



Hon. Doris O. Matsui

Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

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Sacramento Gets Boost in Flood Control Efforts

Receives record funding; Language supports agency collaboration on Folsom Dam projects

Washington, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) gave the following floor statement as the House of Representatives began consideration of the Conference Report for the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2006. Included in the legislation is nearly \$40 million for Sacramento's flood control efforts as well as language directing the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to continue their collaboration to maximize flood control and dam safety efforts at Folsom Dam and Reservoir.

"We are making a considerable investment in minimizing the possibility of a catastrophic flood with record funding of \$40 million for Sacramento's flood control projects. This is in addition to the language included directing the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to continue their promising work on improvements at Folsom Dam," stated Congresswoman Matsui. "I very much appreciate the support of my colleagues, including Congressmen Hobson (OH-7), Visclosky (IN-1) and Doolittle (CA-4), as well as both of California's Senators, to make this significant investment in Sacramento's flood control. However, this is only the beginning and we must continue our commitment to flood control funding to ensure Sacramento is no longer the 'most at-risk river city in the nation.

Included in the legislation, expected to pass the House today, is a record \$39.005 million for Sacramento's critical flood control projects. This reflects an almost 65% increase over last year's funding.

PROJECT	FY05 Funding	FY06 Funding
South Sacramento County Streams	2.25	3.75
Common Features	5.0	4.405
Folsom Dam Modifications	6.675	9.55
Folsom Dam Raise:	8.0	15.00
Sacramento River Bank Protection	1.75	6.3
TOTAL	\$23.70	\$39.005

Following is Congresswoman Matsui's floor statement on this legislation:

"I look forward to today's consideration H.R. 2419, which reflects much thought and long-term planning on behalf of the Appropriations Committee. This year's Energy and Water bill means a great deal to my constituents and to my home in Sacramento.

(Continued...)

“This year we pointedly witnessed just how important the project funding included in the Energy and Water appropriations legislation is. And we must now embrace the lessons this year’s unprecedented hurricane season taught us: The essential need to invest in our nation’s flood control infrastructure. Dollars that are necessary to examine, maintain and strengthen our levee and dam systems.

“Federal officials must look expeditiously at the significant role infrastructure plays to reduce catastrophic loss in a flood event. I commend the committee for calling on the Corps of Engineers to identify and create a list of the nation’s ten most critical water resource needs in the country.

“While hurricane season has ended, flooding season in Sacramento – and all of California – will begin shortly. And as I have consistently spoken about the unacceptable risk of flooding my constituents face, I am certain you understand the concern I have about this upcoming season. Despite years of dedicated efforts, Sacramento still remains one of the most flood prone and threatened cities in the country, paling in comparison to the level of protection enjoyed by other river cities. According to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento’s flood risk is among the highest of major urban areas in the country.

“This bill makes a significant investment in Sacramento’s flood reduction efforts. It keeps the region on-track to achieve our short-term goal through levee work of reaching 100-year protection. Moreover, this legislation ensures our other projects move forward, through which Sacramento will more than double the current level of flood protection. This increased protection is essential – with thousands of lives and the capitol of our nation’s largest state at risk, the need for this critically important investment is clear. We cannot afford to delay this work.

“This legislation recognizes the immediate need for progress on our flood control by directing the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to continue their collaborative work addressing the improvements to Folsom Dam. On behalf of Sacramento, I appreciate their dedication to this goal. Each of our flood control partners – the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of California – recognize the dire need for improved flood control and have personally invested in finding a solution – I thank them for this. They, as I, who live in Sacramento, understand that lives are at risk and delays only add to our vulnerability.

“And I cannot proceed with out also expressing my gratitude to Congressmen Hobson, Visclosky and Doolittle – your commitment to improving our nation’s water infrastructure is evident in this legislation. And I thank both of California’s Senators for their efforts on Sacramento and California’s water needs. I appreciate Senator Feinstein’s leadership in the Conference Committee. To the Energy and Water Appropriations staff, particularly Peder Maarbjerg (More-beer) and John Blazey, your long-hours and hard work is much appreciated.

“Because their efforts reflect not only the incredible investments that must be made to improve our infrastructure across the nation, but also an acknowledgement that we must wisely spend each dollar. This legislation adds new measures to ensure the Corps manages each dollar efficiently.

“To improve the execution of projects, the Corps is directed to develop a five-year comprehensive budget plan and vision for water infrastructure in the country to comprehensively integrate financial planning and project management. Further, while the Corps will still have the flexibility occasionally to shift project funding as needed, the Corps will no longer be able to consistently use this practice.

“By working together, the Congress, Administration and Corps of Engineers will be better prepared to ensure limited federal resources are spent efficiently, commitments to local sponsors are honored and projects remain on schedule.

“This bill moves our country forward on many levels, from improving local water infrastructure to bigger-picture Corps of Engineer financial management and efficiency issues. In light of the realities our nation faced this year, I hope Congress will continue this commitment to public safety and significantly invest in water infrastructure. I strongly support the underlying conference report and look forward to voting in support of the measure.

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