



## Senate Committee Approves Interior Appropriations Bill June 10, 2005

**Washington, DC** – The Senate Appropriations Committee today approved the FY '06 Interior Appropriations Bill that includes \$4 million for California fire safe councils, \$1.44 million for conservation and monitoring of San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds, and \$375,000 for perchlorate treatment.

**“This bill reflects today’s tough budgetary times,”** Senator Feinstein said. **“As our nation goes deeper and deeper into debt, it will be increasingly difficult to fund all of our nation’s priorities. This is primarily a result of two things—the President’s tax cuts, which will cost \$2.3 trillion over the next 10 years, and the war in Iraq, which up to this point, has cost \$210 billion.”**

**“But nevertheless, let me highlight California priorities, which I am pleased received funding in the bill – fire safe councils, conservation of San Francisco Bay Area Salt Ponds, and remediation of perchlorate contamination.**

**“Fire safe councils are a critical part of the effort to prevent catastrophic fires in California. Their job is to identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuels reduction and recommend measures to reduce the fire hazard to homes, businesses, and other buildings throughout the community. They give communities a voice in the decision making process and help ensure that they get needed funding. So I want to encourage all at-risk communities at risk to set up these councils and help protect their residents and businesses from fire.**

**“The funding for salt pond conservation and monitoring is the next step in the public-private partnership to restore 16,500 acres of salt ponds in the San Francisco Bay, the largest wetlands restoration in our State’s history. This partnership will benefit generations of Californians to come and may serve as a model for future environmental restoration projects.**

**“While I think the funding to clean up perchlorate in California is a step in the right direction, this money is just a drop in the bucket. Perchlorate has contaminated over 350 water sources in California and the drinking water sources of at least 34 states. In the next few years, the Federal Government will have to spend much more to ensure that drinking water is safe in California and other states facing perchlorate contamination.”**

**California priorities funded in the bill include:**

- \$4 million for California Fire Safe Councils
- \$900,000 for San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Monitoring
- \$540,000 for Conservation work at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge
- \$4,350,000 for San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park (Sala Burton Maritime Building Renovations)
- \$1 million for Baxter Ranch Conservation Easement, Sonoma County
- \$19,722,000 for the Presidio Trust
- \$375,000 for Central California Air Quality Studies
- \$26.4 million for the Quincy Library Group project

**State and Tribal Assistance Grants**

- \$375,000 for Perchlorate Treatment in the City of Pasadena
- \$375,000 for City of Santa Paula Water Recycling Facility Project
- \$375,000 for City of Eureka, Martin Slough Interceptor Project
- \$375,000 for Crescent City Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion

**Land Acquisition**

- \$1 million for Smith River National Recreation Area, Goose Creek
- \$525,000 for Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- \$500,000 for Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
- \$500,000 for Tahoe National Forest, Middle Yuba/Barker Pass
- \$3 million for Pinnacles Ranch acquisition for Pinnacles National Monument
- \$1 million for Six Rivers to the Sea, Phase 2 Acquisitions
- \$1.7 million for San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge Land
- \$500,000 for Pacific Crest Trail Land Acquisition

**National Parks -- Maintenance**

- \$4,794,000 for Pinnacles National Monument Visitors Center Relocation
- 2,169,000 for Redwood National Park Roads Removal
- \$696,000 for Lake Tahoe Basin Management (Fallen Leaf Water System Improvements)
- \$598,000 for Los Padres National Forest, Temescal Station Renovation
- \$629,000 for Stanislaus National Forest, Pinecrest Engine Bay & Offices Project
- \$2,176,000 for Yosemite, El Portal Wastewater Plant
- \$482,000 for Six Rivers National Forest, Orleans Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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