



Office of the Mayor
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March 11, 2009

The Honorable David Dreier
233 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dreier:

Earlier today, President Obama signed a \$410 Billion Omnibus Bill that contained many projects important to various members of Congress and their constituents. Although the President did not want to eliminate earmarks outright, President Obama did convey a variety of guidelines to curb further abuse of the federal appropriations process. In sum, the President said that all earmarks must have a "legitimate and worthy public purpose."

Therefore, on behalf of the City of Upland, I am pleased to inform you that the Upland Recharge Basin Stormwater Collections System is the City's #1 project for federal funding and exceeds the President's bar as a project with a legitimate and worthy public purpose. As you know, the City was successful in securing a \$13 million authorization for this project within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). *The City has committed more than \$15.2 million for this project, which exceeds 50% of the total \$28.2 million project.*

The City of Upland proposes to expand its existing Upland stormwater basins and stormwater collection system, in order to provide greater flood control retention and groundwater aquifer recharge capacities. The project is significant and regionally important since the majority of stormwater in the City of Upland will be conveyed to Upland basins, namely the Arrow Route Basin (located in southwest Upland) and the 8th Street Basin (located in southeast Upland). The Arrow Route Basin alone will provide for the opportunity to recharge in excess of 1326 acre-feet per year of storm flows that would otherwise be conveyed outside of the Chino Groundwater Basin. Similarly, the 8th Street Basin will allow for substantial stormwater recharge. Additionally, both stormwater basins will provide the opportunity to recharge excess imported water, as well as recycled water for future groundwater extraction and use during drought periods.

In addition to groundwater recharge, the stormwater collection system will provide for flood control protection to the City of Upland, as well as the cities of Montclair and Chino to the south. Not only alleviating the obvious property damage consequences from flooding, the project will cure serious **life/public safety issues as well**. Approximately 10 years ago, the heavy storm flows on San Antonio Avenue swept a woman under a car and she nearly drowned. Just three years ago, in a similar incident, a tragedy occurred when a woman was drowned in storm water on Euclid Avenue.

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As such, the Upland stormwater basins (Arrow Route Basin and 8th Street Basin) and the stormwater collection system are collectively known as the Upland Basin Expansion Project. The Project is regionally beneficial and is consistent with the Optimum Basin Management Plan (OBMP) for the Chino Groundwater Basin and Chino Basin Peace Agreement. The recharge benefits are supported by the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster). An agreement has been approved by the Upland City Council to allow Watermaster to recharge imported water resources specifically in the City's Arrow Route Basin. As a result of the regional benefits, the Arrow Route Basin Project is also supported by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Bernardino Flood Control District. In fact, a jurisdictional dam approved by the State's Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), as well as a spillway approved by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), are currently under construction in the Arrow Route Basin. In short, completion of the project will increase water (stormwater, imported water, and recycled water) conservation; augment water supply and reliability; and, enhance public safety.

In 1995, the City of Upland in partnership with San Bernardino County constructed a \$23 million trunk line drain (12-foot diameter) to catch flows in south Upland and convey them safely to the 8th Street recharge basin. In 2007, the City completed construction of an 84-inch storm drain on San Antonio Avenue between Arrow Highway and 13th Street (4,000 feet), conveying water to the 8th Street recharge basin. In November 2008, the City completed the installation of a 90-inch storm drain on 11th Street, between Dewey Way and Benson Avenue (2,600 feet) – a \$2-million effort that, in part, collects and conveys storm water to the Arrow Route Basin. More importantly, the City also recently completed the Arrow Route Basin (a \$28.2 million project), which is sufficient to accommodate a 1,000-year storm. With some downstream storm drainpipes and the two basins complete, the most critical next step of the project will involve completing the stormwater collection system in City of Upland to direct runoff to the Upland basins. The system, upon completion, is expected to significantly increase the region's storm water retention and recharge capability, which will greatly enhance ground water supply and reliability – a critical and urgent undertaking in California's prolonged drought condition. Furthermore, recycled water can be conveyed to the basin for recharge, if additional storm water is available for blending.

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA), the City secured a \$13 million authorization in Section 219 (F) funds. Of the \$13 million authorization, the City is now seeking a \$5 million appropriation for FY 2010, \$5 million for FY 2011, and \$3 million for FY 2012, respectively. The City's Master Plan of Storm Drain calls for a total of \$75 million in improvements. The appropriations requested are critical in constructing the most vital Master Plan improvements, specifically the stormwater collection/recharge system directly related to the Upland Basin Expansion Project.

If you require any additional information, please contact my office at 909-931-4122. I look forward to seeing you at the end of the month and thank you for continued loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of Upland.

Sincerely,



John V. Pomieriski
Mayor of Upland

cc: City Council
City Manager
Bob Gaines, Smith Dawson and Andrews