

stimulus news DIGEST



Recovery Project News

Yolo Airport Smooths Runway with \$1.3 million in Stimulus Funds: Yolo is one of 19 airports in California that have been allotted \$86 million in economic stimulus funds from the Federal Aviation Administration to shore up facilities and create or save jobs amid a national recession. Los Angeles International won the largest FAA grant in California: \$15 million for a new firefighting and aircraft rescue facility. San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose and San Diego airports also got funds. Sacramento International won an \$11 million grant from a different federal source, the Department of Homeland Security, for a security baggage system in its new central terminal. While much of the FAA funds went to bigger airports, several small airports made the list, including Yolo, the Redding airport and Truckee Tahoe airport. The trio got grants for repaving or rebuilding runways. All said they already had the projects designed and ready to build, and were just waiting for funding. Yolo was awarded \$1.3 million, Redding \$750,000, and the Truckee airport \$2.4 million. (*"Yolo Airport Smooths Runway with \$1.3 million in Stimulus Funds," Sacramento Bee, 8/12/09*)

Sacramento State Awarded Stimulus Funds For Research Equipment: A \$655,125 federal stimulus grant will allow California State University Sacramento to buy high-tech equipment to research the structure of molecules. The National Science Foundation awarded Sacramento State the grant July 29 for a 500 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometer and an autosampler for the existing 300 MHz spectrometer. The NMR spectrometer uses a magnetic field that helps identify substances and characterize specific arrangements of atoms within molecules. It is one of the most powerful tools available to chemists, chemistry professor Katherine McReynolds said. (*"Sacramento State Awarded Stimulus Funds For Research Equipment," Sacramento Business Journal, 8/11/09*)

Nonprofit Gets Federal Stimulus Grant: Marin Abused Women's Services has been awarded a \$413,023 federal grant for transitional housing for domestic violence victims. The grant will be used to help buy two or three affordable housing units, increase the availability of housing vouchers, increase child-care options and support other initiatives. The funding was announced by the U.S. Department of Justice, which distributed \$2.9 million in stimulus money to MAWS and five other California organizations dedicated to sheltering domestic violence victims. The other organizations are in Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo and Tulare counties. (*"Nonprofit Gets Federal Stimulus Grant," Contra Costa Times, 8/9/09*)

An Investment in Youth: Federal stimulus dollars have put about 1,200 local teens to work in professional fields this summer in and around Long Beach amid one of the toughest job markets in memory. The youth job program run through the city experienced a nearly 400 percent increase in paid employment this summer with some \$2.7 million in special federal funding. Other teens and young adults are working for entities that range from megacorporations like Boeing to small medical clinics and nonprofit organizations serving the homeless. Statewide, some 50,000 youths have been put to work this summer under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the federal stimulus package, which funneled about \$186 million to California's youth job programs, according to the California Workforce Association, a nonprofit that lobbied for the stimulus dollars. (*"An Investment in Youth," Press Telegram, 8/9/09*)

Electric Car Stations Coming to San Diego: A new network of charging stations for electric cars will soon be built throughout San Diego County. This project is part of the two and a half billion-dollar program promoting green transportation. This stimulus money is being spent to help a joint Nissan and SDG&E program succeed. The two companies have been planning the release of a new electric car, the Leaf, into San Diego and four other test

markets sometime next year. The first showing of the car was last week, with production already underway on a thousand models that will be available to local residents. With the aid of the federal government, this plan is now far more likely to succeed. (*"Electric Car Stations Coming To San Diego," San Diego City Hall Examiner, 8/9/09*)

Federal Stimulus Funds Translate Into County Jobs: A tally by nonprofit news group ProPublica indicates \$15.7 billion of the nation's \$787 billion stimulus package is at work in California, \$30 million of it in Santa Cruz County. More is on the way. The money, so far, has gone to road maintenance, police departments, schools, water projects, the university and other programs. Santa Cruz County, according to the group, has been the beneficiary of \$30 million through July 20. That amounts to about \$118 per person. Neighboring Santa Clara County, a much larger county, has received \$186.2 million or \$106 per person. Monterey County has received \$63.2 million or \$155 per person. In Santa Cruz County, some of the largest influxes of cash have gone toward road repair. Nearly \$5 million alone was awarded to the county Public Works Department for road maintenance. (*"Federal Stimulus Funds Translate Into County Jobs," Santa Cruz Sentinel, 8/8/09*)

Stimulus Money Used To Clean Up L.A. River: The California State Water Resources Control Board has awarded \$10 million in stimulus funds to help 16 Southern California cities that drain into the Los Angeles River prevent their trash from ending up in the water. The money will be used for trash-collection devices that can be inserted into storm drains called catchbasins. Approximately 3,750 catchbasins will be covered by the grant. (*"Stimulus Money Used to Clean Up L.A. River," KABC TV 8/7/09*)

Schools Receiving Another \$71.6 Million In Stimulus Funds: California has received \$71.6 million more in federal stimulus funds aimed at improving technology in the classroom. The funding will support the state's Enhancing Education Through Technology Program, which provides grants to school districts for computers, software, equipment and training to help students become technologically literate. The U.S. Department of Education also recently announced it would release about \$1 billion in stimulus funds to California for programs for low-income and special education students. (*"Schools Receiving Another \$71.6 Million In Stimulus Funds," The Oc Register, 8/6/09*)

Stimulus Money To Be Spent On Water: The Federal Environmental Protection Agency will spend \$1.1 million on the Campo reservation. The Campo Indian reservation has four water systems. One of them needs help. It has naturally occurring uranium. The Division of the Federal EPA that oversees tribal drinking water projects in California and other states in the region does not have a solution to the problem.

That will be determined by the Indian Health Service. They will either develop a special filtering system or find an alternate drinking water source. The EPA will spend \$753,100 on that project. The Indian Health Service will match that amount with \$377,000. The EPA is also using \$517,000 in grant monies to purchase a gigantic water tank, replacing an old deteriorating tank. (*"Stimulus Money To Be Spent On Water," KXO Radio 8/5/09*)

San Bernardino County Stimulus Funds Will Go To Train the Jobless: San Bernardino County officials have approved \$3.2 million in federal stimulus money to fund job training programs that will help some 2,000 of the county's idled workers. The next step will be to enter into contracts with schools, hospitals and other sites that will train people for some of the largest employment sectors in Inland Southern California – or at least the sectors that did much of the hiring before the recession. The county will focus on training people in health care, transportation and logistics, aviation, manufacturing and green industries. The result is expected to produce new professionals, from nurses to welders, in the next year or so. (*"San Bernardino County Stimulus Funds Will Go To Train The Jobless," The Press Enterprise 8/5/09*)

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The California Recovery Task Force

● www.recovery.ca.gov

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

● www.recovery.gov

Tracking ARRA spending by federal, state
and local agencies.

● www.recovery.org

Stimulus Money Goes to Trails in Nev., Calif.: About \$3 million in federal stimulus money will allow the largest U.S. national forest outside Alaska to complete a variety of trail and campground projects. Eight major projects will be funded in the 6-million-acre Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, which covers much of Nevada and a portion of California, said Ed Monnig, its supervisor. In California, the agency has earmarked \$300,000 for trail maintenance in the Sierra's Carson-Iceberg and Hoover wilderness areas and \$472,000 for improvements of the Honeymoon Campground in Mono County. (*"Stimulus Money Goes to Trails in Nev., Calif.," Mercury News, 8/1/09*)

Fed Grant Funds To Ease Calif. Water Shortages: Federal agencies have pledged to send nearly \$60 million in grants to help California communities, farms and dairies suffering from ongoing water shortages. The funding announced Thursday includes 40 million in stimulus money aimed at drought-relief projects, the bulk of which will go to the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley. Most of the Department of Interior's stimulus funds are intended to help growers dig new wells and install temporary pipelines and pumps to move water to farms that need it most. The biggest winner was the sprawling Westlands Water District, which received a total of \$9.5 million in grants from both agencies. The district, which produces about \$1 billion in crops annually and is one of Fresno County's biggest employers, says the water shortages have meant hundreds of thousands of acres used to grow lettuce, tomatoes and other crops have been fallowed this year. The USDA grants will help Westlands farmers save enough water to irrigate 1,000 more acres and put about 800 people to work. (*"Fed Grant Funds to Ease Calif. Water Shortages," Associated Press 7/31/09*)

Stimulus Funds Let City Hire 8 Additional Cops: A year after budget cuts prompted the Escondido Police Department to put a freeze on hiring, the city will be able to add eight officers, thanks to \$2.3 million in federal stimulus money awarded this week. The department was the only public safety agency in San Diego County to receive a cut of the \$1 billion in funds dedicated to hiring law enforcement officers across the nation. With the eight new officers, the department will be at 168 officers, two positions shy of full staffing. The funding will cover the officers' salaries and benefits for three years, and the department is required to pick up the costs for at least the fourth year. (*"Stimulus Funds Let City Hire 8 Additional Cops," San Diego Union Tribune 7/30/09*)

California Water District Receives Stimulus Funds of \$44.1M: The Santa Clara Valley Water District will receive \$44.1 million in stimulus funds for water projects in California. The Silver Creek flood-protection plan will receive \$18 million, while \$12 million will build two bridges across the Guadalupe River in downtown San Jose. The water district had applied for \$248 million in stimulus funds. District officials figure each million in stimulus dollars spent translates into about 40 jobs. One other large chunk of — about \$8 million — will go toward the South Bay Water Recycling Advanced Treatment Facility Project, a critical step in the district's efforts to expand the use of recycled water by improving its quality for non-potable purposes such as landscape irrigation. (*"California Water District Receives Stimulus Funds of \$44.1m," Mercury News, 7/29/09*)

General Recovery News

Fed Spots End to Recession: Saying that "economic activity is leveling out," the Federal Reserve said it will slow a financial rescue program that has kept mortgage and other consumer rates low. But emphasizing fragile expectations for recovery, its benchmark lending rate will remain at record low levels. The Fed reiterated that it will keep a key bank lending rate between zero and 0.25 percent for "an extended period." Despite seeing signs of stabilization, the Fed made it clear that it remains concerned about ongoing job losses, the difficulty in getting credit and the hit that falling home prices have taken on American households. (*"Fed Spots End To Recession," San Francisco Business Times, 8/12/09*)

U.S. Worker Productivity Surges In Second Quarter: Productivity surged from April through June, posting the largest gains in almost six years, as businesses slashed hours faster than output fell, according to government data released Tuesday. The Labor Department said productivity — output per hour of all individuals — in the nonfarm business sector increased in the second quarter at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.4%, following a pace of 0.3% during the first three months of the year. The gain was the largest since the third quarter of 2003, and it pushed productivity rates well above the average annual rate of 2.5% from 2000 through 2008, the report noted. (*"U.S. Worker Productivity Surges in Second Quarter," LA Times, 8/12/09*)

'A Recovery Only a Statistician Can Love': The pile of economic data indicating that the worst of the recession is over just keeps growing. In the past few weeks, the government has reported that businesses last month shed the smallest number of jobs in nearly a year. The savings rate, after rising rapidly, held steady at levels not seen in at least five years. And from April to June, productivity surged to a six-year high. The same data, however, also explains why few will feel the recovery. Its existence will be confirmed by statistics, but, over at least the next year, the benefits are unlikely to materialize in the form of higher wages or tax receipts or more jobs. (*"A Recovery Only a Statistician Can Love," Washington Post, 8/12/09*)

Interest in 'Clunker' Plan Waning, Web site says: Consumer interest in the federal "cash for clunkers" car program is waning, according to Edmunds.com, the Santa Monica-based auto information site. Edmunds based its conclusion on decreased Internet traffic among consumers seeking car-buying information. The clunkers program, which offers consumers credits of up to \$4,500 for turning in old gas guzzlers for more fuel-efficient new cars, began July 27 and was so popular the Obama administration quickly sought additional funding. However, Edmunds said Tuesday interest peaked July 29 and has since declined 15 percent. (*"Interest in 'Clunker' Plan Waning, Web site says," Sacramento Bee, 8/12/09*)

Businesses Worry a Rebounding Economy Could Send Its Key People Seeking Greener Pastures: Employees have been asked to make financial sacrifices – accept pay cuts, reduced benefits and bigger workloads – to help their companies, but they have breaking points. Since the economy's drastic turn for the worse late last year, thousands in Inland Southern California are working harder for less compensation, and many are probably waiting for the job market to open up again, just wide enough to circulate their resumes. That puts the pressure squarely on the employers, according to the study from Deloitte Consulting LLP. The Deloitte study indicates that the possibility of losing core employees is not lost on corporate executives. Almost two-thirds said they were "highly concerned" or "very highly concerned" with the prospect. (*"Businesses Worry a Rebounding Economy Could Send Its Key People Seeking Greener Pastures," Press Enterprise, 8/11/09*)

State Must Act Quickly to Get Stimulus Money: The Chronicle Editorial wrote, "Now is not the time for the state of California to turn away extra money for its struggling school system. But if Sacramento doesn't act quickly, the state might be doing just that." Earlier this month, Education Secretary Arne Duncan released guidelines for states to apply for \$4.35 billion worth of competitive grants in education stimulus dollars. Duncan has suggested that California could be disqualified from applying for that money - based

on a 2006 law that pleased the teachers' union but has proven controversial ever since. The continued with, "We say that it's time for this law to go. What has it accomplished, beyond possibly disqualifying California from desperately needed education money?" (*"State Must Act Quickly to Get Stimulus Money," SF Chronicle, 8/11/09*)

EDITORIAL BLOG: Stimulus Funding Targets Irrigation Efficiency: Felice Pace of the High Country News wrote that drought has intensified this summer throughout California and most of the West. Already over-allocated, water supplies are short across most of the West prompting irrigation cutbacks, dewatered streams, endangered species conflicts and protests in irrigation-dominated areas like the west-side of California's San Joaquin Valley. Drought also exacerbates water quality problems; less stream flow means more concentration of pollutants and greater negative impacts to fish and other Public Trust resources. However, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced it will distribute \$84.8 million as well as another \$42.3 million in recovery funds for watershed projects. Both amounts are part of the federal government's economic stimulus program. (*"Stimulus Funding Targets Irrigation Efficiency," The Water Information Program, 8/10/09*)

Stimulus Program: Federal Funds Put Young People to Work: About 60 teens and young adults from low-income families around San Luis Obispo County are learning skills that are helping to preserve local historical landmarks this summer thanks to a program funded by federal stimulus money. The jobs were created from more than \$850,000 in grant money awarded to Cuesta College through the Workforce Investment Act. The young people are paid minimum wage to work full time for eight weeks. The program is managed primarily by Cuesta with the help of the California Conservation Corps, which manages five work crews around the county with 12 participants each. Among the criteria used in selecting youth participants here was having parents who had been unemployed for the preceding six months. (*"Stimulus Program: Federal Funds Put Young People to Work," San Luis Obispo Tribune 8/7/09*)

