

County of Orange Board of Supervisors



Washington Legislative
Update
July 31, 2012

I. The “Fiscal Cliff”



A. What is the Fiscal Cliff?

1. Expiration of the 2001 & 2003 tax cuts
2. Implementation of \$1.2 Trillion, 10-year sequestration of domestic & defense discretionary programs
3. U.S. reaches ceiling on the National Debt

B. Will hit around the end of 2012

C. Resolution dependent on November election results



II. Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations



- A. House has passed 6 of 12 bills; Senate none
- B. House spending ceiling of \$1.028 Trillion vs. Senate ceiling of \$1.047 Trillion = \$19 billion disagreement on total FY 13 funding levels
- C. Resolution of impasse also dependent on November election results

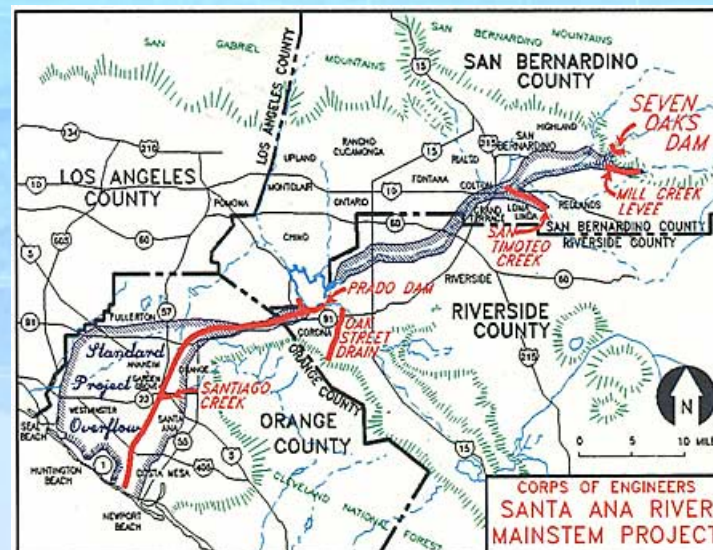


III. Washington Meetings on Orange County Priorities and FY 2013 Appropriations



A. Office of Management & Budget (OMB)

1. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works signed off on \$7.2 Million request for Santa Ana River Mainstem Project for FY 13
2. OMB will review Corps funding capability as part of FY 13 workplan after Congress finalizes 2013 appropriations bills



III. Washington Meetings on Orange County Priorities and FY 2013 Appropriations



B. Westminster-East Garden Grove & San Juan Creek projects

1. New Corps 3-3-3 program to finalize or eliminate backlog of feasibility studies
2. Los Angeles District will work with Orange County to try to move along two backlogged projects



III. Washington Meetings on Orange County Priorities and FY 2013 Appropriations



C. Senate Appropriations Committee

- Staff concerned about the low level of funding for construction in House FY 13 energy & water appropriations bill

D. House Budget Committee to tackle block grant funding for Medi-Cal and other programs next year as part of FY 2014 budget

- Congressman Calvert aware of need to protect local jurisdictions in any block grant proposals



IV. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)



A. Supreme Court decision hands future of Affordable Care Act back to Congress

1. House vote on July 11 was thirty-third time it has voted to repeal ACA since Republicans regained control last year
2. Senate Republicans vow to use budget reconciliation to repeal ACA if they take control of Chamber in 2013 (51 votes required under reconciliation rather than 60)
3. Republican President, as well as Congress, required for outright repeal



IV. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)



- B. As of mid-July, 12 States—including California—have committed to setting up insurance exchanges under ACA
- C. Expansion of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) now voluntary as result of Supreme Court decision; ten states have accepted, five have rejected expansion



V. Pension Reform



- Representative Loretta Sanchez to host August 9 forum on pension reform and H.R. 2934



Questions/Comments



James F. McConnell
Washington, D.C.