

## Congresswoman Doris Matsui Lands Major Victory Secures Critical Designation, Mandatory Funding for

Congresswoman Doris Matsui Lands Major Victory Secures Critical Designation, Mandatory Funding for the Sacramento River Watershed

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Washington, D.C. - Today, Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-5) landed an astounding victory for the citizens of the Sacramento region. After months of meeting with interested parties and working with her colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, Matsui was successful in establishing national priority status for the Sacramento River Watershed in this year's much-anticipated Farm Bill.

The Watershed is designated as a national priority region under the Regional Water Enhancement Program, a new program that addresses the land and water conservation needs of official designees. The Sacramento River Watershed, along with four other regions, will receive mandatory funding from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States Department of Agriculture.

"With this important designation, we will truly be able to usher in a time of progress in the Watershed area. In the Sacramento Watershed, the farmers are the stewards of the land, and I am intent on forming a coalition of appropriate stakeholders. We are currently taking the next steps to develop this coalition, and I look forward to building upon this first, crucial step," said Matsui.

NRCS programs serve a number of purposes crucial to conservation efforts, including helping people to reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, and increase wildlife habitat. By enhancing natural resources, these programs help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality. They strive to support continued economic development, recreation and scenic beauty.

"At this moment, we have the unique opportunity to shape the land and water preservation programs from the ground up. This designation, included in such a landmark piece of legislation, is a shining example of the developments that can happen when the federal government partners with local representatives. I look forward to working side-by-side with local representatives to move forward with conservation efforts in the Watershed region," said Matsui.

The 2007 Farm Bill will next travel to the Senate before being signed into law by the President.

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