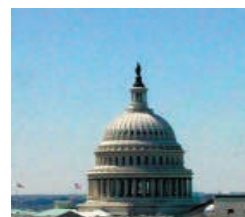




Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano Report to the 38th District



March 2006

Congress OKs '06 Federal Funds for the 38th District

For the 2006 fiscal year, Congresswoman Napolitano was able to secure funds to improve transportation, public safety and quality of life for residents in the 38th District.

Transportation:



- \$4.2 million to Alameda Corridor-East (ACE), San Gabriel Valley, Gateway to American Trade Corridor for construction work on railroad/street crossing safety improvements and grade separation.
- \$3.3 million to Foothill Transit for construction of park-and-ride facilities to encourage transit use during daytime peak rush hours.
- \$800,000 for the City of Santa Fe Springs/La Mirada Valley View Grade Separation, a crucial component of a regional strategy to increased rail capacity, improve traffic mobility, eliminate train/vehicular conflicts and improve quality of life for local residents.

Defense Technology:

- \$1 million to California State Polytechnic University Pomona (Cal Poly) for a new research-grade supersonic wind tunnel, research grade water tunnel and an aerospace computer simulation system.
- \$1 million to United Technologies, Pomona,

to upgrade the Central Atmospheric Monitoring System (CAMS IIA) on older Los Angeles Class Navy submarines.

- \$1.05 million to Acorn Engineering Company, City of Industry, for Stainless Steel Sanitary Spaces (installation of stainless steel bathroom facilities).

Public Safety/Community Development:

- \$1 million to Fairplex Trade and Conference Center, Pomona, to upgrade business convention facility and to make preparations as an evacuation complex for Regional Disaster Coordination and Staging Center for Homeland Security.
- \$100,000 to the Montebello Police Dept. to replace and upgrade Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS).
- \$100,000 to Pomona Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) to assist police, fire, public works, medical and emergency response teams by coordinating communications systems.
- \$150,000 to Rio Hondo College's Law Enforcement Technologies Program for training first responders, law enforcement personnel and local governments in the LA county area.

- \$200,000 to the City of Pico Rivera's Senior Center for the 2,000 square foot expansion and renovation of the existing space.

Water:



- \$10 million for the San Gabriel Restoration Fund to continue cleaning carcinogens in the San Gabriel and Central Groundwater Basins.
- \$80,000 to Norwalk for assessing the threat to groundwater contamination and upgrading Transmission Main/ fire hydrants.

Future 4-Year SAFETEA-LU Act, H.R.3 Secured Federal Funding



- \$2.9 million allotted to Pico Rivera for the grade separation project near Passons and Slauson Boulevards, where a 14-year old El Rancho High School student was struck and killed by a train.
- \$4.1 for Interstate 5 expansion, one of the most congested corridors in the state.
- \$6.3 million for the Pomona interchange at Mission Boulevard and State Route 71.

Alameda Corridor East (ACE) Construction Authority Honored

Congresswoman Napolitano paid tribute to a project in the City of Industry she has been supporting since 1997. The completion of the Nogales St. underpass has eliminated deadly car collisions with trains, reduced traffic congestion and reduced pollution. This portion of the ACE project has decreased congestion for more efficient transportation of imported goods and California products to the rest of the country.

Napolitano honored the ACE Authority at a local event and paid special tribute to ACE Board Member and City of Industry Councilman Jack Phillips who passed away in March 2005.

President Bush signed into law appropriations for ACE in November 2005-\$4.2 million to ACE for railroad and street crossing safety improvements and grade separation. The SAFETEA-LU Act, which passed earlier in the year, provided \$42.64 million for the ACE project.



Napolitano Pays Tribute to Councilman Jack Phillips for his Work on the ACE Nogales St. Project

ACADEMY NOMINEES

Congresswoman Napolitano is proud to announce this year's nominations for appointment to the U.S. Military Academies. Attending any of the United States Service Academies is a great honor and a great responsibility. It allows young, promising students to serve their country for at least nine years including four years at the Academy and five years in the respective branch of the U.S. Military. Napolitano has nominated the following exceptional students:

U.S. Naval Academy

Carlos Gonzalez, La Puente, La Puente H.S.
Samantha Gonzales, Hacienda Heights, Wilson H.S.
Brandon Lamm, Norwalk, Whittier Christian
Daniel Patron, La Puente, Bishop Amat
Tony Trujillo, Pico Rivera, Don Bosco Tech

West Point

Jacqlyn Tsao, Hacienda Heights, Los Altos H.S.
Michelle Lee, Hacienda Heights, Los Altos H.S.

Air Force Academy

Adriana Blakely, La Puente, Bishop Amat
Jordan Rozsa, Hacienda Heights, Los Altos H.S.



Congresswoman Napolitano Meets with Academy Nominees: FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Carlos Gonzalez, Anthony Trujillo, Adriana Blakely, Jacqlyn Tsao, Michelle Lee, Samantha Gonzales, Brandon Lamm, Daniel Patron, Rep. Napolitano (absent-Jordan Rozsa)

Students who have a strong desire to serve their country, between the ages of 17 and 22, are eligible to apply for a Military Academy nomination. Students should attend a Military Day to ask questions and contact the Santa Fe Springs District Office to request an Academy Nomination Application Form. It's important for students to begin building a resume early in high school. Other requirements include: a completed Academy Nomination form, one or two letters of recommendation, a letter explaining why you should be considered, high school and/or college transcripts and a copy of your SAT score.

Taiwanese -American Town Hall

Nearly 100 members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAP) attended a town hall meeting at the Evangelical Formosan Church in Hacienda Heights.

Congresswoman Napolitano spoke to the group, a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Taiwanese-Americans' participation in U.S. mainstream business and government, addressing local issues as well as informing them of federal services available. Attendees who have been U.S. citizens for some time were encouraged to become full participants in the political process through voter registration in order to increase Asian participation.

"Asian Americans are traditionally the least likely to be civically engaged," remarked Napolitano. "I seldom hear from my Asian American constituents. They need to feel comfortable with elected officials and knowledgeable of services they can obtain. This will enable our respective communities to work together on issues that affect all of us."

The Congresswoman discussed keeping the peace between China and Taiwan and improving trade relations. She focused on assistance for small business, the importance of Social Security, the cost of the War in Iraq and the rising cost of gasoline.



Congresswoman Napolitano Discusses Concerns of Taiwanese-Americans at Town Hall Meeting

National Tooling and Machining Association

Congresswoman Napolitano met in November with board members of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) Training Center to discuss the importance of the U.S. manufacturing industry to the U.S. Economy.

NTMA, the largest non-profit U.S. trade organization, supplies trained precision tooling and machining personnel for vital industries such as aerospace, agriculture implements, appliance, automotive, defense, environmental and transportation. It helps its members achieve business success in a global economy through advocacy, advice, networking, information, programs and service. NTMA expressed interest in joining and supporting the Congresswoman's Manufacturing and Machining Task Force, which local 38th District manufacturers formed, to address issues of mutual concern to them.

Rep. John Murtha, ranking member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, has been approached to amend the Helmets to Hardhats Program to include Manufacturing and Machining Training. Helmets to Hardhats is a federally sponsored job-retraining program for unemployed returning veterans.

Immigration Reform Legislation



Washington, D.C. – Continued focus on Homeland Security prompts immigration proposals in Congress which may seem rational, yet consequences and cost remain challenging. These two are the most current:

The Border Security Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437), sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), passed in the House, but will be amended. Some Democratic lawmakers are expected to try to change the most controversial provisions which include building 700 miles of costly fence along the Mexico border and turning visa overstays into a crime called “illegal presence,” a felony punishable by a year and a day in prison.

The Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (H.R. 2330), sponsored by Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), has been referred to the House Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. The bill would allow illegal immigrants to work toward citizenship and step out of the shadows. Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano (D-Norwalk) supports the bill, calling it the best overall plan to balance national security, economic reality and worker protections.

“It’s a huge improvement over past proposals because it acknowledges the critical role immigrants have and will continue to play in the success of our country. Farmhands, nannies, and many in our service industries continue to be recognized for the crucial role they play in our economy,” said Napolitano.

It includes creating a three-year H-5A visa, capped at 400,000 annually, to allow foreign workers with a solid job offer to fill available jobs, provided they clear security checks. The bill also allows undocumented immigrants to register for a H-5B temporary visa, only if they are not security risks, show solid work history, paid taxes and have no criminal record. The workers and their families could eventually be eligible to apply for permanent status, provided they meet English and civics obligations, pay a \$2,000 fee and any back taxes due, meet a future consistent work requirement and clear a thorough security screening.

Assistance in Immigration Casework



Congresswoman Discusses Immigration Problems with the Zapata Family

Pomona resident Vasquez Zapata, originally from Yucatan, Mexico, desperately wanted to become a U.S. citizen. His citizenship application was pending before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) since 1997. When approved, he would be able to reside permanently with his wife Maria, a U.S. citizen, and their two children. But, a case of mistaken identity almost caused his deportation.

His case came to the attention of our caseworker. Our investigation revealed that federal authorities were close to making a huge mistake with his citizenship application and with Zapata himself.

USCIS informed Mr. Zapata in the

winter of 2004 that he was scheduled to be deported. He personally contacted the caseworker in our Santa Fe Springs office for assistance and the investigation began immediately. After many phone calls and conversations, the caseworker uncovered that Mr. Zapata bore the exact same name as an individual in the process of deportation in another part of the country. Immigration officials had missed the obvious fingerprint and personal characteristic differences between Mr. Zapata and the other targeted immigrant.

Had deportation taken place, it would have broken apart his family, causing not only emotional strain, but also a great financial burden. The family still resides in Pomona, extremely grateful to be able to remain together.

Contact: *Immigration Caseworkers in the Santa Fe Springs office of Congresswoman Napolitano:*

-Perla Hernandez, perla.hernandez@mail.house.gov
(562) 801-2134

-Brenda McPheeters, brenda.mcpheeters@mail.house.gov
(562) 801-2134

Immigration Help for Businesses

An Advanced Manufacturing Group (AMG) employee in Santa Fe Springs was denied a visa due to a misunderstanding during the interview process in Zimbabwe. The Congresswoman’s staff contacted the U.S. State Department and the inquiry sparked a second look that revealed the employee did qualify, enabling him to come to Santa Fe Springs. A valuable manufacturing project that had been in jeopardy moved forward.



Larry Duford, AMG President

Rail Safety Update

Congresswoman Napolitano, along with fellow California Reps. Linda Sanchez, Diane Watson and Lucille Roybal-Allard, were successful in getting rail safety provisions included in HR 3, SAFETEA-LU Act that was signed into law. They are:

Improved Track Joint Bar Standards

- Requiring track owners to improve the identification of cracks in rail joint bars (joins adjacent rail sections). Joint bar cracks caused a Pico Rivera train derailment in 2004.
- Instructs the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) to establish a program to review continuous welded rail joint bar inspection data from railroad and FRA inspectors.
- Authorizes the Administration to determine when it is necessary or appropriate to require railroads to increase the frequency of inspection, or improve the methods of inspection, of joint bars.

Improved Tank Car Standards

- Authorizes FRA to initiate a rule to develop and implement appropriate design standards for pressurized tank cars.

Crossings

- Authorizes a study on the impact of blocked highway at grade railroad crossings and the ability of emergency responders to perform public safety and security duties.

Report on Older Tank Cars

- Authorizes FRA to transmit a report including recommendations for reducing the risk of catastrophic fracture and separation of tank cars. Half of the nation's rail tank cars are too old to meet industry standards, thus making them more likely to break open during a derailment than newer cars after derailing.

Additionally, the Congresswoman wrote a letter to the Federal Railroad Administration urging them to increase track inspections in the Los Angeles area since a heavy increase in railway traffic brings railcars through densely populated urban communities. The letter also requested that FRA collaborate more with the California Public Utilities Commission and its state inspectors in implementing and enforcing railroad safety regulations. Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors expect at least a tenfold increase in imports over the next ten years.



Ms. Carol A. Herrera, President of the SGV COG, Congresswoman Napolitano, and Mr. Richard Powers, Executive Director of the Gateway Cities COG.

Council of Governments/EPA Summit

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano joined Santa Fe Springs Mayor Pro Tem Joe Serrano, San Gabriel Valley COG President Carol Herrera, South Bay COG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach, and Executive Director of Gateway Cities COG Richard Powers in welcoming U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator Wayne Nastri to a joint environmental summit in Santa Fe Springs.

The three-COG summit was held to seek and discuss solutions for concerns about pollution from freeways and railroads that directly affect all residents, especially children and senior citizens in the 75 cities the COGS represent. Napolitano asked California's governor to include the necessary funds for emissions on his infrastructure budget. The Congresswoman highlighted the importance of cities working with each other to improve quality of life issues that impact the basin.

"If we don't work together, the funding for critical projects will go somewhere else," Napolitano said.

Working to solve mutual problems, cities are more powerful and able to compete more successfully for Federal, State and County grants which fund transportation, health and other critical issues in our backyards, she added. Napolitano praised Administrator Nastri for his pronounced interest in *learning* more about our communities and *receiving* the feedback of local officials on quality of life issues pertaining to the environment. He and his staff covered current areas of concern at the ports and pollution caused by ships at the harbor. Additionally, they talked about available programs to help local communities. The Congresswoman encouraged those attending the summit to help find workable solutions for superfund sites, brown fields, oil refinery and rail yard pollution.

If you would like to receive this **Report to the 38th District** electronically, please call our Congressional office in Washington, D.C. (202) 225-5256 or visit: http://www.napolitano.house.gov/news/news_newsletters.html

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