

Tauscher and McNerney Named Conferees for the House Water Resources Development Act

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CONTACT: Kevin Lawlor, 202/225-1880

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WASHINGTON, DC — The House of Representatives has named Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D, CA-10), the senior Northern Californian on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Rep. Jerry McNerney (D, CA-11) conferees for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The two will be responsible for working out differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill, which passed earlier this year.

The legislation authorizes approximately \$14 billion for water resources studies and construction projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including several in the Bay Area. Similar legislation passed the House and Senate in the 109th Congress but stalled in conference negotiations.

“There are few things more important to California than clean, reliable water. This is legislation that will benefit both the national interest and our interests in and around the Bay Area. Its scope is large enough that we will be addressing the unresolved issues of the Louisiana Coast-line left from Hurricane Katrina, as well as regional desalination projects to improve our water quality at home. I am pleased to have a seat at the table to hammer out the final details for our communities with Congressman McNerney and look forward to getting this long-delayed legislation enacted.” said Rep. Ellen Tauscher.

“I am pleased that my neighbor, Congresswoman Tauscher, and I will serve on the conference committee so that together we can advocate effectively for projects in Northern California,” Rep. McNerney said. “I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on the committee to address the need for clean, potable water in San Joaquin County, the Bay Area, and the rest of the country.”

The Senate had previously designated its representatives on the conference committee. With the naming of the House conferees, the two chambers can formally reconcile the different versions of WRDA that were passed by the House on April 19 and the Senate on May 16. Once the conference report has been agreed to, the House and Senate will vote on the final version of the bill, and it will go to the President for his signature.