

FRESNO COG MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE WATCH
May 2011

FEDERAL

H.R. 662 – Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 (SAFETEA-LU)

This bill passed favorably in Congress and signed by the President on March 4, 2011. Extended programs through September 30, 2011.

H.R. 658 – FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011 (Mica)

Terminates the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program on October 2013 in all states except Alaska and Hawaii. EAS provides federal subsidies to approximately 140 rural communities across the country that otherwise would not receive any scheduled air service. Bill includes other proposals. Passed the House April 1st. Senate's version increases spending for EAS. Apr 7, 2011, bill passed in the Senate with changes by Unanimous Consent. Last Action: Apr 8, 2011: Message on Senate action sent to the House

H.R. 760- San Joaquin Valley USDA Rural Definition Inclusion Act (Nunes)

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to designate certain parts of the San Joaquin Valley as rural area for purposes of programs under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. Includes the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare. Currently in House Committee. Introduced Feb. 17, 2011 and Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

H.R. 761- San Joaquin Valley Transportation Enhancement Act of 2011 (Nunes, McCarthy, Denham)

Allow federal funding provided to the State of California as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for the purpose of developing the high-speed rail service be used for a project or activity to improve or maintain California State Route 99. Bill includes other proposals. Bill is now in House Sub-Committee. Introduced on Feb. 17, 2011 and Referred to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on Feb 18, 2011.

S. 198 & 199 – Redistribution of Unspent Earmarks Act of 2011 & Use it or Lose it Act of 2011 (Casey)

Return and redistribute funds made available from the Highway Trust Fund through an earmark for fiscal year 2008 or preceding fiscal year that remain unobligated as of the date of enactment to the State in which earmarked funds were directed to be used. NOTE: **S. 199** would set a timeframe for all future Highway Trust Fund earmarks to be obligated within 3 years. If not obligated within the time frame, funds would be returned to the State with jurisdiction over the original earmark. Currently in Senate Committee.