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SPECIAL REPORT:

House FY2002 Interior Appropriations and California Implications - *July 18, 2001*

On Thursday, June 21, 2001, by a voice vote, the House passed the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2002, H.R. 2217. It had passed the House Appropriations Committee on June 13 and its Transportation Subcommittee on June 7, both by voice vote. The Committee Report is H.Rept. 107-103. 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. The ordering of items generally reflects their presence in the bill does not mean to imply any relative importance.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

Resource Protection and Maintenance - The House bill recommends \$61,891,000 for resource protection and maintenance, an increase of \$600,000 above the budget request and \$8,207,000 above the 2001 enacted level, including increases above the enacted level of \$723,000 for fixed costs, and \$7,079,000 for land management planning, \$600,000 for California desert rangers, and decreases of \$133,000 for management reforms and \$62,000 in one-time emergency supplemental funding.

Oregon and California Grant Lands - The House bill recommends \$105,165,000 for the Oregon and California grant lands, the same as the budget request and an increase of \$1,127,000 above the 2001 enacted level for fixed costs. These funds are provided for construction and acquisition, operation and maintenance, and management activities on the revested lands in the 18 Oregon and California land grant counties of western Oregon.

Construction - The House bill has provided an additional \$100,000 in construction funds for the Lone Pine Visitor Center, CA.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REFUGES AND WILDLIFE

- **SALTON SEA** - A total of \$993,000, the budget request, is recommended by the House to continue the Salton Sea recovery program at the 2001 level, contingent on matching funds from the State of California. The House bill contains language stating that the Appropriations Committee does not object to including this program in the regular operations account in fiscal year 2003 and beyond.

- **JOINT VENTURES** - The House bill agreed to a number of joint ventures regarding refuges and wildlife, including:

	FY2001	FY2002	FY2004
Central Valley	359,000	417,000	550,000
Pacific Coast	239,000	378,000	700,000
San Francisco Bay	225,000	269,000	370,000

CONSTRUCTION

- \$1,750,000 is included for recovery facility construction and renovation at Condor Facilities, in California and Idaho.
- Humboldt Bay NWR, is provided \$190,000 for Seismic Safety Rehabilitation—Phase I (p/d).
- San Pablo Bay NWR, is provided \$2,500,000 for office renovation Phase II (c).

LAND ACQUISITION

For land acquisition, the House bill includes \$104,401,000, including:

Sacramento River NWR (CA)	1,700,000
San Diego NWR (CA)	5,000,000
San Joaquin River NWR (CA)	5,000,000

LOWER COLORADO RIVER

The House bill contains the following report language: “The Committee is aware of a planning effort that is underway to develop the Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan affecting 25 million people in the states of Arizona, California and Nevada and encourages the Service to continue to provide the required assistance for this important partnership of state, federal, tribal, and private stakeholders who share an interest in managing the water and related resources of the Lower Colorado River Basin.”

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Language is included under General provisions, Department of the Interior, restricting various oil and gas preleasing, leasing, exploration and drilling activities within, among other areas, the Northern, Southern and Central California planning areas, and Washington/Oregon planning area.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION

Golden Gate NRA, CA (structural upgrade)	\$13,000,000
Lava Beds NM, CA	4,131,000
Mojave National Preserve, CA (Kelso exhibits)	750,000
Point Reyes NS, CA (rehabilitation)	1,285,000
Redwood NP, CA (remove failing roads)	2,552,000
San Francisco Maritime National Historic Site	7,465,000
Sequoia NP, CA (restoration)	1,480,000

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

Within \$261 million for land acquisition and state assistance, the House bill includes:

Death Valley NP (CA)	150,000
Golden Gate NRA—Mori Point (CA)	2,500,000
Mojave NP (CA)	1,300,000
Pinnacles NM (CA)	3,300,000
Santa Monica Mtns. NRA (Upper Ramirez Canyon) (CA)	2,000,000

In report language, the House states, “The \$2,000,000 included for Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area is for the acquisition of approximately 255 acres of land in the Upper Ramirez Canyon that serve to link two of the Park’s principal core habitat areas-Zuma-Trancas Complex and Malibu Creek State Park. No funds included for Santa Monica

Mountains NRA shall be used to continue land acquisition for the Backbone Trail. Adequate funds and lands have been provided by previous appropriations and non-Federal purchases along the trail's alignment.

"As is the past, the Committee directs that the Federal land acquisition at Santa Monica Mountains NRA be matched by non-Federal monies. This means new land or new dollars dedicated to the protection of park lands within the recreation area's boundaries. By June 30 of each year, the Service shall certify the level of non-Federal contributions to land acquisition at this site. It is the Committee's intent that land acquisition funds that may be provided in subsequent appropriations will not exceed the value of the non-Federal effort for the prior certification period. The Service is encouraged to review non-Federal appraisals, wherever possible, in certifying the non-Federal contribution."

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

Recreation, heritage and wilderness - The House report contains the following language: "The Committee recognizes the National significance of the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and Florida National Scenic Trails and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and directs that funding for management for these trails should be increased \$500,000 above the request. Similarly, funding for those parts of the Appalachian, North Country and Ice Age National Scenic Trails and the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Iditarod, Oregon, California, and Pony Express and Overmountain Victory National Historic trails managed by the Forest Service should be funded \$300,000 above the request. The Committee has also included an increase of \$200,000 above the request to maintain the fiscal year 2001 effort regarding the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) manager and conduct other work along the PCT. The Committee would appreciate a clear and complete delineation of funding needs in the fiscal year 2003 budget justification for all aspects of national trail management, including maintenance, administration, construction and land acquisition."

Forest and Rangeland Research - The House bill recommends \$236,979,000 for forest and range- land research, \$2,000,000 above the budget request and \$7,868,000 above the 2001 funding level, of which \$250,000 above the base is provided for urban forestry research at Syracuse, NY and Davis, CA.

Forest Legacy Project - The House bill funds the Howe Creek Ranch, CA at \$500,000.

LAKE TAHOE

MTBE - The House bill notes that MTBE contamination has already caused more than one-third of the wells in South Lake Tahoe to be closed and that these substances are advancing rapidly on the Lake itself. It encourages the Forest Service to work with the South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to determine a method for cleaning up this problem.

Special Projects - For Lake Tahoe erosion control grants, \$2,000,000 is provided

Inventory and monitoring - The House bill recommends \$173,816,000 for inventory and monitoring as requested, \$253,000 below the 2001 level. Within the allocation the bill has included \$550,000 for the Lake Tahoe basin.

Vegetation and Watershed Management - \$700,000 above the requested funding level is provided for watershed improvement activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The House report language states that the Committee remains concerned with the impracticality of the small urban lot management program within the Lake Tahoe Basin management unit. The bill directs the Forest Service to once again work with partners within the basin and the affected States to provide alternative scenarios for taking care of these urban lots that does not rely on the Federal workforce. The Forest Service is directed to report to the Committee by April 15, 2002 on progress regarding the Lake Tahoe urban lot situation.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

National Fire Plan - The hazardous fuels allocation includes \$16,000,000 for the Quincy Library Group, CA, work as requested, and \$2,000,000 for the Lake Tahoe basin

Capital Improvement and Maintenance

Big Bear center, CA	\$1,000,000
Lake Tahoe, restrooms & Tallic rehab	570,000
Lake Tahoe, Eagle Falls rehab	455,000

Land Acquisition

Angeles National Forest	\$2,000,000
Big Sur Ecosystem (Los Padres NF) (CA)	7,660,000
Cleveland National Forest	1,000,000
Lake Tahoe Basin MU (High Meadows) (CA)	4,000,000
Tahoe National Forest (North Fork Am. River) (CA)	1,700,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELK HILLS SCHOOL LANDS FUND - The House bill recommends \$36,000,000 for the Elk Hills school lands fund, which is equal to both the budget request and the amount available for fiscal year 2001. In fiscal year 2002, the House bill recommends deriving these funds by transfer from excess prior year balances in the clean coal technology account. This represents the fourth of seven payments to the fund, which was established as a part of the sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve in California (to settle school lands claims by the State). In 1996, Congress authorized the sale of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve and created a process by which to pay California for its claims to two sections of land within Elk Hills. As part of the \$3.65 billion sale of Elk Hills, a total of \$324 million was set aside for California State Teachers Retirement System. The House bill's \$36 million would be in addition to the \$36 million already appropriated as advanced funding for FY 2002.

ENERGY CONSERVATION - The House bill recommends \$940,805,000 for energy conservation, an increase of \$185,000,000 above the budget request and \$127,363,000 above the fiscal year 2001 level.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The House bill limits the sale of giant sequoia trees by the Forest Service. The House bill also gives preference to dislocated workers for certain restoration contracts in the Great Sequoia National Monument and the Sequoia National Forest.