



State and Federal Activities

On their recent visit to Washington D. C. for the National Conference of Mayors, Cascade Board members Grant Degginger and John Marchione visited with members of the Washington delegation and their staff to discuss the potential for federal support. The delegation recognizes the importance of securing long term water sources for our growing region. And, while no Cascade projects are 'shovel ready' or likely to be funded in an early stimulus package, several elements in Cascade's long term plan could be federally supported.

In Olympia, Senator Fred Jarrett (D, 41st District) is the prime sponsor of Senate Bill 5910 that grants Cascade eminent domain authority as a watershed management partnership. Rep. Roger Goodman (D, 45th District) is the prime sponsor of House Bill 1332. At press time, the bills have both had hearings in Olympia, and SB 5910 was unanimously passed out of the Senate Environment, Energy and Water Committee.

The Legislature authorized creation of watershed management partnerships such as Cascade to encourage greater efficiency and conservation through cooperation of various local utilities. Eminent domain was not included in the original authorization and HB 1332 and SB 5910 provide the technical fix that allows Cascade the same authority as other water utilities in the state. Operating without eminent domain may cause increased costs to ratepayers and delays during future pipeline and facility construction. Thanks to our bill sponsors and to the chambers of commerce who have supported Cascade in this effort.

For more information on these bills contact Elaine Kraft, Cascade's Intergovernmental and Communications Director at ekraft@cascadewater.org.

Track progress on Senate Bill 5910 at:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5910>

Track House Bill 1332 at:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1332&year=2009>

Water for today...
and tomorrow