



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 9, 2004

### **H.R. 620**

**An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the state of California in providing education services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on March 24, 2004*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 620 would modify the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in California. The act also would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to two California school districts that serve families of Yosemite National Park employees.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 620 would cost \$24 million over the 2005-2009 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The legislation could increase direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant. The act would not affect revenues. H.R. 620 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit two California school districts.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 620 will be enacted by the start of fiscal year 2005 and that amounts necessary to implement the legislation will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 620 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	6	7	7	2	2
Estimated Outlays	0	6	7	7	2	2

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 620 would cost \$6 million in 2005 and \$24 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The legislation could increase direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant.

### **Spending Subject to Appropriation**

Title II of H.R. 620 would add to the GGNRA the 4,076-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra and over 300 acres of property in the Devil’s Slide area. Based on information from the National Park Service (NPS), CBO estimates that the agency would spend \$5 million a year over the 2005-2007 period to purchase the Rancho Corral de Tierra from the Peninsula Open Space Trust, a local nonprofit organization, which acquired the property in 2001 for \$29.7 million. (We expect that the organization would recover the balance of the land’s purchase price from private and state sources.)

The cost of acquiring land within the Devil’s Slide area is less certain because formal property appraisals have not yet been completed and because it is unclear how much of this acreage might be acquired by the state of California for a proposed highway diversion. Based on information from the NPS, CBO estimates that the agency would purchase about 300 acres of land within the Devil’s Slide area for a total cost of \$5 million over the 2004-2009 period.

Finally, CBO estimates that the cost to develop property added to the GGNRA would total about \$500,000 in 2005. We also estimate that annual costs to administer the new lands would be roughly \$300,000 starting in 2006.

For each of fiscal years 2004-2008, title I of H.R. 620 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to pay a total of up to \$400,000 to two California school districts that serve the families of Yosemite National Park employees. To make those payments, H.R. 620 would authorize the Secretary to use appropriated funds, donations, or offsetting receipts from certain fees collected by the NPS. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the Secretary would principally rely on appropriated funds to make the payments authorized by the act because very few collections and donations are available to spend on new activities. Hence, we estimate that title I would increase discretionary spending by \$400,000 a year over the next five years, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. That amount could be lower if the Secretary chooses to use funds from other sources to make payments to the school districts, as discussed below.

### **Direct Spending**

Title II of H.R. 620 would authorize the Secretary to use certain fees and donations to make payments to two California school districts that serve the families of Yosemite National Park employees. According to the NPS, the agency already has authority to spend nearly all such collections; hence, we estimate that any increase in direct spending of such fees under H.R. 620 would be insignificant.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 620 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit two California school districts.

### **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On March 5, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 302, the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on February 26, 2003. S. 302 is similar to title II of H.R. 620, and our estimates of the cost of expanding the GGNRA are the same under both pieces of legislation.

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