughout the United States.

SJR 8 asks that H.R. 910 be passed and signed by the U.S. Congress and President Clinton.

AB 1217 would exempt equipment acquired for treatment projects from California sales and use taxes.

AB 1420 would provide \$10 million from the General Fund for clean-up in the Main San Gabriel Basin.

DETAILED REPORT

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and San Gabriel Valley Water Association have written to Communications and Legislation Committee Chairman, Jerry King, asking for Metropolitan’s support of the four bills. Three Valleys Municipal Water District and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District are the Metropolitan member agencies with customers in the Main San Gabriel Basin.

Groundwater is considered a valuable tool in local planning to provide storage and reduce demands for imported water. Local projects originally intended to remove VOC now require additional treatment technology to remove perchlorate. As of April 21, 1999, a total of 16 public and private water agencies and local governments have adopted resolutions indicating their support for the federal and, or state portions of the bill package.

Support of the H.R. 910, SJR 8, AB 1217 and AB 1420, at this time, would be consistent with Metropolitan's efforts to encourage locally initiated water resource management and water quality programs. Metropolitan identified groundwater recovery as an element of the Integrated Resources Plan.

Adopted Board policy principles to address the cleanup of contaminated drinking water supplies, research on drinking water contaminants and the development of drinking water standards include:

- Support legislation to assure effective remediation and cleanup of perchlorate, MTBE, other gasoline additives or other contaminants that have impacted groundwater and surface water.
- Support legislation to provide the necessary funding for research on the occurrence, treatment, health effects and environmental cleanup related to contamination of drinking water sources by MTBE, other gasoline additives, or perchlorate.

NEE

Attachment 8-5A

Attachment 8-5B

Attachment 8-5C

Attachment 8-5D

Attachment 8-5E

Attachment 8-5A



San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

858 Oak Park Road, Suite 200, Covina, California 91724 • (626) 859-7777 • Fax (626) 859-7788
<http://www.wqa.com/sgvww/wqa>

April 19, 1999.

Director Jerry A. King
Chairman, Communications and Legislative Committee
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153
VIA FAX

RE: REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

Dear Director King:

As you are well aware, groundwater problems in the San Gabriel Valley are longstanding – threatening the integrity of the entire region, including the Central Basin. In the past few months, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, charged with coordinating and facilitating cleanup projects, and the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, representing the water producers of the Valley, have teamed their efforts to develop a plan that would provide funding from a variety of sources towards groundwater cleanup of VOC and Perchlorate contamination. We would like to add the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to our list of supporters.

The plan involves the creation of the "San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund" with contributions from the Federal government and the State of California. The Fund would help pay for the cost of designing, building and operating treatment facilities in the San Gabriel Basin. A substantial portion of the Fund will come from the Federal government. Congressman David Dreier is sponsoring HR 910, with co-sponsors Congressman Matthew G. Martinez and Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano. This legislation, known as the San Gabriel Basin Drinking Water Initiative, will provide \$75 million, over a five-year period, towards groundwater cleanup and an additional \$25 million for Perchlorate research nationwide. On the state level, there are three bills: SJR 8 by State Senator Hilda L. Solis memorializes the President and Congress to enact the Initiative, AB 1217 by Assemblyman Martin Gallegos would provide an exemption from sales and use tax on water treatment equipment, and AB 1420 by Assemblyman Bob Margett would allocate \$10 million from the state general fund towards groundwater cleanup projects in the San Gabriel Basin.

The support of Metropolitan Water District will greatly aid in rendering a unifying display of local and regional support. Enclosed for your information is a current list of agencies and cities that have adopted resolutions of support for the Federal and state legislation. Additional background information is enclosed for your review. Please do not hesitate to contact us through Sam Pedroza at (626) 443-2297 if you have any questions or comments on this matter. We thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clark
Chairwoman
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

Ron Merry
President
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Enclosures

CC: Nona Edelen, Government Relations

Last Update: 4-15-99

**San Gabriel Basin Drinking Water Initiative
Resolution Supporters**

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Federal</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority | X | X | 1/13/99, 3/22/99 |
| 2. San Gabriel Valley Water Association | X | | 1/20/99 |
| 3. Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD | X | | 1/20/99 |
| 4. San Gabriel Valley MWD | X | | 1/25/99 |
| 5. South El Monte, City of | X | | 1/26/99 |
| 6. Valley County Water District | X | | 1/21/99 |
| 7. Southern California Water Utilities Association | X | | 1/29/99 |
| 8. Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster | X | | 2/3/99 |
| 9. Arcadia, City of | X | | 2/16/99 |
| 10. Azusa, City of | X | | 2/15/99 |
| 11. Monterey Park, City of | X | X | 2/17/99 |
| 12. Hacienda Heights Improvement Association | X | X | 3/15/99 |
| 13. Central Basin MWD | X | | 3/15/99 |
| 14. Three Valleys MWD | X | | 3/17/99 |
| 15. Glendora, City of | X | | 3/9/99 |
| 16. La Puente Valley CWD | X | X | 3/22/99 |
| 17. Central Basin Water Association | X | X | 4/5/99 |
| 18. San Gabriel County Water District | X | X | 4/13/99 |

Attachment 8-5B

**The following 4 pages are attachments to
Board Letter Item 8-5**

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 910

To authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in coordination with other Federal agency heads, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination, water supply, and reliability affecting the San Gabriel groundwater basin in California, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 1999

Mr. DREIER (for himself, Mr. HORN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in coordination with other Federal agency heads, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination, water supply, and reliability affecting the San Gabriel groundwater basin in California, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “San Gabriel Basin
3 Water Quality Initiative”.

4 **SEC. 2. SAN GABRIEL BASIN RESTORATION FUND.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RESTORATION
6 FUND.—There shall be established within the Treasury of
7 the United States an interest bearing account to be known
8 as the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (in this sec-
9 tion referred to as “Restoration Fund”).

10 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESTORATION
11 FUND.—The Restoration Fund shall be administered by
12 the Secretary of the Army (in this Act referred to as the
13 “Secretary”), acting through the Chief of Engineers. The
14 Secretary shall administer such Fund in cooperation with
15 the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, or its suc-
16 cessor agency.

17 (c) PURPOSES OF THE RESTORATION FUND.—The
18 proceeds of the Restoration Fund shall be utilized by the
19 Secretary to design, construct, operate, and maintain
20 water quality projects administered by the San Gabriel
21 Basin Water Quality Authority.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
23 each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004, there is au-
24 thorized to be appropriated to the Restoration Fund
25 \$15,000,000.

1 (e) CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFOR-
2 NIA.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engi-
3 neers, is authorized to accept and administer in coopera-
4 tion with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
5 any funds which the State of California, local government
6 agencies, or private entities may contribute to the Restora-
7 tion Fund.

8 (f) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.—In carry-
9 ing out the activities described in subsection (c), the Sec-
10 retary shall comply with any applicable Federal or State
11 law.

12 (g) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Nothing
13 in this Act shall be construed to affect other Federal or
14 State authorities that are being used or may be used to
15 facilitate the cleanup and protection of the San Gabriel
16 groundwater basin. In carrying out the activities described
17 in subsection (c), the Secretary shall integrate such activi-
18 ties with ongoing Federal and State projects and activi-
19 ties. None of the funds made available for the activities
20 described in subsection (c) pursuant to this Act shall be
21 counted against any Federal authorization ceiling estab-
22 lished for any previously authorized Federal projects or
23 activities.

1 **SEC. 3. PERCHLORATE.**

2 (a) INVESTIGATIONS AND PROJECTS.—The Sec-
3 retary, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in co-
4 operation with State and local government agencies, is au-
5 thorized to participate in studies and other investigative
6 activities and in the planning and design of projects deter-
7 mined by the Secretary to offer a long-term solution to
8 the problem of groundwater contamination caused by per-
9 chlorates.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
11 purposes of carrying out the activities authorized in sub-
12 section (a), there are authorized to be appropriated to the
13 Secretary \$25,000,000.

○

Attachment 8-5C

**The following 4 pages are attachments to
Board Letter Item 8-5**

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1217

Introduced by Assembly Member Gallegos
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon, Havice, Kuehl,
Margett, Romero, and Soto)
~~(Coauthor: Senator~~ *(Coauthors: Senators Escutia and Solis)*

February 26, 1999

An act to add *and repeal* Section 6377.3 ~~to~~ of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1217, as amended, Gallegos. Sales and use taxes: exemptions: water treatment equipment.

The Sales and Use Tax Law imposes a tax on the gross receipts from the sale in this state of, or the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of, tangible personal property. That law provides various exemptions from that tax.

This bill would additionally exempt from sales and use tax tangible personal property purchased for use by a qualified person, as defined, to be used to treat contaminated water under specified conditions. *The San Gabriel Water Association would be required to report to the Legislature on the effect of this act. These provisions would be repealed 4 years after they take effect.*

Counties and cities are authorized to impose local sales and use taxes in conformity with state sales and use taxes.

Exemptions from state sales and use taxes enacted by the Legislature are incorporated into the local taxes.

Section 2230 of the Revenue and Taxation Code provides that the state will reimburse counties and cities for revenue losses caused by the enactment of sales and use tax exemptions.

This bill would provide that, notwithstanding Section 2230 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, no appropriation is made and the state shall not reimburse local agencies for sales and use tax revenues lost by them pursuant to this bill.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy, but its operative date would depend on its effective date.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 6377.3 is added to the Revenue
 2 and Taxation Code, to read:
 3 6377.3. (a) There are exempted from the taxes
 4 imposed by this part the gross receipts from the sale of,
 5 and the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of,
 6 any of the following:
 7 (1) Tangible personal property purchased for use by a
 8 qualified person to be used primarily to treat water to
 9 meet or exceed standards established by this state or any
 10 local or regional governmental agency within this state,
 11 provided all of the following conditions are met:
 12 (A) The water to be treated is the primary source of
 13 drinking water for a population exceeding one million.
 14 (B) The water to be treated contains multiple
 15 contaminants in excess of state and federal drinking
 16 water standards and requires multiple treatment
 17 processes in order to meet all applicable health standards.
 18 (C) The presence of contaminants has severely
 19 impacted the availability of water for a portion of the
 20 region.
 21 (D) The treatment of water is necessary to restore the
 22 local water supply and protect against the spread of
 23 contamination to uncontaminated areas.



1 (2) Tangible personal property purchased for use by a
2 qualified person to be used primarily to maintain, repair,
3 measure, or test any property described in paragraph (1).

4 (b) This exemption shall not apply to any tangible
5 personal property that is used primarily in
6 administration, general management, or marketing.

7 (c) For purposes of this section:

8 (1) "Primarily" means tangible personal property
9 used 50 percent or more of the time in an activity
10 described in subdivision (a).

11 (2) "Qualified person" means a public agency or
12 court-appointed groundwater management entity with
13 statutory or contractual responsibility for coordinating or
14 implementing the cleanup of contaminated
15 groundwater, or any entity, public or private, that is
16 licensed by the State Department of Health Services to
17 provide public water service.

18 (3) "Tangible personal property" includes, but is not
19 limited to, all of the following:

20 (A) Machinery and equipment, including component
21 parts, moving parts, and operating structures.

22 (B) All equipment, materials, supplies, or devices used
23 or required to operate, control, regulate, or maintain the
24 machinery or equipment, including, but not limited to,
25 telemetry equipment, computers and computer
26 software, and water filtration media and treatment resins.

27 (d) No exemption shall be allowed under this section
28 unless the purchaser furnishes the retailer with an
29 exemption certificate, completed in accordance with any
30 instructions or regulations as the board may prescribe,
31 and the retailer subsequently furnishes the board with a
32 copy of the exemption certificate. The exemption
33 certificate shall contain the sales price of the machinery
34 and equipment that is exempt pursuant to subdivision
35 (a).

36 SEC. 2. *The San Gabriel Water Association shall*
37 *report to the Legislature, no later than one year prior to*
38 *the repeal date of this act, the total value of property for*
39 *which a sales or use tax exemption is claimed under this*
40 *act. The report shall include a general description of that*



1 *property. The report shall also describe the changes in the*
2 *concentrations of chemicals that were detected above*
3 *drinking water action levels in the San Gabriel Valley*
4 *drinking water basin and that were the focus of treatment*
5 *systems constructed with the assistance of the exemption*
6 *provided by this act. This requirement may be met with*
7 *one or more of the following: (a) tables listing wells and*
8 *their chemical concentrations over time, prior and*
9 *subsequent to treatment; (b) figures illustrating the*
10 *concentration of target chemicals over time in wells*
11 *throughout the basin; and (c) plume maps illustrating*
12 *changes in the concentrations of target chemicals over*
13 *time across the basin.*

14 *SEC. 3.* Notwithstanding Section 2230 of the Revenue
15 and Taxation Code, no appropriation is made by this act
16 and the state shall not reimburse any local agency for any
17 sales and use tax revenues lost by it under this act.

18 ~~SEC. 3.—~~

19 *SEC. 4.* This act provides for a tax levy within the
20 meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
21 immediate effect. However, the provisions of this act shall
22 become operative on the first day of the first calendar
23 quarter commencing more than 90 days after the
24 effective date of this act, *and shall be repealed four*
25 *calendar years from the date that it becomes operative,*
26 *unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before the*
27 *repeal date, deletes or extends that date.*



Attachment 8-5D

**The following 3 pages are attachments to
Board Letter Item 8-5**

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1420

Introduced by Assembly Member Margett
(Principal coauthor: Senator Solis)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gallegos, Robert Pacheco,
and Scott)
(Coauthor: Senator Mountjoy)

February 26, 1999

~~An act to amend Section 601 of the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Act (Chapter 776 of the Statutes of 1992), relating to the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority. An act relating to the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, and making an appropriation therefor.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1420, as amended, Margett. *Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin* ~~Water Quality Authority.~~

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Act creates the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and authorizes the authority to accept federal, state, and local funds for the purposes of groundwater cleanup *in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin* and otherwise implementing the act.

This bill would ~~make a technical, nonsubstantive change in that provision~~ *appropriate \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board for allocation to the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, or its successor agency, to provide grants and loans to local agencies to carry*

out groundwater remediation demonstration projects in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. The bill would make related legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: ~~majority~~ 2/3. Appropriation: ~~no~~-yes. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 601 of the San Gabriel Basin~~

2 *SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of*
3 *the following:*

4 (a) *The Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin is the*
5 *principal source of drinking water for approximately 1.4*
6 *million people who live in southern California.*

7 (b) *The economy of the San Gabriel Valley is*
8 *dependent upon the availability of a safe, reliable source*
9 *of water for the residents and businesses in the region.*

10 (c) *The groundwater supply in the Main San Gabriel*
11 *Basin is contaminated by both volatile organic*
12 *compounds and inorganic chemicals, including*
13 *perchlorate, that are known to be carcinogenic and*
14 *otherwise dangerous to human health.*

15 (d) *The presence of perchlorate contamination is*
16 *directly associated with the production of solid rocket*
17 *fuels and explosives related to the defense and national*
18 *security of the United States of America.*

19 (e) *The contaminated groundwater in the Main San*
20 *Gabriel Groundwater Basin is now spreading toward Los*
21 *Angeles County's Central Groundwater Basin.*

22 (f) *The spreading of contaminated groundwater into*
23 *the massive Central Groundwater Basin will adversely*
24 *affect the drinking water of over half of Los Angeles*
25 *County.*

26 (g) *The health and economy of the entire southern*
27 *California region may be devastated by the continued*
28 *presence and possible spreading of contaminated*
29 *groundwater.*

30 (h) *Perchlorate contamination of drinking water is a*
31 *serious health related problem in other areas of the*
32 *United States outside southern California.*



1 (i) *The application of treatment technology in the*
2 *Main San Gabriel Basin may be used as a model for areas*
3 *in the United States with similar contamination problems.*

4 (j) *All stakeholders affected by the contaminated*
5 *groundwater have joined together to support a*
6 *comprehensive plan to treat the contaminated*
7 *groundwater and reclaim the Main San Gabriel*
8 *Groundwater Basin for the storage of a safe, reliable*
9 *drinking water source.*

10 SEC. 2. (a) *The sum of ten million dollars*
11 *(\$10,000,000) is hereby appropriated from the General*
12 *Fund to the State Water Resources Control Board, for*
13 *allocation to the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality*
14 *Authority, or its successor agency, to provide grants and*
15 *loans to local agencies to carry out groundwater*
16 *remediation demonstration projects in the Main San*
17 *Gabriel Groundwater Basin.*

18 (b) *The appropriation set forth in subdivision (a) does*
19 *not affect the imposition of any fines on responsible*
20 *parties by the United States Environmental Protection*
21 *Agency in connection with contaminated groundwater in*
22 *the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.*

23 ~~Water Quality Authority Act (Chapter 776 of the Statutes~~
24 ~~of 1992) is amended to read:~~

25 ~~Sec. 601. The authority may accept federal, state, and~~
26 ~~local funds that are available for purposes of groundwater~~
27 ~~cleanup and for otherwise implementing this act. The~~
28 ~~authority may accept grants and donations to carry out~~
29 ~~the purposes of this act. The limits on bonded~~
30 ~~indebtedness shall be exclusive of grants and donations.~~



Attachment 8-5E

**The following 3 pages are attachments to
Board Letter Item 8-5**

Introduced by Senator Solis

February 18, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution No. 8—Relative to the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 8, as introduced, Solis. Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to enact legislation to make available necessary funds to implement groundwater remediation in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin
2 is the principal source of drinking water for
3 approximately 1.4 million people who live in southern
4 California; and

5 WHEREAS, The economy of the San Gabriel Valley is
6 dependent upon the availability of a safe, reliable source
7 of water for the residents and businesses in the region;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The groundwater supply in the Main San
10 Gabriel Basin is contaminated by both volatile organic
11 compounds and inorganic chemicals, including
12 perchlorate, that are known to be carcinogenic and
13 otherwise dangerous to human health; and

14 WHEREAS, The presence of perchlorate
15 contamination is directly associated with the production



1 of solid rocket fuels and explosives related to the defense
2 and national security of the United States of America; and

3 WHEREAS, The contaminated groundwater in the
4 Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin is now spreading
5 toward Los Angeles County's Central Groundwater
6 Basin; and

7 WHEREAS, The spreading of contaminated
8 groundwater into the massive Central Groundwater
9 Basin will adversely affect the drinking water of over half
10 of Los Angeles County; and

11 WHEREAS, The health and economy of the entire
12 southern California region may be devastated by the
13 continued presence and possible spreading of
14 contaminated groundwater; and

15 WHEREAS, Perchlorate contamination of drinking
16 water is a serious health related problem in other areas of
17 the United States outside southern California; and

18 WHEREAS, The application of treatment technology
19 in the Main San Gabriel Basin may be used as a model for
20 areas in the United States with similar contamination
21 problems; and

22 WHEREAS, All stakeholders affected by the
23 contaminated groundwater have joined together to
24 support a comprehensive plan to treat the contaminated
25 groundwater and reclaim the Main San Gabriel
26 Groundwater Basin for the storage of a safe, reliable
27 drinking water source; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
29 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully
30 memorializes the President and Congress of the United
31 States to enact legislation to make available necessary
32 funds to implement groundwater remediation in the
33 Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
35 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
36 President, to the Speaker of the House of
37 Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, and



- 1 each Senator and Representative from California in the
- 2 Congress of the United States.

O

