

Reps Tauscher and McNerney Hail Passage of Healthy Community Water Supply Act of 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2007

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REPS. TAUSCHER AND MCNERNEY HAIL PASSAGE OF HEALTHY COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY ACT OF 2007

Bill aims to create new water supplies available for future use

Washington, DC – Today, the Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007, authored by Rep. Jerry McNerney (CA-11) and sponsored by Rep. Ellen Tauscher (CA-10), passed the House by a vote of 368 to 59.

The Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007 will authorize \$125 million in funding for projects that increase usable water supply by encouraging innovation in water reclamation, reuse, and conservation. The bill provides funding for a grant program that requires a fifty percent local funding match.

“I’m glad that the Congress has finally taken the initiative and passed this legislation. I have always been a proponent of sound water policies that protect our current supply and create healthy alternatives for future use,” said Rep. Tauscher. “I’m glad to have leaders like Rep. McNerney among our new Democratic Majority, a majority that allows us to finally pass common-sense legislation protecting our natural resources.”

“This bill authorizes funds to develop alternative sources of clean drinking water, as well as water for agricultural and industrial purposes,” Rep. McNerney said. “That’s an important consideration this winter in California with lower than normal rainfall totals and a Sierra snowpack just 65 percent of its normal size – sources that are essential to the state’s water supply.”

The Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007 amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize alternative water source projects. It will provide a necessary source of funding for ideas like aquifer storage and retrieval as well as membrane filtering technologies that have the potential to greatly increase our ability to use water more effectively and efficiently through a grant program requiring a local funding match.

The Healthy Communities Water Supply Act of 2007 moved quickly through the legislative process after having first been introduced on January 27, 2007. The Act was considered by the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, and then moved to the full House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, before being considered by the full House this morning.

