



Legislative Bulletin.....December 11, 2014

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H.R. 5742 - Soledad Canyon Settlement Act

H.R. 5742 - Soledad Canyon Settlement Act — (Rep. McKeon, R-CA)

Order of Business: [H.R. 5742](#) is scheduled for consideration on December 11, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to cancel the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) mineral contracts (CA-20139 and CA-22901) with the contract holder (CEMEX). The BLM will compensate the contract holder, at fair market value, for the cancellation of the contracts. Once the contract holder has been compensated, the Secretary will cancel the contracts and withdraw the areas that were subject to contracts from further mineral entry under all mineral leasing and sales authorities. The Secretary is directed to retain sufficient funds to cover projected lost royalties.

In addition, the bill directs the BLM to sell [10,206.05 acres of land](#) in Victorville, California. The local land use authority will be given an exclusive preemptive right to purchase any right, title, or interest in the sale of any part of this land. The proceeds from the sale of the land will be used to compensate the contract holder for the cancellation of the BLM mining contracts.

Additional Background: This bill settles a fourteen year dispute between the City of Santa Clarita, California, and CEMEX over a proposed 56,000,000 ton sand and gravel mine located in the Soledad Canyon area. CEMEX holds two, ten-year, mining contracts (CA-20139 and CA-22901) issued by the BLM. Since the time of the issuance in March 1990, the surrounding area has urbanized and rapidly grown. [CEMEX](#) and the surrounding [local areas](#) have advocated for a solution to this dispute; however, federal legislation is required to provide the Secretary of the Interior the necessary authority to cancel the mining contracts.

Legislation to address this issue has been introduced since the 108th Congress.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative McKeon on November 19, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources where it awaits further action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO score is available at this time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The constitutional authority statement was not available.

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