

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

July 14, 2008

SPECIAL REPORT

FY 2009 FUNDING FOR SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WATER PROJECTS

Late last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the *FY 2009 Energy and Water Development Appropriations* measure. While the committee has not yet released its report to accompany the spending measure, we have been informed by committee staff that the bill proposes the following funding for County of Santa Barbara projects:

- \$6.0 million for the Santa Maria Levee (Army Corps of Engineers)
- \$400,000 for Lake Cachuma (Bureau of Reclamation)
- \$400,000 for Lower Mission Creek (Army Corps of Engineers)
- \$150,000 for Goleta Beach (Army Corps of Engineers)

We advocated these requests with Senator Feinstein, who serves on the committee, and Senator Boxer, and their support was critical to their inclusion in the bill. As we reported earlier, the House Appropriations Committee has also approved its version of the FY 2009 Energy and Water spending bill, and proposed \$8.5 million for the Santa Maria Levee and \$250,000 for Lower Mission Creek. The final funding level for these projects will be determined when a joint House/Senate Conference Committee is convened on the Energy and Water spending measure after it has been approved by the full House and the full Senate, probably in the autumn.

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