

# Delta Council Semi-Annual Meeting

Joint Meeting of the Flood Control and Water  
Resources Committee

Thursday, November 6, 2008

# FY 2009 Water Appropriations

- Senate Committee has passed the bill and it is awaiting floor action.
- House has not yet marked-up a Water Appropriations Bill

# FY 2009 Water Appropriations

- Senator Cochran requests in the FY 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill total \$326, 961,000.
- This Amount includes projects located either within Mississippi (Delta, Coast, Tenn-Tom) or within the Lower Mississippi Valley Division and Mississippi River Tributaries Project.
- Mississippi River and Tributaries is \$125 million over the budget request, but \$22.4 million below FYo8

# FY 2009 Water Appropriations

*Funding to be noted within the Delta Region includes:*

1. Yazoo Backwater - ***\$5 million***
2. Miss River Levee Construction - ***\$63.8 million***
3. Miss River Levee Maintenance - ***\$16.4 million***
4. Miss River Channel Improvement - ***\$50.2 million***
5. Yazoo Basin, Big Sunflower River - ***\$2.3 million***
6. Yazoo Basin, Main Stem - ***\$2.2 million***
7. Yazoo Basin, Reformulation Study - ***\$2.8 million***
8. Yazoo Basin, Greenwood - ***\$1.7 million***
9. Rosedale Harbor - ***\$500,000***
10. Greenville Harbor - ***\$436,000***
11. Vicksburg Harbor - ***\$424,000***



# FY 2009 Water Appropriations

*Other notable Water Appropriations:*

Yazoo River Mouth of Yazoo River

Yazoo Basin Main Stem Construction

Yazoo Basin Backwater (Less Rocky Bayou)

# Yazoo Backwater Project

- Spring 2008 EPA begins veto process
- Senator Cochran and Senator Wicker urge Administration reconsider veto
- Senator Cochran and Senator Wicker meet with EPA Director to get answer as to why EPA is considering the veto
- Senator Cochran contacts Congressional Research Service regarding 404(r) exemption under the Clean Water Act

# 404 (r) exemption

- Project must be authorized before the Clean Water Act
- EIS must be submitted to Congress before appropriations for project.
- EIS must consider dredge material

Congressional Research Service concluded under a hypothetical scenario that if these items above are met, then EPA has no authority under 404(c).

# Future

- Continue to work with levee board to obtain information and best track for project
- Funding for project remains
- Support residents of the Delta in pursuit of promised flood protect