

JOHN CAMPBELL
REPUBLICAN LEADER
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE
BUDGET AND SPENDING TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0548

1728 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5611

610 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE
SUITE 330
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660
(949) 756-2244

www.campbell.house.gov

February 13, 2007

The Honorable Mark Limbaugh
Assistant Secretary for Water & Science
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Limbaugh:

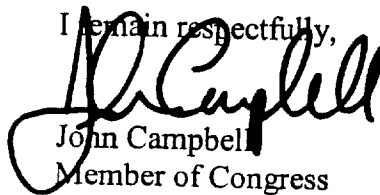
I am writing to encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to provide funding for the Irvine Basin Groundwater and Surface Water Improvement Project in Fiscal Year 2007. This project was authorized in 2004 by Public Law 108-233.

As you are aware, Congress is in the process of adopting a Joint Resolution to complete the FY 2007 appropriations process and fund the functions of government through September 30. It was an anomaly of the process that this budget Resolution will provide the various agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, with wide discretion over what activities and projects will be funded during the remainder of the Fiscal Year. However, I believe that the public fiduciary responsibilities of the Bureau require that deference be given to the clear wishes of the Congress as expressed in the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill. This legislation was approved last year by the House of Representatives and by the Appropriations Committee of the Senate. The House bill provided \$1 million for the Irvine project and the Senate Committee version provided \$250,000. Taken together, these actions indicate a desire on the part of the Congress to fund this important project in Fiscal Year 2007.

The Irvine Basin Groundwater and Surface Water Improvement Project is critical to protecting the fragile environment of the Upper Newport Bay, which has been designated by EPA as an "impaired water body" under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. In addition, the Project will help to address water supply issues in Orange County by cleaning impaired groundwater and allowing it to be put to beneficial use. The project is a cost effective and environmentally sound approach to addressing urban runoff and groundwater cleanup issues. I believe it can be a model for others in the future who face similar problems.

I would sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and would ask that you call me personally if for any reason you are hesitant to provide funding for this Project in Fiscal Year 2007.

I remain respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "C".

John Campbell
Member of Congress



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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0548

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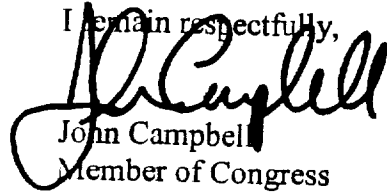
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John Campbell
Member of Congress



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, DC 20240



13

The Honorable John Campbell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thank you for your February 13, 2007 letter to Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Mark Limbaugh. He asked that I respond on his behalf.

Your letter expressed support for funding the Irvine Basin Groundwater and Surface Water Improvement Project in Fiscal Year 2007, identified in the House and Senate Appropriations Committee reports accompanying the Interior Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2007. As you know, Congress did not enact regular appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007. Rather, Congress enacted the Joint Resolution, Public Law 110-5.

Section 112 of P.L. 110-5 provides that Fiscal Year 2006 report language has no legal effect, and further directs that agencies prepare operating plans for submission to the Appropriations Committees within 30 days.

We are formulating our operating plans consistent with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB issued Memorandum 07-10 on February 15, 2007, providing guidance to Departments and agencies on the development of the operating plans. Based on this guidance, our plans will incorporate funding for programs and projects that were selected as a result of a competitive process. This would include projects that were formulated as part of the 2007 President's budget.

We are not at liberty at this time to disclose decisions on allocation of the 2007 funds that are being developed for inclusion in operating plans. Operating plans are to be approved by OMB and submitted to the Appropriations Committees by March 17, 2007.

We appreciate your interest in the Department's programs.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Johnson
Commissioner

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bc: AS/WS

91-00001, 92-30000, 94-31200, 96-42020

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