

# Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

June 24, 2019

## FY 2020 APPROPRIATIONS

Although there is still no agreement on overall spending limits, the House is moving ahead with funding legislation for FY 2020. On June 19, the House voted along party lines to pass H.R. 2740, which combines the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education, Defense, State-Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development bills.

In general, the House versions of these bills have rejected the significant program eliminations or reductions that were proposed by the President's FY 2020 budget. The Energy and Water title of H.R. 2470 includes a total of \$7.36 billion for navigation, flood control, ecosystem restoration and other projects at the Army Corps of Engineers. This is a five percent increase compared to last year and a 52 percent increase above the President's Budget Request.

The Health and Human Services title includes significant funding for public health programs, including:

- \$700 million (an increase of \$25 million) for public health emergency preparedness cooperative agreements;
- \$1.7 billion (+\$50 million) for the Health Centers program;
- \$2.4 billion (+\$116 million) for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program;
- \$757 million (+\$35 million) for Mental Health Block Grants; and
- \$3.8 billion (+\$24 million) for Substance Abuse Treatment.

Budget talks continue between the White House and Senate and House leaders to try to increase the existing spending caps. Although those negotiations are likely to continue

throughout the summer, the Senate Appropriations Committee will begin to draft its versions of the annual appropriations bills in July.

## OCS PROTECTION

Last week, the House adopted an amendment offered by Representative Carbajal to provide for a one-year moratorium on OCS development off the West Coast. His amendment states that none of the funds in the *FY 2020 Interior Appropriations Act* may be used to allow offshore oil and gas leasing in the Washington/Oregon, Northern California, Central California, and Southern California Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Planning Areas for FY 2020. The House approved the amendment by a recorded vote of 238 - 192.

We are also advocating for longer-term legislation to protect California's coast. The House Natural Resources Committee approved H.R. 1941, the *Coastal and Marine Economies Protection Act*, on June 19. This bill includes provisions similar to Representative Carbajal's H.R. 279, the *California Clean Coast Act*, but it would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from offering any tract for oil and gas leasing or pre-leasing in either the Atlantic or Pacific Outer Continental Shelf planning areas.

## GREEN NEW DEAL

Following your Board's June 4 action to approve a resolution in support of the principles of the Green New Deal, we urged the committees of jurisdiction to support S.Res. 59 and H.Res. 109 to start the conversation to create the related nationwide federal policies and mobilize the American economy. We also thanked our local delegation for their support for legislation in these areas.

In addition, the *FY 2020 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Act* that the House

passed on June 19 as part of H.R. 2740 includes a provision that prohibits any of the funds in the legislation from being used by the Trump Administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change. This provision is similar to H.R. 9, the *Climate Action Now Act*, which was passed by the House in early May. H.R. 9 would also require the President to develop and update annually a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution under the Agreement.

#### CENSUS

The Supreme Court is expected to announce its ruling this week on whether the Trump administration can include a citizenship question on the 2020 census. The question has been the subject of legal challenges since it was announced in 2018. The version of the *FY 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* that is currently pending in the House includes a provision that would prohibit the Administration from including the question. That legislation will likely be passed by the full House later this week and the Senate Appropriations Committee will draft its version of the measure in July.

#### PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

The Department of Interior awarded the County \$1,937,510 on June 20 when it released the FY 2019 Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) allocations. PILT provides funding to counties to offset lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal lands within their jurisdictions.

While Congress has recently provided funding for PILT through annual appropriations bills, the County supports authorizing legislation to provide a long-term, sustainable future for this program. Representative Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) introduced H.R. 3043, the *Permanently Authorizing PILT Act*, on May 30, and we have urged the local delegation and the House Natural Resources Committee to support the measure.

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