

Office of Government and Public Relations

BREAKING NEWS BULLETIN

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In an effort to keep the Board of Directors apprised of breaking news, the Office of Government and Public Relations produces the Breaking News Bulletin. Please contact Rick Callender at 408-265-2607, ext. 2017, or Scott Wilson at ext. 2621, if you have any questions.

Senate Appropriation Committee Passes Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

The United States Senate Appropriations Committee today named the project specific earmarks for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2009 (starts October 2008). This is the Senate version of the bill that funds the activities and projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). The House took action on appropriations June 25th.

The legislation will provide \$5.3 billion in overall funding for the Corps Civil Works Program. This represents an increase of approximately \$559 million above what was requested by the President for Fiscal Year 2009 and a decrease of approximately \$300 million below current funding levels. Shown below are the proposed House and Senate appropriations for the following District projects:

Project	House	Senate
➤ Upper Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project	\$0	\$5 million
➤ Guadalupe River Flood Protection Project	\$500,000	\$5 million
➤ Llagas Creek Flood Protection Project	\$200,000	\$400,000
➤ South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Study	\$2.8 million	\$1.4 million
➤ Coyote/Berryessa Creek Flood Protection Project	\$1.6 million	\$950,000
➤ San Francisquito Creek Flood Protection Project	\$700,000	\$0
➤ Upper Penitencia Creek Flood Protection Project	\$262,000	\$191,000

The legislation also provides \$1.08 billion in funding for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. This funding level represents an increase of \$109 million above the President's budget request and a decrease of approximately \$73 million below current funding levels. Included in this total are the following projects/programs:

Project/Program	House	Senate
➤ Bay Area Recycled Water Coalition	\$9 million	\$?*
➤ San Jose Area Water Reclamation and Reuse Program	\$8 million	\$250,000
➤ CALFED Bay-Delta Program	\$37 million	\$42 million
➤ San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Project	\$1.4 million**	\$1.4 million**

*Funding may be included in an amendment to the bill not available yet

**Included in CALFED appropriation request

Also of note, the House Homeland Security Appropriation Bill was also approved in late June. In that bill, Congressman Mike Honda was successful in securing an appropriation request of \$790,000 for the District's Infrastructure Reliability Program Seismic Study and Retrofit of Rinconada Water Treatment Plant Operations Building. A similar earmark was not included in the Senate Homeland Security Appropriation bill.

Please note that this is just the first step in the appropriations process and as such many changes and negotiations are currently ongoing. Neither the House or the Senate have scheduled floor time for a vote on their bills. The Office of Government and Public Relations will be closely monitoring and working with the process as it progresses and will provide updates to the Board of Directors as they occur.