



March 13, 2014

## **Federal Advocacy Report**

### *SACOG DC Visit*

March 2-5, a SACOG delegation of Chair Steve Cohn, CEO Mike McKeever, Erik Johnson and Stacey McKinley traveled to Washington, DC to meet with Congressional and Administration officials to discuss SACOG's priorities and gather information on what is happening at the federal level.

The Federal Government closed on March 3 due to snow, but the delegation still had a productive meeting with Harriet Tregoning, who succeeds Shelley Poticia at HUD in what has been renamed from the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities to Office of Economic Resiliency.

Ms. Tregoning, who has extensive experience in community development at all levels of government, was most recently was the Planning Director for the District of Columbia, where she oversaw a revitalization of Washington, including introduction of projects familiar to Sacramento: an arena, streetcar and bike share.

On March 3 and 4, the delegation met with Members of Congress and their staff that represent the SACOG region, as well as key committee staff, and federal officials:

- Congressman Ami Bera
- Congressman John Garamendi
- Congresswoman Doris Matsui
- Office of Congressman Jerry McNerney
- Office of Congressman Doug LaMalfa
- Senate Appropriations Committee
- Senate Finance Committee
- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
- Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Office of Smart Growth, Environmental Protection Agency

### *Flood Protection*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released their Work Plan for federal fiscal year 14 (FY14). Congresswoman Matsui has been engaged with the Corps over many months to ensure their FY14 work plan meets the needs of Sacramento and Natomas. Funding for Natomas levee improvement engineering and design will allow the Corps to be able to move on Natomas' levee work much more promptly once Congress passes the WRDA bill.

- Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project – \$66,400,000  
To continue construction on the auxiliary spillway, which will provide greater efficiency in managing flood storage in Folsom Reservoir and 200-year level of protection to much of Sacramento

- Folsom Dam Raise - \$3,150,000  
To continue design to raise the Folsom Dam to improve the region's flood protection
- American River Watershed Common Features - \$25,538,000  
To complete work on the remaining WRDA 96 and WRDA 99 levee improvement sites along the American River
- American River Watershed Natomas - \$1,000,000  
To further project engineering and design work for Natomas' levees
- South Sacramento Streams Group - \$10,800,000  
For improvements to Florin Creek

### *Water Storage Bills*

In March, several Members of Congress from California (Garamendi, Bera, Vargas, and Cardenas) introduced three bills that would add storage capacity statewide.

H.R. 4125 would expand Shasta Dam, on the Sacramento River, to add 634,000 acre-feet of storage to its existing 4.5-million-acre-foot capacity. It would cost \$1.1 billion. H.R. 4126 would expand San Luis Reservoir, a joint federal-state project that stores water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for irrigating farmland in the Central Valley. For \$360 million, the project would expand the reservoir's existing 1.25-million-acre-foot capacity by 130,000 acre-feet. H.R. 4127 would build new storage on the upper San Joaquin River, a proposed project known as Temperance Flat, for \$2.5 billion. The reservoir would be able to hold 1.3 million acre-feet of water.

Additionally, Congressman Garamendi and Congressman LaMalfa intend to introduce a bill to authorize the Sites Reservoir project in the Sacramento Valley (between Glenn and Colusa counties). The reservoir would be an off-stream reservoir used to add more water to the system by storing excess flood flows and creating efficiencies in the operation of the Sacramento River system.

Congressman Valadao sponsored a bill which passed the House last month that would relax environmental regulations and repeal and replace a settlement along the San Joaquin River, although the Administration has stated it would veto that bill. Senator Feinstein and Congressman Costa have sponsored legislation that would appropriate additional disaster funding to assist Central Valley farmers as well as tweak federal water policies to allow for more flexible water deliveries in the state.