



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0548

January 24, 2007

The Honorable Robert Portman
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503-0009

Dear Director Portman,

As you finalize the Administration's budget for Fiscal Year 2008, we would like to recommend for your consideration several projects in Orange County, California which need to be implemented as quickly as possible.

1. **Irvine Basin Groundwater and Surface Water Improvement Project** - \$5.0 million (Bureau of Reclamation/Water and Related Resources). To protect the water quality of the San Diego Creek watershed and Upper Newport Bay, funds are needed to develop and maintain a system of man-made wetlands throughout the area that will serve to remove unwanted sediment, nutrients and other contaminants, thus helping to ensure federal clean water standards for the bay are achieved. This watershed-wide system of local wetlands, called the Natural Treatment System, will use engineered basins to capture sediment and trash from "first flush" rains and uses natural ecosystems to remove nutrients from dry weather runoff. Extensive modeling has shown that the Natural Treatment System can be expected to remove 126,000 pounds of nitrogen and 21,000 pounds phosphorus annually and reduce fecal coli-form levels by 26 percent.
2. **Aliso Creek Mainstem Project** - \$18 million (Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles/CG). Through Corps of Engineers studies, Aliso Creek Mainstem Project seeks funds for implementation of results from the Watershed Study. The proposed project will include a series of twenty-four 2-foot high grade control structures to stabilize the channel gradient (pools and riffles). As part of the stabilization effort, exotic vegetation will be removed, and native riparian vegetation will be planted. The low profile pool and riffle structures will allow for fish passage. At various portions of the creek, banks will be modified to create stable flood plain areas.

It is also important to mention that the Aliso Creek Mainstem Project has been designated by the Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") as a proving ground for a new agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that allows the Corps to be directly involved in water quality projects. This project is the first attempt to utilize the synergies between the Corps and the EPA to find an elegant solution that meets the objectives of both agencies.

3. **Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration, CA** - \$18 million (Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles/CG) This project was authorized by WRDA in 2000 and is a collaborative effort of local communities, landowners, the state, and the Corps of Engineers to comprehensively address upstream watershed erosion, downstream silt collection and removal, and ecosystem restoration in the Upper Newport Bay. The State of California has allocated \$13 million for the project as part of

the local cost share. The primary objectives of the project are to manage sedimentation within the Bay by increasing the capacity of sediment basins, restoring and enhancing estuarine habitats, and improving educational and recreational opportunities. Construction is underway and must continue uninterrupted to maintain projected costs. This funding request for FY08 will not only continue, but COMPLETE construction.

I understand the fiscal pressures and realities that you and your staff face as you prepare for the President's budget, and I applaud your efforts to request of Congress funding only for cost-effective, meritorious programs. The projects recommended above meet those criteria and we hope that you will be able to support their inclusion in the FY 2008 budget at the levels suggested.

I remain respectfully,



John Campbell
Member of Congress