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SPECIAL REPORT:

House FY2002 Appropriations for Agriculture -- California Implications - *July 19, 2001*

On Wednesday, July 11, 2001, by a vote of 414 to 16, the House passed the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002, H.R. 2330. It had passed the House Appropriations Committee on June 13 and its Agriculture Subcommittee on June 6, both by voice vote. The Committee Report is H.Rept. 107-116. The following is a quick analysis of the bill from a California perspective as prepared by the California Institute. We apologize for any errors or omissions in our discussion of these documents, and would appreciate any input/feedback on how to make improving corrections.

BIOBASED PRODUCTS AND BIOENERGY

The development of biobased products and bioenergy represents an additional source of demand for agricultural products as well as enhanced energy security. The Committee provides \$15,000,000 for this, \$2,000,000 for research to improve conversion of agricultural materials to biofuels is earmarked for Albany, California

BIOTECHNOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENT

The House appropriated \$3,000,000 as requested in the President's budget to conduct research which will provide early identification of potential risks in deploying biotech crops, and data sets that can be used by regulatory agencies to assess risk and apply science-based management. This research will be carried out in Albany, California among other locations

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE - CONTINUING PROGRAMS

The House directs the Agricultural Research Service to continue to fund the following California areas of research in fiscal year 2002 at the same funding level provided in fiscal year 2001:

- Greenhouse Lettuce Germplasm, Salinas;
- Lettuce Geneticist/Breeder, Salinas;
- Organic Minor Crop Research, Salinas.

FLORICULTURE AND NURSERY RESEARCH

The House provides an increase of \$1,000,000 in FY2002 for floriculture and nursery research, with a portion allocated through cooperative agreements to university partners including U.C.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive weeds and other pests species cost the U.S. over \$122 billion per year. The House provides an increase of \$3,500,000 in funding for research that will result in greater exclusion of potential invasive species, quicker detection and more effective eradication of new invading species; the development of new biological information and species discovery; and the development of integrated weed management systems. This research will be conducted at several locations including Davis, California.

PIERCE'S DISEASE

The House bill includes \$10 million for efforts to combat the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (PD–GWSS), a vector for Pierce's Disease, which has devastated vineyards in Southern California and threatens the the entire grape and wine industry. In addition, the House bill provides an increase of \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2002 to enable the ARS center at Parlier to move aggressively and effectively against this serious pest/disease combination. The Committee directs that \$600,000 of the increase for new scientist positions at Davis, and at Ft. Pierce, Florida.

SUDDEN OAK DISEASE

Since 1995, oak trees have been dying in large numbers along the California and Oregon coasts. The House provides an increase of \$500,000 to conduct research to identify causative agents and diagnostic tools. The primary focus of this research is the ARS Ft. Detrick research laboratory.

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES** (In thousands of dollars)

	FY 2001	House Proposal
Exotic pest diseases	1,247	2,000
Pierce's disease	1,896	2,000
Sustainable agriculture	392	500
Viticulture consortium (NY, CA, PA)	1,497	2,000

FRUIT FLY

The House provided \$34,818,000 for the fruit fly program and an additional \$2,000,000 to address the inequity in the distribution of funds for fruit fly trapping in Florida and California. The House directs the Agency to increase the California fruit fly trapping program by \$2,000,000 to close the gap in the distribution of funds.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT - RURAL COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

For the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, the House provides \$628,000, an increase of \$24,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2001 and an increase of \$5,000 above the budget request. Consideration is to be given to the following California organizations or projects requesting assistance under the Rural Community Advancement Program and other rural development programs:

- funds to construct livestock barns, a vocational agriculture complex, and exhibit hall at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds;
- assistance to construct a wastewater treatment facility to serve Oxnard and the Port Hueneme Water Agency;
- funds to assist in the development of "The Chavez Center" in Keene;
- assistance to help fund a Mobile Asthma Care Program at Valley Children's Hospital;
- funds to establish a Pediatric Nursing Internship Program at Valley Children's Hospital;
- South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency for surface and ground water improvements in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

The House bill includes \$26,941,000 for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, the same as the amount as for FY 2001. Consideration is to be given to Valley Children's Hospital in California which is requesting assistance under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program for the development of an e-Health and Telemedicine program.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Language is included that provides that the City of Coachella shall be eligible for loans and grants provided through the Rural Community Advancement Program. Language is included that makes the City of Hollister, eligible for housing programs in the USDA rural development mission areas.