

# Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 20, 2010

## COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided \$250 million annually for FY 2007-2010 for eligible States and qualified coastal political subdivisions (CPSs) to mitigate the impacts of activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). The funding was to be allotted based on the proportion of qualified OCS revenues offshore the individual State to total qualified OCS revenues from all States. This week, the Department of the Interior's Mineral Management Service (MMS) released its Program Announcement for California. Under the announcement, the County is eligible to receive a total of \$2,861,065.52 for the four years. Grant applications must be submitted by the end of 2011, with all projects completed by the end of 2014.

## TAX EXTENDERS LEGISLATION

On May 20, a compromise version of H.R. 4213, the *American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act*, was released. In addition to extending expiring tax provisions, the legislation is also being used as a vehicle for a variety of other proposals to provide economic assistance. It contains a number of provisions relevant to the County, including:

- A variety of bonding and tax-related provisions designed to help State and local governments invest in infrastructure and create jobs;
- \$1 billion in funding for local Workforce Investment Boards to expand summer jobs programs;
- Extension of the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) through Federal Fiscal Year 2011;
- Extension of the existing authorization for the National Flood Insurance Program through December 31, 2010;
- Rescission of the June, 2010 scheduled 20% reduction in Medicare physician payment rates;

- A six month extension of the temporary increase in the Federal Medical Matching Rate (FMAP) for Medicaid implemented in ARRA; and,
- An update of the method used to determine the localities used for Medicare's physician geographic adjustment factor in California, utilizing metropolitan statistical areas.

While it is unclear if there are enough votes in the Senate to avoid a filibuster, the goal is to pass the measure and send it to President Obama before the Memorial Day recess.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDING

The Homeland Security Appropriations bill is traditionally one of the first spending measures drafted, and we contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to advocate the County's homeland security and emergency response priorities in anticipation of action on the *FY 2011 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill. We urged them to adequately fund local homeland security and disaster preparedness activities, including funding to address the needs of public safety, public health, emergency management personnel, and communications infrastructure. We also asked them to fund the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program at the highest possible level, and emphasized the critical importance of Emergency Management Performance Grants to the County's emergency preparedness responsibilities. Action on FY 2011 appropriations bill remains in limbo as Congress tries to negotiate a *FY 2011 Budget Resolution*, which sets the broad parameters for the funding bills. They are also exploring possible options for the appropriations measures if agreement cannot be reached on the budget resolution.

## PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

After the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced its solicitation for funding under the FY 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice

Assistance Grant (JAG) program, we provided the application package to County staff. Under the formula allocation for JAG, the County is eligible for a total of \$142,289 in conjunction with the cities of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria. JAG funding can be used for a variety of public safety activities. Applications are due by June 30.

We contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees regarding the County's public safety funding priorities, and urged them to provide the highest level of funding possible for local law enforcement activities when they draft the FY 2011 Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, including justice grants, youth delinquency prevention and anti-gang efforts, local law enforcement technology needs, methamphetamine enforcement, adult probation and re-entry and domestic abuse programs. We also asked them to fully fund SCAAP, and to increase funding for the Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWBPI).

#### **JUVENILE JUSTICE FUNDING**

In anticipation of pending floor action, we contacted Congresswoman Capps and Congressman Gallegly to urge their support for H.R. 1514, the *Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program Reauthorization Act*, citing the need the resources to address violent youth, delinquency prevention and diversion activities, and early intervention and community-based options. The measure would reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Program through 2014 at its existing authorization level of \$350 million per year. Congresswoman Capps and Congressman Gallegly both supported the proposal, and it was approved by a vote of 364-45.

#### **LAKE CACHUMA**

During his January advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. Supervisor Carbajal discussed the Bureau of Reclamation's delay in the release of the Lake Cachuma Resource Management Plan (RMP) with Michael Blake of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Black requested additional information on the situation, including potential economic impacts, and we worked with the CEO's office to provide the information and additional follow-up for Mr. Blake's contacts with the Bureau. On May 19, the agency published the availability of its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Lake Cachuma RMP, with the Record of Decision to be completed in 30 days.

#### **COTTONWOOD CANYON ROAD**

We continued to work with Congressman Gallegly's office regarding the County's claim for damages from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for the repair of Cottonwood Canyon Road. The USFS office in Albuquerque had previously indicated that they would be providing the County with a status update before the end of April. Last week we alerted Congressman Gallegly's staff to the fact that the County still has not received any information from USFS. Congressman Gallegly has now sent a formal letter to the Department of Agriculture's Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations requesting an update on the claim.

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