



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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Fourth District

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Fifth District

June 9, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

The House began action last month on its ten FFY 2006 appropriations bills with the goal of passing all of them before the Independence Day recess. The Senate is expected to act on its 12 FFY 2006 appropriations at a much slower pace. Last year, less than half of the appropriations bills reached the Senate floor before the remaining bills were combined into a single omnibus appropriations bill.

This year's appropriations process will be far more complicated than in past years. Both houses reorganized their respective appropriations subcommittees so they no longer have 13 identical subcommittees with jurisdiction over the same departments, programs, and agencies. The House now has ten subcommittees, and the Senate now has 12 subcommittees with differing jurisdiction. It still is unclear whether differences between House and Senate appropriations bills will be resolved in their respective conference committees on the bills.

The other major complicating factor is that most of the 2.9% increase in overall FFY 2006 discretionary spending will go to international, homeland security, veterans, and defense-related programs. As a result, total available funding for the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS)/Education Appropriations bill, which funds most programs of County interest, will be slightly below the current funding level. To date, the House has taken the following action on appropriations bills of County interest:

FFY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

The FFY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 2360), which passed the House on May, 17, 2005, reduces State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funding from \$1.1 billion to \$750 million, and reduces high-threat urban area grant funding by \$35 million to \$850 million. Attachment I is a table comparing the bill's FFY 2006 funding levels for programs of County interest with current funding levels and those proposed by the President. The bill also includes report language instructing that, after each state is provided a small state minimum (SSM) allocation of 0.75% of total SHSGP funding, all remaining "funding will be targeted based on threat and risk." Under current policy, any remaining funding is allocated on a per capita basis, disadvantaging California, which has high terrorist threat and risk levels relative to its population size.

Also, of County interest, a House floor amendment to H.R. 2360 was adopted that provides \$100 million for grants to assist states in conforming with new minimum drivers' license standards imposed under the REAL ID provisions included in this year's supplemental appropriations bill (P.L. 109-13). H.R. 2360 also includes \$5 million for the Basic Employment Eligibility Verification System, a pilot program through which employers can access an automated data base to verify the employment eligibility of new hires using their Social Security numbers.

FFY 2006 Science/State/Justice/Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations Bill

On June 7, 2005, the House Appropriations Committee passed a FFY 2006 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations bill, which would reduce overall funding for state and local law enforcement programs by roughly 13%, which is far less than the 62.5% reduction proposed by President Bush. Of major importance to the County, the Committee rejected the President's budget proposals to eliminate the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), and Economic Development Assistance (EDA) programs. Instead, the bill increases SCAAP funding from \$301 million in FFY 2005 to \$355 million, but decreases formula Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funding from \$529 million to \$253 million, and EDA funding from \$254 million to \$201 million in FFY 2006. Attachment II is a table comparing the bill's FFY 2006 funding levels for programs of County interest with current funding levels and those proposed by the President.

In an important victory for state and local governments, the Committee also rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate 18 programs, including the Community Development Block Grant and Community Services Block Grant, and consolidate them into a new Strengthening America's Communities Initiative block grant, which would be funded at level that is roughly 35% less than the total combined FFY 2005 funding for the 18 programs.

FFY 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

The FFY 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill (H.R. 2419) funds Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") civil works projects, including those of importance to the County's Department of Public Works and Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH). As passed by the House last month, overall discretionary spending under the bill was cut by 0.3% to \$29.7 billion. The Corps received \$4.7 billion in overall funding, which was nearly ten percent more than requested by the President, but was still six percent less than in FFY 2005. H.R. 2419 includes funding for the following projects of County interest:

- LACDA Operation and Maintenance (\$4,287,000);
- Coast of California Sediment Master Plan (\$900,000);
- Los Angeles County Regional Dredged Material Management Plan (\$850,000);
- Sun Valley Watershed Project (\$100,000); and
- Tujunga Wash Restoration Project, Phase II (\$431,000).

The bill, however, does not include any funding for dredging and maintenance of the Marina del Rey entrance channel, which is one of the County's top funding priorities for the bill. The County had requested \$7.99 million in Corps funding for this project. The County's Washington, D.C. advocates and DBH now are pursuing funding in the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is expected to mark up its version of the bill next week. Attachment III is a recent letter sent by Supervisor Knabe to Senator Feinstein, who serves on the Appropriations Committee, requesting her support for project funding. As explained in the letter, the Corps, which is responsible for maintaining and dredging of the Marina del Rey entrance channel, has not dredged it since 1999, resulting in considerable shoaling problems that endanger the public's safety.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:ib

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist

**PROPOSED FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 FUNDING LEVELS
FOR PROGRAMS OF COUNTY INTEREST IN H.R. 2360
HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL
(in millions)**

| PROGRAMS | Enacted 2005 | President 2006 | House 2006 |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Homeland Security | | | |
| State Homeland Security Grant | \$ 1,100 | \$ 700 | 750 |
| State and Local Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention | 400 | 500 | 400 |
| High-Threat Urban Area Grants | 885 | 1,200 | 850 |
| Rail and Transit Security | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| Port Security | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| Emergency Management Performance Grants | 180 | 170 | 180 |
| Firefighting Grants | 650 | 500 | 575 |
| SAFER ¹ | 65 | 0 | 75 |
| Urban Search and Rescue Teams | 30 | 7 | 7 |

Footnote

- ¹ SAFER refers to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighting Program.

**PROPOSED FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 FUNDING LEVELS
FOR PROGRAMS OF COUNTY INTEREST IN THE
SCIENCE/STATE/JUSTICE/COMMERCE / APPROPRIATIONS BILL
(in millions)**

| PROGRAMS | Enacted 2005 | President 2006 | House 2006 |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Justice | | | |
| State Criminal Alien Assistance Program | \$ 301 | \$ 0 | \$355 |
| Justice Assistance Grant ¹ | 529 | 0 | 253 |
| COPS Interoperable Communications | 99 | 2 | 0 |
| COPS Hiring Grants | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| COPS Technologies Grants | 137 | 0 | 120 |
| DNA Initiative | 109 | 176 | 177 |
| Juvenile Justice Formula Grant | 83 | 90 | 83 |
| Juvenile Accountability Block Grant | 54 | 0 | 60 |
| Southwest Border Prosecutor Program | 30 | 47 | 30 |
| Strengthening America's Communities Initiative | 0 | 3,710 | 0 |
| Economic Development Assistance | 254 | 0 | 201 |

Footnote

¹ The funding levels are for formula Justice Assistance Grants only.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DON KNABE

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

June 3, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing to request your support for Army Corps of Engineers funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill for dredging and maintenance of the Marina del Rey entrance channel. This project is one of Los Angeles County's top funding priorities for the bill, but it was not funded in the version (H.R. 2419) recently passed by the House.

The Corps is responsible for maintenance and dredging of the Marina del Rey entrance channel, pursuant to a perpetual right-of-way and easement agreement with the County. However, because the channel was last dredged in 1999, a considerable amount of sediment has built up, adversely affecting the ability of ships and boats to safely use it. This is especially problematic because, besides being used by nearly 6,000 recreational craft, it also is used by Coast Guard, County Fire, and Sheriff craft, which perform off-shore law enforcement, search and rescue, and emergency response operations. Earlier this year, County staff submitted an appropriations request to your office for \$7.99 million in funding of which roughly \$5 million is for dredging and the balance for the disposing and storing sediment, much of which is contaminated.

Any further deferral of dredging work will only exacerbate current shoaling problems, risking the public's safety and adding to future dredging costs. The County, therefore, asks that funding for this project be one of your top priorities when the Appropriations Committee takes up the bill. We also express our appreciation for your leadership and continued support on funding matters, such as this, which are critically important to the County and its ten million residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Knabe", written over a printed name and title.

DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of Los Angeles