

News Release



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California State Parks Lauds Passage of Angel Island Preservation Act *\$15 million Federal Authorization Awaits President's Signature*

San Francisco – California State Parks Deputy Director Ted Jackson reinforced the benefit of \$15 million for Angel Island renovation yesterday before the House Committee on Government Reform. During his testimony at the Golden Gate Club, Jackson explained how California will gain from a congressional authorization for restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

During the meeting, Jackson spoke about the benefits of the Angel Island Restoration and Preservation Act and the importance of the state's partnership with the National Park Service. Congress approved the legislation on Nov. 16. The bill awaits the president's signature.

"We're thrilled at the support from Congress and we believe it will help us realize our dreams to restore this historic resource," said Jackson. "Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's active support contributed to the legislation's successful passage."

Governor Schwarzenegger earlier this month expressed satisfaction at the congressional passage of the bill.

"This is a big step toward preserving and restoring an important part of our nation's history," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "I am grateful for the support from Congress and applaud the California delegation that worked hard to make this happen for all Americans. For more than 1 million immigrants, Angel Island was their first step to achieving an American dream. This history must be preserved and not forgotten."

Angel Island Immigration Station (AIIS) was the Pacific gateway for immigrants entering the United States between 1910 and 1940. Many of these immigrants were from China, Japan, Russia and other parts of Asia and suffered great challenges to become American citizens.

House Bill 606 authorizes up to \$15 million to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for restoring the Angel Island Immigration Station in the San Francisco Bay, in coordination with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

Angel Island
November 29, 2005
p. 2

The legislation provides an avenue for the state to receive federal funds, beyond existing grants, once funds are made available.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Petaluma) and co-sponsored by Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco). It was passed out of the House Resources Committee under the leadership of Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Tracy) and Resources Ranking Member Nick Rahall of West Virginia.

A similar bill, U.S. Senate Bill 262, was introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein and co-sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI).

AIIS was awarded the status of a National Historic Landmark in 1997 and named one of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." Subsequently, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, the non-profit partner, created a historic three-party state, federal and private partnership agreement to work together to preserve and restore the Immigration Station.

Federal funding under this act shall not exceed 50 percent of the total funds from all sources spent to restore the Angel Island Immigration Station. A plan to restore the site is expected to cost more than \$30 million. About \$16 million has been secured for the project. Of that, \$15 million comes from Proposition 12 a park bond act passed by California voters in 2000. An additional \$500,000 came from federal planning grant, with the remainder having been contributed by philanthropists.

Jackson's testimony is available upon request.

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