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} REPORT
No. 1247

EASEMENT AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION, ALAMEDA, CALIF.

MAY 6 (legislative day, MAY 4), 1948.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MORSE, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2233]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2233) to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant to the East Bay Municipal Utility District, an agency of the State of California, an easement for the construction and operation of a water main in and under certain Government-owned lands comprising a part of the United States Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant an easement on certain Government-owned property for the construction and operation of a water main which in part will service the United States Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

At the present time there is an inadequate supply of water available to the naval air station and the defense housing project adjacent thereto. The East Bay Municipal Utility District, an agency of the State of California, is increasing the size of its mains from 12 to 24 inches to provide more pressure. In order that the full advantage of this change may be realized, it is necessary that the pipe line traverse the eastern border of land within the naval air station, and accordingly the utility district has requested that it be granted a permanent 10-foot easement. The Department of the Navy states that the installation of water lines will neither affect the Government's use of the land nor impair its value, and would not result in any cost to the Government. Further, the Government will receive substantial benefits from the improved water supply.

The Bureau of the Budget advises there is no objection to this legislation. A copy of the letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services is hereby made a part of this report.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
Washington, February 25, 1948.

HON. CHAN GURNEY,
*Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services,
United States Senate.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: There is transmitted herewith a draft of a proposed bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant to the East Bay Municipal Utility District, an agency of the State of California, an easement for the construction and operation of a water main in and under certain Government-owned lands comprising a part of the United States Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is as stated in the title.

The United States Naval Air Station, Alameda, Calif., is situated in the western end of Alameda, being bounded on the east in part by Webster Street and on the south in part by Atlantic Avenue. The East Bay Municipal Utility District is the only agency supplying and distributing water in the vicinity of the station.

In connection with its plans for amplifying the water supply to industrial and military installations at Alameda, the utility district proposes to extend its recently completed 24-inch pipe line crossing of the estuary along the western line of Webster Street to connect with its major distributing mains at Pacific Avenue. In planning the installation of this line, the utility district found there were several layers of pavement in the traveled portion of Webster Street and that the sidewalk area between the pavement and the westerly line of the street was already occupied by two sewers installed by the city of Alameda.

Accordingly, the utility district's engineering division has determined that the only feasible location for the installation of the pipe line would necessitate traversing the eastern border of land within the naval air station which is used for housing purposes (U. S. Naval Defense Housing Project No. Cal. 4111), from Tynan Avenue to Atlantic Avenue along the line described in enclosure (1). The utility district has requested that it be granted a permanent 10-foot easement accordingly.

Prior to the construction of the 24-inch water main crossing of the estuary, which now is connected to the major distributing mains in the western part of Alameda only by a 12-inch cross-connection, the water pressure at the meters of the naval air station dropped to dangerously low value whenever there was a heavy drain on the system by the other users. The construction of the 24-inch water main crossing of the estuary has improved this condition to some extent but because of the friction loss in the existing 12-inch cross-connecting main the full advantage of the new estuary crossing cannot be realized. It is felt that upon completion of the proposed 24-inch extension of the new estuary crossing main, pressure conditions on the naval air station will be improved greatly, thus reducing the time it will be necessary to operate the pumps in the new water storage and pumping addition to the domestic water system on the naval air station, recently completed under contract. Another advantage to the naval air station that will result from the proposed work will be an alternate supply main to the feeder to the station. The danger of complete failure of the water supply to the naval air station due to a break in the major supply main through the city of Alameda would be eliminated if the proposed work is completed.

Installation of the water lines would neither affect the Government's use of the property nor impair the value of the land, and would not result in any cost to the Government.

In view of the substantial benefits which would accrue to the Government as a result of the granting of this easement, the Navy Department recommends enactment of the proposed legislation.

The Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force have no objection to this proposed measure.

An identical report has been transmitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives this date.

The Department of the Navy has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report to the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

M. E. ANDREWS,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.