

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Applauds State-Federal Action Plan to Expedite Northern California Levee Repairs

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Wally Herger (CA-02) today hailed the announcement of the "State-Federal Action Plan For Expedited Levee Repair," which it is anticipated will enable the State of California to complete its emergency repair work on 29 "critical erosion" levee sites by November 2006. Today's announcement comes after Herger led a bipartisan group of California lawmakers in urging President Bush to streamline regulations to ensure that emergency repair work could be completed before the onset of next year's flood season.

"Levee repairs are a critical public safety priority in Northern California," Herger said. "I applaud President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger for ensuring that these repairs can be completed as quickly as possible.

"Public safety should take precedence over environmental and bureaucratic red tape. The agreement recognizes this. Absent this state-federal initiative, these repairs would likely take two to three years to complete. This is a major step forward in the effort to protect Northern California's communities from the dangers of catastrophic flooding."

Herger concluded, "We need to work to make sure this is implemented correctly, and that the goals outlined in today's announcement are achieved on schedule."

Under the agreement, federal agencies commit to complete all federal permitting by June 21, 2006. California will provide the initial funding to complete the repair projects, but will work with the federal government to receive credit for the work performed under this agreement. The agreement provides that the emergency repairs are to be completed by November 2006.

Over one-third of the 29 erosion sites are in our congressional district.

Attached are the letter Congressman Herger and other California lawmakers sent to President Bush on March 16, 2006, and the agreement between federal agencies and California.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!