



Senate Committee Approves \$65 Billion for Transportation, Housing, Community Development, and Government Spending

*-Restores \$3.8 billion for CDBG cut by Bush Administration -
July 21, 2005*

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) announced that California will receive millions of dollars of vital funding for transportation, housing, and community development programs that was included in the \$65 billion FY2006 Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies spending bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee today.

“Transportation drives California’s economy and the funding included in this bill will help keep many important projects moving forward,” Senator Feinstein said.

The bill includes \$3.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program and keeps it at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The President’s budget request would have eliminated this particular program and moved all community development programs to the Commerce Department.

“I am also pleased that this bill includes \$3.8 billion for Community Development Block Grants, though it is still far below the \$4.1 billion allocated for the program last year,” Senator Feinstein said. **“As a former mayor who used these grants, I know firsthand how important they are to the communities who use them. I hope that additional funding will be restored so that our neediest communities are not devastated by these major cuts.”**

Transportation

The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess a safety action plan by the Federal Railroad Administration due to the Glendale commuter train crash that killed 11 people and other recent rail accidents.

The legislation also includes funding to improve air traffic control facilities with \$1,157,025 to modernize terminal facilities and seismic upgrades in Carlsbad, CA and \$402,602 for replacing HVAC and seismic compliance at Ontario International Airport.

In addition to \$675.4 million for transportation formula grants for California, this bill also includes the following projects of note to California:

- Los Angeles Eastside Light Rail Extension - \$80 million
- Muni Third Street Light Rail Project - \$10 million
- BART to SFO Extension - \$81.86 million

- BART to San Jose - \$5 million
- Oceanside-Escondido Rail Project - \$12.21 million
- Mission Valley East Light Rail Transit - \$7.7 million
- Los Angeles County MTA Bus Program - \$3 million
- Sacramento Regional Transit District - \$3 million
- Fresno FAX Bus low emission bus acquisition - \$1 million
- San Joaquin Regional Transit hybrid bus acquisition - \$1 million
- Metro Transit Operators Coalition bus acquisition - \$1 million
- Mid-Coast Light Rail Transit Extension - \$7.16 million

The Judiciary

Among the provisions included in this bill for the judiciary are:

- \$230.803 million for the construction of a U.S. Courthouse in San Diego
- \$4.3 billion for the Court of Appeals, District Courts and other Judicial Services
- \$710.7 million for Defender Services

Housing and Urban Development

Language included in the bill extends Moving to Work programs in the Tulare and San Mateo County Housing Authorities so that families participating in the program will be able to complete their goal of housing independence.

Following are other projects of note to California included in this bill:

- Oakland Fox Theater Restoration - \$600,000
- Redding Stillwater Business Park - \$200,000
- West Angeles Plaza - \$200,000
- Santa Clara County First Time Home Buyer Loan Program - \$200,000
- M.H. de Young Memorial Museum - \$200,000
- Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Capital Project - \$200,000
- 10th and Mission Affordable Family Housing & Commercial Space Project (San Francisco) - \$250,000
- Inglewood Senior Center - \$200,000
- San Francisco Old Mint Restoration Project - \$200,000

The legislation also provides \$227 million for High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) in the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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