

TABLE COPY**Kathleen Van Velsor - Bay Area Water Projects Pass House**

From: "Tauscher, Ellen" <Ellen.Tauscher@mail.house.gov>
Date: 7/15/2005 2:30 PM
Subject: Bay Area Water Projects Pass House

Hello,
I am sending you, below, a press release that I think will be of interest to you. If you have any questions about it, or want to discuss it further, please call my office in Walnut Creek at 925-932-8899, or in Washington, D.C. at 202-225-1880.

Sincerely,

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Rep. Ellen Tauscher

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICES OF
REPS. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
& GEORGE MILLER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bay Area Water Projects Pass House

Today, Reps. Ellen O. Tauscher (CA-10) and George Miller (CA-07) supported the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, as it passed the House on a vote of 406 - 14. Reps. Tauscher and Miller were able to secure support for several water programs important to the East Bay.

"Projects like these, to modernize our ports, ease water and flood concerns, and improve our environment, are vital to California, the Bay Area, and the Delta. I'm pleased that my colleagues recognized these critical projects and I hope we'll continue to make significant progress on them in the future," said Rep. Tauscher.

"This bill has been pending for several years, and I am glad it's moving forward today. The projects we have secured for the Bay-Delta region will improve our communities' quality of life, help our economy, and will have environmental benefits as well," said Miller.

The projects in the East Bay include:

- **San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Materials Study (continuation of current project):** the Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of the beneficial use of dredged material from the San Francisco Bay, along the Carquinez Strait, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including the benefits and impacts of salinity in the Delta and the benefits to navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water quality, salinity control, water supply reliability, and recreation.

- **Making Environmental Improvements to Existing Projects (continuation):** modifications may be made to these flood control projects to provide for environmental improvements along the project without harming the flood control improvements.

Pinole Creek Project and Wildcat/San Pablo Creek Phase I

- **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects (continuation):** these projects will provide both flood control and environmental restoration.

Wildcat/San Pablo Creek Phase II, Walnut Creek Channel, and Grayson/Murder's Creek Project

- **Contra Costa Canal and Mallard Slough Projects (continuation):** the projects will allow for flood mitigation as well as improved water conveyance.
- **East Bay MUD Desalination Project (new project):** the House bill includes a \$4 million authorization to assist the San Francisco Bay area in developing and constructing a regional desalination facility. The authorization will allow the interested regional partners (East Bay, San Francisco Santa Clara) to begin exploring the feasibility of developing such a project.
- **Contra Costa Water District Alternative Intake Project (new project):** the House bill includes an authorization of \$23 million for the Contra Costa Water District to evaluate adding a new drinking water intake for the District in the central Delta. This intake will access better quality water than CCWD's current Delta intakes and improve water quality for the District's customers - especially during periods of drought.
- **East Bay MUD Richmond Recycled Water Facility (new project):** the House bill includes an authorization of \$25 million for the East Bay Municipal Utilities District for the development of a feasibility study and subsequent construction of a water production facility to provide a highly treated water supply for industrial production activities in Richmond, California. Once constructed, the project will supply 3 million gallons a day of industrial water supply limiting demands on potable water supplies and protecting the supply of such waters for in-stream flows for fisheries and wildlife.

In addition, Rep. Tauscher sought a number of other Bay Area projects on behalf of her colleagues, including:

- **Larkspur Ferry Channel (continuation of current project):** the channel is operated by the Golden

Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District. It is used for ferry service between Marin County and San Francisco and is an important tool for traffic congestion along this corridor. The Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee has provided federal Operations & Maintenance funds for the Corps to dredge the main navigation channel. The Channel is expected to need dredging every three years.

- **Bel Marin Keys Project (continuation):** the Bel Marin Keys project is 1,600 acres of diked bayland that should be restored to tidal and seasonal wetlands and upland habitat. The project is significant both because of its restoration potential on San Pablo Bay and because it will continue with the Hamilton model of re-using dredge material from various San Francisco Bay area dredging projects, including the Port of Oakland.
- **Santa Venetia Levee Project, Marin County: (new project)** the Santa Venetia levee were last repaired in 1983. Since then, they have gradually settled and have deteriorated to such a point that rehabilitation and restoration is imminently needed. In the absence of raising the elevation of the levee and restoring its integrity, tidal flooding could jeopardize hundreds of private residences. This authorization will allow the Army Corps to use the \$1.1 million appropriated since FY02 for this project.
- **Prince Memorial Greenway Project, Santa Rosa: (new project)** the City of Santa Rosa has restored a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of Santa Rosa Creek along the City's Prince Memorial Greenway. The authorization would allow the City to complete the original project envisioned by the community in the late 1980s. In the 1960s, the Santa Rosa Creek was channelized, destroying the fish and wildlife habitat. This project will restore fish and wildlife habitat and maintain the flood carrying capacity of the channel.

In June, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, on which Rep. Tauscher serves, marked up the bill and included the above projects for the East Bay.
