

**TO: City of Santa Barbara**  
**FROM: RJ Lyerly**  
**RE: Federal Advocacy, January 2011**  
**DATE: January 31, 2011**

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The Mayor of City of Santa Barbara, Helene Schneider, was in Washington, DC the week of January 18, 2011 to attend the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Mayors, as well as individual meetings on Santa Barbara specific issues. The individual meetings were organized and scheduled by Carpi, Clay and Smith and are listed below, along with a brief description and any associated follow up required.

**Civil Works** -- A meeting was held with Ada Benavides & Steve Stockton with the Corps of Engineers at Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC, as well as a separate meeting with Majority and Minority staff of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee. The focus of the meetings was to discuss the fiscal year 2011 and 2012 federal budget for Civil Works as well as federal spending on Santa Barbara priorities and future year funding.

Santa Barbara's key issues are:

- \$2.1 million for Fiscal Year 2012 to dredge the Federal Navigation Channel to allow safe vessel transit, homeland security and NOAA operations in and out of the Santa Barbara Harbor.
- \$1 million in Civil Works Construction funding to initiate construction on the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project. The Corps has completed the study phase of the project.
- \$3.8 million through the Army Corps of Engineers Section 206 Program to complete construction of the Caltrans Channels Project, restoring passage for the endangered steelhead trout in Mission Creek.

Both Subcommittee staff and Mr. Stockton advised that no commitments can be made at this time on fiscal year 2011 federal funding, since Congress is operating under a Congressional Resolution (CR) through March 4, 2010. In addition, it is unclear if Congress will pass an omnibus appropriations bill which will include Civil Works funding, or if they will complete the remainder of the year with a long-term CR.

With regard to fiscal year 2012, the President is expected to release an outline of his Budget on February 4, with a more detailed budget which will include civil works projects to be issued the following week. We will keep the City advised of relevant information as it becomes available.

The Mayor was also advised that given the constraints on federal funding it will be difficult to secure a new start for the Lower Mission Creek Construction Project without political intervention. Congresswoman Lois Capps agreed to send a letter requesting a new start for Lower Mission Creek to the Office of Management and Budget, with copies

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to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. A draft communication was prepared by Capri Clay and Smith and approved by the Mayor.

As a follow up to these meetings, and given the current budget uncertainty, the City of Santa Barbara will meet with officials of the Los Angeles District to review its priorities and to ensure that the proper justification exists to move these projects forward. RJ Lyerly will work with the Santa Barbara Harbor and with the Public Works Department to facilitate this meeting at the earliest possible opportunity.

With regard to the Corps project request involving restoration of endangered steelhead trout, it was noted by the Subcommittee staff that the Corps requested information on this project to determine if it was still a viable project in order to present that data to Congress. Congress provides limited funding for projects of this nature and the Corps was asked to update its backlog. The Mayor provided a thorough update on the viability of the project and the local, regional and national benefit.

**Office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein** --- Ben Kramer, Legislative Assistant to the Senator, reiterated uncertainty with the federal funding process and advised that the Senator has not been in the office due to recent knee surgery. Once she's recovered, they expect to have a better sense of the Senator's expectation for federal funding for fiscal year 2011 and for future years. The operation and maintenance project will be funded; however it is unclear if the Senate would entertain a new construction start at this point in time. Carpi Clay and Smith recommends the Mayor reach out to the Senator directly in this regard, and will prepare a draft communication for the Mayor's consideration.

**Office of Senator Barbara Boxer**, Noah Walker, Legislative Assistant to the Senator, advised that the Senator will collect appropriations projects, the documentation for which will be due on February 18, 2011. The City received the forms referenced and has been in discussions with Carpi Clay and Smith regarding completion and submission. The Senator's staff also advised that she would like to move a Water Resources Development Act, as well as a Transportation Reauthorization Bill through her Environment and Public Works Committee. The City will submit its three civil works projects for appropriations, and its Cottage Hospital project for transportation appropriations as well as reauthorization.

The Mayor provided Kathy Dedrick, Senior Policy Director to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which Senator Boxer chairs, an opportunity to ask questions about the Cottage Hospital project. Committee staff also provided the Mayor an update on the Senator's expectations for a reauthorization bill. Regarding the FAA Reauthorization, it is unclear when Congress will act on the measure. The Committee staff expressed general support for the City's recommendations, but has not identified a time frame to move a bill. We will continue our advocacy of the City's concern and will report to the Board with any developments.

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Office of Congresswoman Lois Capps -- The Mayor had a lengthy meeting with Congresswoman Capps, which provided an opportunity to review all of the City's federal priorities. The Congresswoman communicated her support for the City's project and offered to reach out to the Corps of Engineers on the City's behalf. While the House does not expect to collect appropriations projects in the short term, the City will provide the Congresswoman's office with copies of its submissions to Senator Boxer per their request.

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**Schedule**

**The City of Santa Barbara**  
**January 18-19, 2011**  
Mayor Helene Schneider 805-453-8550  
RJ Lyerly 202-498-5011  
Kelly Baldassarri 202-822-8300

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**

- 9:00 am                    **Briefing Carpi Clay & Smith**
  
- 11:00am                 **Ada Benavides & Steve Stockton**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
441 G St. NW  
Contact: 202-761-0415
  
- 2:00pm                   **Ben Kramer, LA**  
**Sen. Dianne Feinstein**  
331 Hart  
202-224-3841
  
- 2:30pm                   **Noah Walker, LA**  
**Sen. Barbara Boxer**  
112 Hart  
202-224-3553
  
- 4:00pm                   **Rep. Lois Capps**  
2231 Rayburn  
Contact: Sarah Rubinfeld  
202-225-3601  
Coffee with the Congresswoman to follow
  
- 5:30pm                   **Kathy Dedrick, Senior Policy Director**  
**Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works**  
410 Dirksen  
202-224-8832

**Wednesday, Jan. 19**

- 3:00pm                   **Taunja Berquam and GianCarlo**  
**House Subcommittee on Energy & Water**  
2362 Rayburn  
202-225-3421

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