

# Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 11, 2009

## **FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS**

On April 29, the House and the Senate both agreed to the joint conference agreement on the *FY 2010 Budget Resolution*, which both outlines long-term spending goals and sets the broad parameters for the twelve annual appropriations bills that fund the various Federal agencies. Subsequently, on May 7, the Administration rolled out its Budget In Brief for the various Federal agencies, which provides the details of the President's FY 2010 Budget request. These two events enable the appropriations process to move forward, and it is now projected that the respective House and Senate Appropriations Committees will begin work on the FY 2010 appropriations bills after Congress returns from the Memorial Day recess in the first week of June. The committees are currently working on FY 2009 emergency supplemental appropriations addressing Iraq, Afghanistan and the influenza outbreak.

## **ECONOMIC STIMULUS**

We continue to provide support to the County regarding opportunities for funding under the economic stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). During their February trip to Washington, D.C., we arranged for Supervisor Carbajal, Public Works Director Scott McGolpin, and Deputy Director Tom Fayram to meet with Army Corps of Engineers Director of Civil Works Steve Stockton regarding funding for the Santa Maria Levee and Mission Creek projects. When the Corps announced its funding for projects under ARRA, it included \$40 million for Santa Maria Levee, and \$600,000 for Mission Creek.

We contacted the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in support of H.R. 2182, the *Oversight of State and Local Economic Recovery Act*. Introduced by Committee Chairman Towns (D-NY), the measure would provide State and local governments with the ability to use stimulus funds in their efforts to meet the American Recovery

and Reinvestment Act's oversight provisions, and would to use the Federal supply schedules of the General Services Administration - pre-negotiated Federal contracts for a range of common goods and services - for stimulus projects. We also asked Congresswoman Capps and Congressman Gallegly to support the measure. The committee approved H.R. 2182 by voice vote and it is currently pending issuance of the committee's report.

## **INFLUENZA CRISIS**

We are closely monitoring Federal response to the current H1N1 influenza virus outbreak, including forwarding to County staff updated CDC guidance provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Last week, we joined NACo, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and other Washington, D.C. local government representatives in meeting with officials from the Department of Homeland Security and HHS' Office of Intergovernmental Affairs regarding the outbreak. President Obama has requested \$1.5 billion to enhance the capability to respond to the potential spread of the outbreak in the *FY 2009 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations* bill that Congress is beginning work on this week, and we joined NACo and other advocates in lobbying both for additional resources for local public health agencies, and for such funding to come directly to the local level. We have learned that House Appropriations Committee Chairman Obey (D-WI) has included \$350 million above the President's request specifically for State and local governments to prepare and respond to a pandemic in his committee's version of the supplemental spending measure.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

We urged Senators Boxer and Feinstein to support a floor amendment to S. 896, the *Helping Families Save Their Homes Act*, which would reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The proposal,

which is essentially the provisions from Senator Reed's (D-RI) S. 808, the *Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (or HEARTH) Act*, would be the first reauthorization of the emergency assistance and transitional housing provisions of the Act since 1994, and would streamline the programs to create a single point of continuous contact for participants. It would also authorize \$2.2 billion for targeted assistance grants to provide more flexibility in the use of Federal funds on the local level to address housing for the homeless. It was included in the final version of S. 896.

#### **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

After the County submitted its proposal to FEMA for \$1 million to assist in the construction of a new emergency operations center, we contacted Congresswoman Capps' office to request her support for the proposal. We worked with her staff to draft a letter of support for the County's request to Acting FEMA Administrator Nancy Ward, and the letter was sent on May 4.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING - SCAAP**

When the Department of Justice released its detailed FY 2010 Budget in Brief on May 7, we were disappointed to discover that, like the previous Administration, it recommended eliminating funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) to reimburse State and local governments for the costs of incarcerating criminal undocumented immigrants. We immediately contacted the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees of jurisdiction, Congresswoman Capps and Congressman Gallegly, and Senators Boxer and Feinstein to urge their continued support for SCAAP, reiterating the Federal responsibility to control the borders. The respective House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) will not begin work on their FY 2010 spending bills until June.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING - COPS**

In anticipation of floor action, we urged Congresswoman Capps and Congressman Gallegly to vote in favor of H.R. 1139, the

*COPS Improvements Act of 2009*, which would reauthorize COPS through 2014, increasing the authorized level of funding for the program and expanding the authorized uses of the funding to include a variety of critical law enforcement functions, including forensic analysis. Similar legislation passed the House in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, but was never taken up by the Senate. H.R. 1139 was approved by the full House on April 23, 342-78.

#### **ELDER ABUSE**

We contacted the Senate Finance Committee to advocate in support of Senator Hatch's (R-UT) S. 795, the *Elder Justice Act*, which would establish grant programs aimed at reducing physical abuse, financial exploitation and neglect of elderly people by family members or personnel in institutions and residential care facilities. We also urged Senators Boxer and Feinstein to support the measure. Earlier this year, the House approved H.R. 448, the *Elder Abuse Victims Act*.

#### **WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE**

We contacted the House Energy and Commerce Committee to urge expedited consideration of Congresswoman Capps' H.R. 1032, the *Heart Disease Education, Analysis, Research, and Treatment (HEART) for Women Act*, which would expand funding for the WISEWOMAN screening program for low-income and uninsured women. Similar legislation sponsored by Congresswoman Capps was approved by the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress last year, but never taken up in the Senate. We have also contacted members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to advocate in support of action on this year's Senate version of the proposal, Senator Stabenow's (D-MI) S. 422.

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