



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



August 3, 2007

Budget, Budget, Who's got a Budget?

Well, the summer is nearly three quarters over and the state of California has yet to adopt its FY 2007/2008 budget. As of today legislators are still haggling over spending limits and priorities and at this point, it is uncertain whether or not they will have a budget by September 1. As for the federal government, their fiscal year does not begin until October 1. But as you've seen in recent news articles (and I am including one in this report), there is already a great deal of debate over spending limits for domestic programs. Competition for resources between a variety of important programs is becoming fierce. And with all of the bad press that "earmarks" have received over the last two years, members of Congress are having an increasingly difficult time bringing funding resources back to their respective districts.

Still, Monrovia's projects and programs – in particular the Station Square transit oriented development – fared well in the House version of the most recent spending bill. According to the attached article, Monrovia is slated to receive \$500,000 for this project. Congressman Dreier has been a great advocate for not just the Gold Line but Monrovia's programs in particular; and although this bill still needs to move through the Senate and on to the President, we remain cautiously optimistic that Monrovia will continue to enjoy funding support from the federal government.

Gold Line Re-Focuses

Speaking of the Gold Line, it would seem that the regional newspapers are exerting significant effort to ensure that folks do not continue with the misinformed belief that the Gold Line project was in serious jeopardy based on a news report from early last week. Between the efforts of the Gold Line Construction Authority Board and staff, as well as the communiqués from our congressional delegation, the newspapers now seem to have the right idea that the funding that was recently cut for the Gold Line project was related only to a field study and not actual construction.

It is critically important that we do not allow rumor or misinformation to hinder the Gold Line's ability to maintain support and a positive profile among the federal, state and/or regional transportation agencies. This project is critically important to every community along the Foothill Corridor and we cannot risk allowing poor reporting to jeopardize its viability.

August 7th City Council Meeting Preview

The August 7 City Council meeting should be a relatively short session. Mayor Hammond is excused from this meeting and Mayor Pro Tem Dan Kirby will preside over the agenda.

We will start the meeting with a closed session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a workers' compensation claim, as well as an update for the City Council on labor negotiations with all of our employment groups. The formal Council meeting will, as usual, begin at 7:30 p.m.

Under presentations and proclamations, we will introduce Mr. Keith Lopez as a newly hired building inspector for the Community Development Department. The Building Division is currently experiencing a significant amount of change, what with the recent retirement of longtime employee Petra Avila. However, Building Division Manager Chon Cervantes is very much in control of the day-to-day operations, and the Division has yet to skip a beat despite the high level of transition.

Under public hearings we have two items. PH-1 is the adoption of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Program or CMP. PH-2 is the opening and continuance of a public hearing to the September 4 agenda that regards an amendment to the zoning ordinance covering Old Town Monrovia.

As for PH-1, the purpose of the CMP is to attempt to connect transportation, land-use and air quality decisions as they all relate to regional traffic congestion. Over the years, Metro has introduced different comprehensive strategies and solutions, yet none of these have been extremely effective at getting at the root causes of congestion, especially here in the San Gabriel Valley. At this point, Metro is rolling out a new strategy that focuses on the implementation of a "congestion mitigation fee". However, this program is still under study and thus, this year's CMP is really in a static condition.

With respect to the congestion mitigation fee, many cities in the San Gabriel Valley – who have historically been underserved by Metro – are leery of additional revenues being generated by local taxpayers and developers, only to have such resources siphoned off to projects in other parts of the county. We will be monitoring the situation very closely but as of today, not much is changed from last year.

Under Reports of Council members, Councilman Adams will be presenting a plaque to Chief Donovan in recognition of the Monrovia Fire Department's participation in the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Region 1, Area C Unified Response Agreement. What this means is that Monrovia, along with several other municipal fire departments, has essentially "dropped the borders" with respect to emergency medical and fire suppression responses. This is truly unique from traditional "mutual aid" arrangements among cities. Under that scenario, if an incident broke out in a given city, we would have to call upon neighboring cities to assist with the incident. Under the unified response structure, dispatchers in the Verdugo Dispatch Center (which is located in Glendale) will dispatch the nearest unit to that incident, regardless of that unit's jurisdiction. For example, if Monrovia's Truck-101 is closer to a structure fire incident in the south end of Arcadia, then that unit will be dispatched to the scene first. Similarly, if an Arcadia paramedic unit is closest to an emergency medical situation in west Monrovia, it will be dispatched to the scene first. What all of this means is shorter response times, better service, and more security against the loss of life and property.

We have several Administrative Reports on the agenda, the first of which is AR-1, the amendment of the boundaries for the Underground Utility District No. 2004-01

Under a California Public Utilities Commission 1968 decision (Tariff Rule 20A) the Southern California Edison Co. must allocate a set amount of funds for local governments located within their service area to be used for the conversion of overhead lines to underground lines. For calendar year 2007, the City of Monrovia has accrued an estimated \$194,000 in its account. Again, these dollars can only be spent in an established Underground Utility District.

Back in 2004, the City Council formed a new district, No. 2004 – 01, with the boundaries of Royal Oaks Drive, from Mountain to Shamrock; and Mountain Avenue, from Royal Oaks to Huntington Drive. At this point, with undergrounding work set to commence for Royal Oaks and Mountain Avenue, staff is requesting that the City Council amend this District's boundaries by 700 feet, moving north on Mountain Avenue from Royal Oaks Drive, to cover the frontage of the Monrovia Corporation Yard. What this will do is allow us to remove all of the overhead wires which currently exist along the

east side of Mountain Avenue in front of the Yard facility. This, along with the underground work along Royal Oaks and Mountain, will make for an effective use of these undergrounding dollars. Staff is recommending approval of the amendment to District No. 2004-01's boundaries.

Item AR-2 is the purchase of three new workstations and the relocation of existing Public Works Department workstations to the newly renovated Corporation Yard, all by Tangram Interiors in the amount of \$56,314. Essentially, when the Public Works Department moves into the Corporation Yard facility in late September, Tangram is needed to disassemble all of the existing furniture, fixtures and equipment currently housed in the Public Works offices in the basement of City Hall, and relocate them to the new facility. At the same time, we will be looking to add three new workstations in that facility for existing staff who currently must share desks.

The cost of the new workstations is governed by overall government contract let to Steelcase Inc. from the US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance. By signing on to a larger purchase (as we do with vehicles, for example) we are able to ensure that we are getting the best price, maximizing the economy of scale for these acquisitions. Staff is recommending the purchase of the new workstations and the relocation of the existing workstations to the Corporate Yard facility.

Item AR-3 is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to amend personnel rules and regulations to provide for compensation supplemental benefits, effective FY 2007/08 for general employees, management employees, mid-management employees, and elected and appointed employees.

It has long been the practice of the City of Monrovia to compensate employees at market rates in order to ensure that we are attracting and retaining top quality individuals for the organization. That said, during the course of this fiscal year, one of my management initiatives is to restructure compensation for the overall organization to ensure that it is both reflective of the market yet also anchored to an individual's achievement and effectiveness. However, in order to construct this new paradigm for employee compensation, it will take the better part of this current fiscal year. Thus, what we are recommending to the City Council is to continue to employ the same methodologies and framework that we've used for many years for this current fiscal year, while we study, analyze and negotiate with our employees for a new and better way to move into the future.

The proposed adjustments provide for average salary increases of 4.93% for general and hourly employees, 6.23% for managers, mid-managers, and elected and appointed employees. In addition, administrative leave provided for exempt employees in the general employee unit is recommended to be increased from 32 to 40 hours per year. Similarly, managers and mid-managers are recommended to have the ability to participate in voluntary employee benefit account (VEBA) programs for purpose of setting aside compensation for retiree medical costs. The total cost to the General Fund to provide these recommended salary increases is \$267,093. Staff recommends approval.

As always, if you have questions about any item that is on the agenda, please feel free to contact me directly.

Articles Attached

- **Federal Dollars Coming to Area.**
- **House Snub Won't Derail Gold Line.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

August 1 Development Review Committee Meeting Recap

- Condenser units were allowed in the side yard setback of a single family home at 116 North Heliotrope after the applicant and neighbor agreed on construction of a block wall with landscaping to mitigate any noise concerns.
- An addition to a duplex was approved for 1240 South California
- An addition to a single family residence was approved for 704 Montana Street
- An advisory review was provided for a four-unit planned unit development proposed for 309 South Violet Avenue.
- The Development Review Committee, after 1 ½ hours, with persons on both sides of the issue, conditioned a large family day care home at 725 Ridgeside. Large family day care homes allow for the care of up to 14 children in a single family home. The State allows them by right and the City may only enforce certain requirements which are specified in the Municipal Code.

Those specific requirements included:

- (1) Any large family day care home cannot be within a radius of 1,000 feet of another such home which it is not;
- (2) The applicant has agreed to be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- (3) A six-foot decorative block wall with a hedge is required on the south side directly next to the play area to reduce noise impacts;
- (4) All residents and employees shall park on site and drop off of children shall be in the driveway.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

RECREATION DIVISION

Termite Tenting at Canyon Park. Canyon Park Cabin and the Nature Center will be closed to the public August 13 through 15 to accommodate tenting for termites. The park trails and picnic areas will remain open for the leisure enjoyment of visitors. Staff will be at the park during regular hours of operation, everyday except Tuesday, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

2007 Concerts in the Park: Venson & Company brings Motown to Monrovia. On Sunday, July 29, approximately 1,100 participants attended the seventh concert of the summer and enjoyed the Motown Sounds of Venson & Company. Facility Operations Plus and Richards Watson Gershon sponsored the concert. Wing Stop and Scratch Bakery were also available to satisfy the refreshment needs of the concert participants. Get ready for some great entertainment at next week's concert on August 5 which features the Disco sounds of Basix Boogie. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in Library Park. For more information please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

LIBRARY DIVISION

YES! Interns. The Library Division's Yes! Intern Morgan Quinn's last day at the Library was Thursday, August 2. He will move on to another department for the third rotation that begins on Monday. Corina

Moncada will remain for the third rotation and Esmeralda Barajas joins the Library in addition to working on the Monrovia Reads and Plays van.

It's Here! The *Summer Reading Club Awards Picnic* is scheduled for this Thursday, August 9 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Library Park Bandshell. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner or purchase meals from the In N' Out truck from 5 to 6:30 p.m. At 6:15 p.m., the raffle drawing and recognition of the Reading Club volunteers begins. Then, enjoy the amazing talents of *Wayne the Magician* at 6:30 p.m., with more raffle drawings after his performance.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 60 emergency calls from 0800 hours July 26 to mid-day on August 1.

TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Monthly Performance Standards Training is being conducted over the next three shifts. These initial attack fire ground evolutions are the fundamental building blocks for every fire related incident. The main purpose of these standards is to maintain consistency in the initial stages of a working incident, allowing for safe and effective expansion or growth of the incident in later stages.

The training division has received several requests for individuals to attend an Ethical Leadership training class being offered at Rio Hondo College. The class will cover the importance of ethical leadership, leading by example, and offer practical advice to real life scenarios when faced with ethical dilemmas.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The prevention bureau is working on the code adoption process. This year the State of California will be adopting the 2006 International Fire Code. This is the first code adoption for the State in more than seven years. The Bureau is working with Community Development to amend the Municipal Code to reflect the changes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Temporary Reorganization. This week the Fire Department will be starting a temporary re-organization, assigning Fire Marshal Scott Haberle to the A-Shift Operations and continuing the search for a civilian, non-safety contract employee to fill the Fire Marshal vacancy. In the meantime, the Department will begin a comprehensive Officer Development program to sustain succession planning efforts as we prepare for the next Battalion Chief's promotional examination in the next six to nine months. The hope is to have a successful Officer Development program, hold a Battalion Chief promotional examination, promote a new Battalion Chief and bring a Chief Officer back to the Fire Prevention Division to perform the Fire Marshal duties.

This is a temporary re-organization which will not interrupt service delivery or professionalism that has been afforded by the Fire Prevention Division, but we will certainly miss the hard work and efforts put forth by Battalion Chief Haberle. Thanks and appreciation is extended to Chief Haberle for the remarkable job he has done in transforming the Fire Prevention Division and we anxiously await the return.

Fire Station 101 Update. We are rounding third and heading home as the fire station renovation is nearing completion. The contractor has advised the City that they will be done by month's end

(August 31, anticipated completion date) and we can then take possession of the building. The goal is to have the new office work stations installed the first week of September followed by the tenting and fumigation of the building. The second and third week of September will be geared toward moving furniture and equipment back to the station with the crews responding out of the newly renovated Fire Station by September 24. The trailers and butler building will be removed from the lot at Olive and Ivy and the lot will be returned to its original condition. This is certainly an exciting time and we all look forward to returning to the newly renovated Fire Station, with much appreciation extending to all who have worked so hard to see this project completed!

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 605 calls for service resulting in 139 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On July 26, 10:24 p.m., an officer was flagged-down at California and Los Angeles. Witnesses stated a shooting had just occurred. Initial information was that two vehicles were involved – a white Honda with two male occupants, and a grey Tacoma truck with one male driver. A few minutes later, officers saw the truck driving in the area of Los Angeles and Sherman. A high-risk stop was conducted. It was learned the driver of the truck was the victim. He said as he was driving westbound on Los Angeles, the white Honda was approaching him eastbound on Los Angeles, from California. One of the occupants of the Honda fired rounds from a handgun, which missed him. One bullet hole was found in the house behind where the victim was driving. Investigation continuing.

Outside Assist / Arrest Warrant. On July 27, 4:40 a.m., Pasadena Police Department served a search warrant for a murder suspect in the 200 block of East Central. They requested use of our armored vehicle and assistance with perimeter traffic control. They surrounded the residence, and called the suspect out. He was arrested without incident.

Disturbance. On July 27, 9:45 p.m., officers observed a heavy influx of juveniles in the 300 block South Myrtle causing a disturbance. Officers discovered that three bus loads of juveniles from the City of El Monte were brought to the Krikorian Theater and dropped off to see a movie.

Loud Party. On July 27, 11:14 p.m., officers responded to a loud party in the 1200 block South Sherman. There were 150 to 200 party members. All party goers dispersed immediately without incident.

Mental Evaluation. On July 28, 4:42 a.m., officers responded to 1700 block of South California on a mental evaluation investigation. Officers located the subject living in a cargo container on the property. Officers were able to restrain the subject and admit for 72 hour evaluation.

Commercial Robbery. On July 29, 12:32 p.m., officers responded to a 911 call from an employee at a business in the 500 block of South Alta Vista, stating he had just been robbed. Officers responded to search for the suspect. Further investigation revealed a male suspect entered the store with a t-shirt over his face. The suspect approached the cash register and told the teller to back away. There was no weapon seen or displayed while the suspect cleaned out the register. The cashier chased the suspect on foot through the west alley, out of sight.

Animal Endangerment. On July 29, 3:50 p.m., an officer was dispatched to a business in 1600 block of South Mountain regarding an unattended dog in a hot vehicle. The officer attempted to contact the dog's owner by making an announcement over the speaker system. Animal Control also responded to the scene. When the owner came back out to the vehicle, a citation was issued for animal endangerment.

Commercial Burglary. On July 31, 3:20 a.m., an officer responded to a business in the 400 block of East Duarte Road on a burglary alarm. A check of the visible area surrounding the building did not reveal any signs of entry, but there were portions of the building that could not be assessed without climbing a fence. The owner arrived to give the officers a chance to enter the fenced off area. A hole had been broken out of the west side of the building. The loss had not been determined at the time of this report.

Commercial Robbery. On July 31, 8:33 a.m., an officer was dispatched to the 1600 block of South Mountain regarding a subject shoplifting. While the officer was enroute to the call, the store called back to report the subject was fighting with security. When the officer arrived, he was able to detain the subject. The subject still had the merchandise in his pocket. The subject was taken into custody and transported to the station for booking without further incident.

Residential Burglary. On August 1, 4:25 a.m., a resident in the 700 block of Norumbega was sleeping in his vehicle in front of his residence while his house was being tented for fumigation. He saw someone coming from the area around his house. The resident believed he was the victim of a burglary and followed subject in his vehicle until he got a license plate on the vehicle. When he returned to his home he found a pillow case with property from his residence. Officers later responded to a parking problem and located the suspect vehicle. Inside the vehicle officers located evidence of burglary tools and other items, possibly leading to the suspect's identity. Investigation continuing.



ENGINEERING:

The following inspections were performed:

- 526 Fano St., Residential subdivision. Approved final inspection.
- 305 W. Duarte Rd., Residential subdivision. Approved final inspection.
- 862 Ridge side Dr. Retaining crib wall construction.
- 372 Beechworth Ave. Retaining wall construction.
- 202 E. Foothill Blvd. Residential subdivision.
- 713 Montana Ave. Residential subdivision.
- 909 Norumbega Dr. Retaining walls
- 825 W. Duarte Rd. Residential subdivision.

OPERATIONS – Environmental – Facilities – Parks:

Composting at Monrovia Fire Department. Over the last four months, Environmental Services has sold more than 20 compost bins to our residents at discounted price of \$20 each. This week, the Monrovia Fire Department will begin composting its food waste with a Worm Composting bin. The solid compost material and the moisture, or “worm tea” that is produced from the compost is a very nutrient rich fertilizer that will be used in their garden. Thanks to the Fire Department for being our Green Team lead.

California Resource Recover Association Annual Conference. Environmental Services Staff attended the annual California Resource Recover Association conference in San Pedro, CA. The conference workshops covered an array of topics including Zero Waste strategies, Multi-family Recycling, Compost programs, product stewardship, non-renewable product elimination and public education strategies. Staff will integrate the creative and innovative ideas presented at the conference to achieve some of the Action Item goals established in the Monrovia Environmental Accords.

Corporate Yard Project. This past weekend, Southern California Edison in conjunction with H.C. Olsen Construction Co., performed the new electrical power transfer at the Corporate Yard. The power transfer was very successful; all systems were up and running properly and in the time allotted. Time Warner Cable will be performing the data and telephone connection for the project this Friday, August 3.

STREETS:

Driveway Approach Rehabilitation:
161 Grand Avenue

Graffiti Removal from Traffic Signs:
11 traffic signs

Traffic Sign and/or Painting Installation/Replacement:
Repainting of all school crosswalks

Miscellaneous:

Dirt removal continues from the Mountain Ave. Reservoir site.
Removed discarded furniture from the 2200 block of S. Peck Road

UTILITIES:

Customer Service:

- 2,316 water meters were read and recorded
- 101 work orders were completed
- 112 shut-off notices were distributed
- 12 water meters were replaced
- 3 water services were reactivated

Water Production

Water consumption is 67.8 millions gallons, a decrease of approximately 4% compared to last week's water usage.

The following weekly water samplings were collected by staff per the requirements of the Department of Health Services:

- 17 water system samplings
- 3 water treatment facility samplings

Utility Maintenance

- 2 residential water services were replaced with copper pipe
- 1-4" water meter was installed
- 12 underground service alert's utility location requests were completed
- 11,200 feet of sewer main were cleaned

2006 -2007 Sewer Main Replacement Project Update. The sewer line replacement project located at Canyon Blvd. between Greystone Avenue and Foothill Boulevard started Monday July 30. Construction signs were posted around the area to direct traffic. Canyon Boulevard will be closed to through traffic where the construction is in progress; and residents will be given access.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

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| Sun., Aug 5, 6:30 p.m. | Family Concert Series, “Basix Boogie”, sponsored by Champion Broadband; Library Park |
| Tues., Aug. 7, 6-8:00 p.m. | National Night Out, Library Park |
| Tues., Aug. 7, 6:00 p.m. | City Council Study Session |
| Tues., Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m. | Regular Council Meeting |
| Sat., Aug. 11, 11-1 p.m. | MAP Block Party, 450 Monrovia Avenue |
| Sun., Aug 12, 6:30 p.m. | Family Concert Series, “Son Del Sur”, sponsored by Bowden Development, Citizens Business Bank, Century 21, Adams & Barnes; Library Park |
| <i>TUESDAY, AUGUST, 21</i> | <i>CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED</i> |
| <i>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3</i> | <i>LABOR DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED</i> |
| Tues., Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m. | Regular Council Meeting |
| Sun., Sept. 9, 5-9:00 p.m. | Food, Wine & Jazz Festival, Library Park |

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Federal dollars coming to area

House spending bills ensure project funds

By Lisa Friedman Washington Bureau

Whittier Daily News

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Millions of dollars are expected to flow to Southern California projects under several massive spending bills approved by the House last week, even as the new Democratic majority denied a number of GOP pet projects for the region.

And in addition to funding dozens of local projects, local lawmakers also increased the amounts California and other states will be reimbursed for the costs of jailing criminal illegal immigrants.

Passing easily, a \$104.4 billion transportation and housing measure and a \$53.6 billion bill funding the Commerce, State and Justice departments for 2008 now head to the Senate.

"We had a number of significant achievements that are good for California and particularly good for Southern California," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, who was appointed this year to the House Appropriations Committee.

While an attempt by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Huntington Beach/Long Beach, to strengthen state medical marijuana laws failed, House members did agree to put up roadblocks against Mexican trucks coming into the U.S. and worked to free - at least temporarily - two imprisoned border agents.

Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compeon were sentenced in October to 11 and 12 years, respectively, for shooting an unarmed drug smuggler in the buttocks as he fled, then denying the shooting and trying to cover it up.

The amendment, sponsored by Reps. Duncan Hunter, R-San Diego, and Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., bars the use of federal funds to incarcerate the agents. It passed on a voice vote.

The amendment to withhold money from the Bureau of Prisons for holding the agents is apparently the first time the House has attempted to cut off funding to free a convicted felon.

It remains to be seen whether the language will survive the U.S. Senate, but the agents have the strong support of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has called on President Bush to commute their sentence.

Meanwhile, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, D-Santa Clarita, fended off an assault on the National Mule and Packer Museum in Bishop. McKeon had secured \$50,000 for establishment of the museum.

"It seems there is a 20-Mule Team Museum in Boron, California. This is at least the second mule-and-packer museum that we know of," said Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a lawmaker known for taking aim at egregious pet-project spending.

"I would simply say it is time for the American taxpayer to say `Whoa' and stand up for fiscal sanity and actually stop the practice of earmarking like we are doing," Flake said.

But McKeon pointed out that 95 percent of Inyo County - where Bishop is located - is owned by the federal government and that the city relies largely on tourism.

The city of Los Angeles is expected to donate \$2 million worth of land, and the project will receive nearly \$2 million in local funding.

"One thing that I think we forget is that the people in Bishop pay taxes," McKeon said. "I think \$50,000 is a good contribution to give these people, the money that they have sent back here."

Flake's amendment failed 352-69, though seven California Republicans voted to eliminate the museum's funding.

Other programs also fell victim to budget tightening and the new Democratic majority. The San Gabriel Valley Basin Restoration Fund, which Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, helped create in 1999, received no funding.

Congress traditionally has given the project between \$3 million and \$12 million each year dating back to 2002.

The money is used to contain and treat groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Valley, which provides drinking water for about 1.2 million people.

The House did, however, boost funding for a federal program that reimburses states the costs of incarcerating illegal immigrants convicted of local crimes.

Democrats initially gave California and other states \$405 million, the same amount as last year but just a fraction of the money states spend to jail illegal immigrants.

In prior years, money for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program became a rallying point for California Democrats who routinely chided the GOP for not providing enough.

Payback came last week when Republicans lashed out with the same rhetoric.

Dreier sponsored an attempt to fund the program at \$950 million - something Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Lakewood, and other Democrats had tried unsuccessfully under GOP leadership.

"The fact that they did not adequately fund the Department of Justice's immigration enforcement programs or SCAAP demonstrates they do not hold immigration enforcement as a top priority," Dreier said of Democrats.

In the end, the House passed an amendment by Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, expanding the program's spending to \$460 million.

Where the money goes

Here are some of the Southern California projects that received funding last week by Congress:

\$250,000 for the Asian Youth Center of San Gabriel for renovations and to furnish a youth center facility.

\$250,000 for the Los Angeles Court Appointed Special Advocates in Monterey Park.

\$100,000 for Bright Futures Scholar Support Program at the Quality of Life Center in Altadena.

\$100,000 for youth education programs at El Centro de Accion Social in Pasadena.

\$100,000 for Outward Bound Adventures' Gang Intervention program in Pasadena.

\$100,000 for Positive Rewards at-risk youth program directed by Rosemary Children's Services in Pasadena - to employ a full-time employee.

\$500,000 for the Foothill Transit service to build park-and-ride structures.

\$250,000 to build sound walls along the Foothill (210) Freeway in La Canada Flintridge.

\$500,000 for the Monrovia Transit Village, laying the groundwork for the Gold Line extension to San Dimas.

\$250,000 for a grade separation project in Montclair.

\$500,000 for ongoing improvements to the I-15/Base Line Road interchange in Rancho Cucamonga.

\$100,000 for Para Los Ninos, a nonprofit dedicated to providing Los Angeles teens with alternatives to gangs

\$250,000 for the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles, which provides trained community volunteers to advocate in court on behalf of abused and neglected children.

\$100,000 for Phoenix House, a drug treatment and residential center, to extend methamphetamine drug treatment services for Los Angeles teens

\$500,000 for the Santa Clarita Cross Valley Connector.

\$250,000 for safety improvements on Fairfield Ranch Road, Chino Hills.

\$47,000 for police services in Rancho Santa Margarita

\$3 million for Cal State Long Beach's Center for Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technologies, maritime research.

\$75,000 for the Youth Mentoring Connection in Burbank and Pasadena.

\$50,000 for the Glendale Homenetmen for its after-school tutoring program.

\$2 million for an Upland company, New Bedford Panoramex, to install monitoring and safety equipment at airports.

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House snub won't derail Gold Line

Funds for extension will be requested later, officials say

By Fred Ortega Staff Writer

Pasadena Star-News

Article Launched: 07/31/2007 11:50:38 PM PDT

The House of Representative's refusal last week to include funding for the Gold Line Foothill extension in this year's transportation bill is a minor bump in the road to completion of the \$1.37 billion project, officials said Tuesday.

The money lost in the bill amounted to just over \$1 million for a study of transit-oriented developments along the proposed 24-mile route from East Pasadena to Montclair, said Habib Balian, CEO of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority.

Balian added that the authority was not even prepared to request funds to begin construction on the light rail extension this year. "This is not devastating by any stretch of the imagination," he said.

The authority still has to get approval from the Federal Transit Administration of the project's environmental impact study, as well as permission from the government to enter preliminary engineering and final design before it can ask for federal funds.

Balian hopes to have the approvals in time to submit a \$400 million federal funding request next year.

That would complete the first leg of the rail line to the proposed Citrus station, on the border of Azusa and Glendora.

"I am abundantly confident that the project will happen; when it will happen is out of our control," Balian said, adding that if the FTA grants all the necessary approvals, construction on the first phase can begin as early as December 2008. "That is a factor we have to leave to the leadership in Congress."

But a spokeswoman for Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, a longtime Gold Line supporter, said the decision to not include funding for the project in this year's transportation bill does not bode well for future requests.

"With no federal dollars this year to help continue its progress, it will be doubly hard to get funding next year," said Alisa Do, Dreier's legislative director, who accused the Democratic leadership in Congress of ignoring the needs of San Gabriel Valley and Inland Empire residents. "Folks can't afford to waste more time and gas getting nowhere."

Balian noted that more than \$1 million was already secured by Congress in 2006 for the transportation development study, which he expects to be completed by the end of this year. "We really were not relying on a second allocation; \$1 million is a lot of money for a study," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Pasadena, another Gold Line advocate in Congress, said that the loss of funding, while disappointing, was anything but a death knell for the project.

"It was a small study that would have demonstrated the development benefits of mass transit, but has nothing to do with whether the project will be constructed," he said.

Even without a study, cities from Azusa to Monrovia are moving forward with their own transportation-related developments, with the Gold Line as a centerpiece.

Monrovia is hoping to break ground on the first phase of a massive transit village anchored by the old Monrovia train depot, which is slated to become a Gold Line station, by next year, said city spokesman Dick Singer. The project would eventually include commercial and office space, in addition to between 1,400 and 2,800 homes.

"We assume the Gold Line is coming, but it doesn't matter when it gets here," Singer said, adding that the city has already constructed the first component of the so-called Station Square project: a park-and-ride lot that is already being used as a transit center for Metro, Foothill Transit and Monrovia Transit buses.

Singer said the project is not only meant to improve residents' access to mass transit, but to also extend the city's commercial Old Town center south along Myrtle to the new development. The project has already secured \$500,000 in federal funding.

"This will not only make a difference for businesses that feed off that area, but for Old Town and the local economy," he said. "The Gold Line is more than transportation for us; it is the whole engine for this."

Schiff said his top priority is to make sure local and state agencies put up as little matching funds as possible to guarantee federal money for the project. He added that he has already inserted language in the Transportation Technical Corrections Bill that would require only 20 percent local funding to secure the remaining 80 percent from the FTA, which has already passed in the House and Senate. But he wants to strengthen that language before it is signed by the president.

"What is going to be required more than anything else to make this happen is for the whole Southern California (congressional) delegation to work together and not point fingers at each other," Schiff said. "We are ultimately talking about a lot of dollars for Gold Line funding, and we need to work together in a bipartisan way."

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