

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

**Sacramento flood control could get \$51 million in federal money**

*By Matt Weiser*

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Some of Sacramento's most important flood control projects stand to receive \$51 million as part of an agreement between the House and Senate to continue funding for federal programs.

The House approved the so-called "Megabus" spending bill, which provides ongoing funding for existing federal programs in the budget year that began in October. The Senate was expected to also approve the bill, which resulted from a bipartisan conference committee between the two houses of Congress.

The bill provides funding for these U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Sacramento region: \$25 million for levee repairs and related studies along the American River and in Natomas; \$20 million to continue building an auxiliary flood-control spillway at Folsom Dam; \$4.9 million for levee improvements on numerous streams in south Sacramento; and \$1 million for an existing plan to raise Folsom Dam.

"I am very pleased to see Sacramento's flood projects getting the funding they need and deserve," said Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, who pressed to keep the local projects in the spending bill.

The bill also creates a \$59 million reserve fund the Army Corps can use for other flood projects nationwide. Matsui hopes to secure some of this money for Sacramento projects.

"Given the fiscal circumstances in Washington, we are fortunate to achieve the results that we've gotten," said Rick Johnson, executive director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the local partner on the projects.