

## This Week in Washington

Congressman Richard W. Pombo  
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### Transportation Authorization

Since first coming to Congress, I have worked to improve the public transportation and infrastructure within California's 11th Congressional District. Whether we are talking about transit or roads, I believe it is imperative we work to build a seamless and efficient network to move individuals from where they live to where they work.

I am committed to creating an efficient, environmentally friendly, reliable, and safe transportation system. Both locally and nationally, I am working to redefine and prioritize our transportation needs to meet the growing demands of the 21st Century family and economy. *(continued on page 2)*

### Congress Authorizes California Water Development Projects

On September 24th, 2003, the House of Representatives approved the Water Resources Development Act of 2003, a bill that provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources and for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States. The bill was approved by a margin of 412-8.

"Water is as pressing an issue we have as Californians," Congressman Richard Pombo stated. "I am pleased that we were able to come together on these projects critical to northern California, and that we can continue to forge a common sense approach to water policy. *(continued on page 2)*

### Resources Committee Unanimously Passes Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Bill

Washington, D.C. - September 24, 2003 the House Resources Committee unanimously approved H.R. 1442, a bill that authorizes the design and construction of a visitors center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The bill, sponsored by Chairman Richard W. Pombo (R-CA) will serve to educate visitors of the memorial and honor the memory of Vietnam veterans.

"I can think of no better way to honor the contribution of our Vietnam veterans than to educate the younger generations about the importance of their sacrifice," said Chairman Pombo. "This is great news for Vietnam veterans and even better news for America's youth."

Over half the memorial's annual visitors were born after the Vietnam War ended. Chairman Pombo's bill would authorize the construction of a visitors center which would facilitate self-guided tours for small groups of students and tourists. It would also serve as a facility to collect remembrances of veterans inscribed on the memorial, creating a unique historical record for future generations.

The visitors center would be built at no cost to American taxpayers. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980 to build the memorial, would provide the funds for the center.

"This bill is a great opportunity to serve the memory of our Vietnam veterans," Chairman Pombo said. "In the same manner, America's younger generations will benefit greatly from the educational resources this center will provide. I look forward to consideration on the House floor and seeing this bill signed into law by President Bush."

*For more information, please contact Brian Kennedy at (202) 226-9019.*

### Today in History

**1789** - A regular army was established by the U.S. War Department with several hundred men.

**1951** - The first network football game was televised by CBS-TV in color. The game was between the University of California and the University of Pennsylvania.

**1962** - U.S. President John F. Kennedy nationalized the Mississippi National guard in response to city officials defying federal court orders. The orders had been to enroll James Meredith at the University of Mississippi.

**1978** - Pope John Paul I was found dead after only one month of serving as pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

**1983** - The War Powers Act was used for the first time by the U. S. Congress when they authorized President Reagan to keep U.S. Marines in Lebanon for 18 more months.

**1984** - Irish officials announced that they had intercepted the Marita Anne carrying seven tons of U.S.-purchased weapons. The weapons were intended for the Irish Republican Army.

**1988** - The space shuttle Discovery took off from Cape Canaveral in Florida. It was the first manned space flight since the Challenger disaster.

**1993** - Bosnia's parliament voted overwhelmingly to reject an international peace plan unless Bosnian Serbs returned land that had been taken by force.

**1994** - The U.S. House voted to end the practice of lobbyist buying meals and entertainment for members of Congress.

*From [www.on-this-day.com](http://www.on-this-day.com)*

## This Week in Washington cont.

### (Transportation Authorization cont.)

On September 24th, the House of Representatives passed the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2003, H.R. 3087. As you may know, the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21) is the authorizing legislation for the existing federal highway, highway safety, and transit programs. TEA-21 will expire at the end of the 2003 fiscal year.

H.R. 3087 would extend the current transportation law for five months while the Congress works to complete work on a larger multi-year reauthorization of TEA-21. The bill would provide continued funding for Federal highway, transit, and highway safety programs using current law program structures and tie funding levels to the FY 2004 Budget Resolution. These programs would continue to be protected by a budgetary firewall, which means that highway user fee revenues cannot be used for any other purpose and must be appropriated at the levels directed in the authorization for fiscal year 2004. Most importantly, the provision in the Internal Revenue Code that prohibits the expenditure of funds from the Highway Trust Fund after October 1, 2003 would be amended to allow the Department of Transportation to disburse funds into next summer. Passage of H.R. 3087 will keep these important transportation programs operating until Congress enacts a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill next spring.

As you may be aware, earlier this year I met with local officials to identify priorities for the 11th Congressional District of California. Knowing of these priorities, I am working with my colleagues on the House Highways, Transit, and Pipelines Subcommittee to include funding authorizations for local transportation projects within the upcoming multi-year reauthorization of TEA-21.

It is my belief that the traffic jams American's face today is nothing short than a daily nightmare. The time individuals spend in traffic is time taken away from watching your kid's soccer game, dinner with your family or any number of other activities that are more important than waiting in traffic.

### (Congress Authorizes California Water Development Projects cont.)

As Chairman of the House Committee on Resources, Congressman Richard Pombo worked with his colleagues, including the bill's author, Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Don Young, to ensure that California's water problems are addressed. The legislation contains the following projects vital to water development in Northern California.

#### **San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

The Army Corps of Engineers is required to determine the feasibility of the beneficial use of dredged material from the San Francisco Bay in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This includes the benefits to navigation, flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water quality, salinity control, water supply reliability, and recreation.

#### **Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel and Lower San Joaquin River**

Authorizes project for aquatic ecosystem restoration, Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel and lower San Joaquin River, California.

#### **John F. Baldwin Ship Channel and Stockton Ship Channel, California**

The project for navigation, San Francisco to Stockton, is modified to provide that the non-Federal share of the cost of the John F. Baldwin Ship (*cont. in rt. column*)

### (Congress Authorizes California Water Development Projects cont.)

Channel and Stockton Ship Channel element of the project may be provided in the form of in-kind services and materials.

#### **Stockton Metropolitan flood control**

Authorizes a reevaluation on the feasibility of the Lower Mosher Slough element and the levee extensions on the Upper Calaveras River element of the project for flood control in the Stockton Metropolitan Area to determine the eligibility of such elements for reimbursement.

#### **Contra Costa Water District** (just outside our district)

Authorizes \$23,000,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure for the Contra Costa Water District.

#### **Stockton East Water District**

\$25,000,000 is reauthorized for groundwater recharge and conjunctive use projects in Stockton East Water District.

#### **American River Watershed**

Authorizes a project for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration of the American River Watershed at a total cost of \$257,300,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$201,200,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$56,100,000.