



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: 1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor  
Department No.: 011  
For Agenda Of: 02/19/08  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Board Member Salud Carbajal, Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District 568-2186  
Contact Info: Jeremy Tittle, Executive Staff Assistant 568-2182  
**SUBJECT: Report on Washington DC Legislative Visits**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive report on Washington DC legislative visits to advocate for Santa Barbara County's Federal Legislative Platform Priorities

**Summary Text:** Supervisor Salud Carbajal, his Executive Staff Assistant, Jeremy Tittle, Public Works Director Scott McGolpin, and Flood Control Director Tom Fayram traveled to Washington, D.C. for meetings scheduled on January 28 – 31, 2008 to advocate in support of the Board's 2008 Federal Legislative Priorities. Thomas Walters & Associates, Inc., the County's Washington, D.C. representative, arranged and participated in the meetings with Supervisor Carbajal, Mr. Tittle, Mr. McGolpin, and Mr. Fayram. Meetings included:

- Organizational meeting with Thomas Walters & Associates, Inc.
- Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
- Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA)
- Ryan Hunt, Professional Staff to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- Carina Armenta, Danielle Leone and Brian McKeon, Professional Staff to Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
- Brian Feintech, Legislative Director to Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-CA)
- Randolph Harrison, Chief of Staff, and Jonathan Levenshus, Legislative Director, to Congresswoman Lois Capps (D-CA)
- Noelle Lee, Professional Staff on Health to Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (D-CA)
- Rob Blair, Professional Staff to Ranking Minority Member David Hobson (R-OH), House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

- Roger Cockrell, Professional Staff to Chairman Byron Dorgan (D-ND), Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
- Taunja Berquam, Professional Staff to Chairman Peter Visclosky (D-IN), House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
- Hank Kashdan, Deputy Chief, Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Forest Service
- James Kolb, Professional Staff to Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), House Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highway and Transit
- Kenneth Zwickel, CFM, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Margo Tsigotis Oge, Director, and Bryan Wood-Thomas, Associate Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Environmental Protection Agency

Meetings with the local Congressional delegation and Senators Boxer and Feinstein focused generally on discussing the Board's broader legislative agenda, and more specifically on exploring opportunities for Federal funding for County projects through the annual appropriations process. The County's funding requests that were discussed with each of the offices included the continued requests for the Santa Maria Levee Repair, the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, mitigations for impacts of the surcharge requirement on Lake Cachuma facilities, and the a new request for the Goleta Beach stabilization project. The meetings provided an opportunity to thank our delegation for their work in securing earmarks for all three of the continued projects in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act which was signed by the President. The delegation offices were supportive of the County's projects and interested in continuing to pursue funding opportunities for them. They did caution that FY 2009 would again be a tight budget year, and that there is pressure from President Bush to limit earmarks, as detailed in his State of the Union address. In the meeting with Mr. Feintech of Congressman Gallegly's staff, two additional projects that were specific to his District – the Lompoc Veterans Building and the Cuyama Community/Recreation Center - were also discussed. Thomas Walters & Associates will be following up with the Congressional offices to ensure that the County's requests are submitted properly, in the appropriate accounts, and receive every consideration by the respective members and the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees.

Supervisor Carbajal, Mr. Tittle, Mr. McGolpin, and Mr. Fayram also discussed the funding requests for Lake Cachuma, the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, and the Santa Maria Levee, and Goleta Beach with the appropriate House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff as well as Army Corps staff. They expressed a familiarity with the continuing projects, and stated that they are the type of requests that have a strong nexus for federal funding and are in a better to position to secure additional funding based on the fact that there has already been federal investment. On Goleta Beach, language was included in the FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act under the Section 103 Continuing Authorities Program. There was discussion in each of the meetings about how to best position the project to receive federal funds over the \$3 million cap on federal contributions to Section 103 projects, the consensus seemed to be to continue to request 103 funding now and potentially move the project to another account at a later point.

Supervisor Carbajal also appraised the local delegation offices of two public health issues which have been adopted as legislative priorities for the County. These include continued advocacy regarding the impact of the Medicare Reimbursement Cap for Federally-Qualified Health Centers on the County, and a request of support for legislative action to rectify the problem. Supervisor Carbajal also discussed the multifaceted issue of children's health care. The County's support of SCHIP reauthorization was emphasized as well as County's position in support of continued funding for Medicaid Administrative

Activities (MAA) which is currently in jeopardy of being eliminated. In addition to our delegation, the County's platform on these health related issues was discussed with Congresswoman Solis' office; Congresswoman Solis serves on the Commerce Committee that is changed with enacting most health care related legislation. During these discussions, all the offices were interested in learning more about the Children's Health Initiative that has been implemented locally in Santa Barbara County. There was also consensus that some version of SCHIP reauthorization would be brought forward again later this year, however there remains uncertainty about what form of a reauthorization the President would be willing to sign.

On the issue of Transportation, Supervisor Carbajal and County representatives met with James Kolb, a senior Transportation Committee staff member. The conversation focused on opportunities for the County to secure federal funding for a range of transportation infrastructure and road maintenance projects. Mr. Kolb stated that there would likely be TEA reauthorization bill considered by Congress by the end of 2009. Despite uncertainty over what role earmarks will have in the bill, he encouraged the County to identify and submit to our Congressional delegation projects that would be strong candidates for federal investment. The possibility of transportation projects being included in an economic stimulus bill in the near term was also discussed with Mr. Kolb and our local Congressional delegation. Views on the likelihood of such a bill differed, but it was evident that it remained a possibility. A list of local transportation projects that are currently ready to move forward was shared in each of these meetings in order to best position the County to receive any funding which might be made available. However in Mr. Kolb's opinion, a transportation economic stimulus bill would likely set criteria for project to be funded and then leave it to the states to award the funding to individual projects.

Supervisor Carbajal and Mr. Tittle met with Forest Service Deputy Chief Hank Kashdan to discuss a potential partnership with the Forest Service to construct a permanent Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Mr. Kashdan was very receptive to the idea and provided some feedback regarding potential next steps that could be taken by County staff and our federal representatives in continuing to explore the possibility. Michael Harris, County Emergency Operations Chief is currently working on the continued exploration of this concept with the Forest Service.

Finally, Supervisor Carbajal, Mr. Tittle, and representatives from Walters and Associates met with Margo Tsirigotis Oge and Brian Wood-Thomas of the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) concerns about marine vessel tanker emissions. The EPA officials stated an understanding of APCD's concerns and outlined the efforts that are currently underway at the federal level to address the issue. The need for further guidance from Congress on the issue was also discussed, and in turn Supervisor Carbajal discussed the issue in meetings with Senator Boxer, Congresswoman Capps, and staff of Congresswoman Solis.

**Attachments:** Copy of County Federal Legislative Priorities

**Authored by:** Jeremy Tittle 568-2182