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BILL
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Water ^{7. Date} ^{7. Rev} bunch of nonsense

SAN FRANCISCO doesn't want to pay its fair share, even if the city is making a \$270 million profit annually off the federal government.

But George Miller, a California Congressman from the San Francisco area, sure thinks Western farmers should pay their fair share.

In case you missed it, Wayne Allard, Colorado's 4th District Congressman, a couple of weeks ago attempted to amend the Interior Department's budget by making San Francisco give up some of the profit it gets from selling water out of the Hetch Hetchy Dam — a federal water project.

Miller, reportedly, went ballistic. The California Democrat apparently didn't see the logic in the actions from his counterpart from Colorado.

Allard and some of his Republican friends on the House Agriculture Committee introduced the amendment — which Miller and his cronies shot down — to offset an earlier amendment that would place a 50 cents per acre-foot surcharge on federal irrigation water in 17 western states. The surcharge would raise about \$10 million in fiscal year 1994.

Allard's move to make San Francisco pay its fair share would raise \$20 million — double what the surcharge on irrigators in the 17 western states would pay.

The Bay City pays the federal government \$30,000 a year for the use of the dam, but according to Bureau of Reclamation figures, it makes \$270 million a year by selling water to users in the area.

Now, get this.

An article in the San Francisco Chronicle said the city uses that money for the homeless, immigrants, AIDS, public safety, earthquakes and "all the rest of the things a large city has to deal with," according to city deputy attorney Tom Berliner.

Don't all big cities have those things to deal with? How do they fund those projects?

Berliner said the city only gets revenues of \$70 million annually from the sale of the water and has expenses of \$50 million.

One might wonder if other cities in the West funds those programs from the sale of water — Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego? Denver certainly doesn't. But then it doesn't have a federal water project handy to provide that funding.