



# Rep. Grace Napolitano

Representing California's 32nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives: Azusa - Baldwin Park - Covina - Duarte - El Monte - Glendora - Industry - Irwindale - La Puente - La Verne - Monrovia - San Dimas - West Covina

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## Transportation Funds Spur Job Growth

At the request of Congresswoman Napolitano, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx visited the City of Industry to survey the Nogales Street Rail Grade Separation Project to witness first-hand the area's need for continued federal investment for the region's transit projects. As the San Gabriel Valley member of the Transportation/Infrastructure Committee, Napolitano is continuing to secure federal funding for these and other local projects which produce jobs in the region while ensuring the safe transport of goods and people:

- Garnered \$30.8 million for Nogales Project, allowing motorists to drive safely under railroads and eliminating their need to wait at the train crossing; will create approx. 2,111 jobs\*
- Requested \$10 million with Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) for Federally funded Project to upgrade & safely merge 57 & 60 Freeways, increasing safety and reducing congestion; will generate approx. 5,100 jobs\*

\*Source: Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority



Rep. Napolitano joined Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Rep. Ed Royce, and members of the Alameda Corridor East at the site of the Nogales Rail Grade Separation Project in the City of Industry.

## Manufacturing Key to San Gabriel Valley Economy/Jobs

Napolitano toured Monrovia-based high-tech companies, Roncelli Plastics and AeroVironment, where new technology is being developed, emphasizing the continued need to increase manufacturing in the region, stating, "American manufacturing means American jobs, so we must encourage more companies to produce goods locally, protecting jobs here at home."

- Roncelli Plastics specializes in computer machining of plastics used for aerospace products in the defense and commercial industries.
- AeroVironment is a leader in unmanned aircraft technology and electric vehicle solutions.

Rep. Napolitano joined 5 Congressional colleagues and 9 global business leaders at the Netherlands Embassy to promote American exports, adding, "The warm reception we received proves we must do more outreach to find global markets for our San Gabriel Valley products." Luke Olsen of Astrophysics, Inc., City of Industry, was able to network with representatives of new potential partners. Employing over 100 workers, it manufactures its products solely in the United States.

**BUSINESSES:** FREE Export Seminar on Thursday, October 23 at the University of La Verne. Help create local jobs. Learn how to increase sales to foreign markets. If you are interested in exporting opportunities for your products, register at [congresswomannapolitano.eventbrite.com](http://congresswomannapolitano.eventbrite.com).

## Commemorating Our Nation's Independence in La Verne



Discussing military issues w/ Veterans Liaison, Hector Elizalde & Marine Sgt (ret) Al Torres, leader of Young Marine Corps of Irwindale.

Napolitano was delighted to join over 11,000 people in the City of La Verne, part of the many San Gabriel Valley 4th of July gatherings. "The City of La Verne does a wonderful job each year getting all of our communities together to commemorate our nation's independence," she said. "The events truly capture the spirit of America, where we have the freedom to pursue our own dreams, raise our families, watch them succeed, and live in the greatest nation on earth." Visit [ci.laverne.ca.us](http://ci.laverne.ca.us) for information on next year's events.

## 2014 Women of the Year

On April 11, 2014, Congresswoman Napolitano honored these 'Unsung Heroines' for exemplary volunteer service to the community:

- Carol A. Facciponti-Malcom**, Citrus Valley Association of Realtors
- Sonia Fernandez**, San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance
- Madeline Escarcega**, East Valley Boys and Girls Club
- Ofelia de Guzman**, St. John Baptist Catholic Church
- Susan P. Davis**, San Dimas Historical Society
- Sylvia E. Chapman**, San Dimas Sheriff's Booster Club
- Vicki Brown**, La Verne Chamber of Commerce
- Maria Rosa "Rose" Berdin**, Old Town Puente Association
- Janice "Jan" Alvarado**, Glendora La Fetra Center
- Shana Sanchez**, Neighborhood Homework House
- Anita Ron**, West Covina Lions Club
- Dr. Kimlin Tam Ashing**, City of Hope
- Joanne Spring**, City of Monrovia
- Patricia Sipos**, Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District
- Willa Reynolds**, Baldwin Park Adult & Community Education
- Maggie Ramirez**, El Monte Television Channel 3
- Dr. Denise Patton**, Kiwanis Club of West Covina
- Denise Gutierrez**, Esperanza Scholarship Foundation
- Dollars for Scholars**
- Ana Gutierrez**, El Monte Promise Foundation
- Mayra Galicia**, The Vet Hunters Project
- Gloria Romero**, Pathfinder Ministry/Office of the Mayor of Azusa
- Janet Wickersham**, Neighborhood Homework House
- Beatriz Sandoval**, L.A. Voice
- Vicke Thrower**, Monrovia Unified School District

# Congress Passes Landmark Water Infrastructure Bill

On May 20, the House passed H.R. 3080 (the most significant jobs bill passed this Congress), the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA). “This water infrastructure bill is a product of strong bipartisan cooperation, and our entire nation will benefit,” said Napolitano, the ranking CA Member and a conferee on the Committee drafting the final bill. “It is a job producer that will be a great asset to local water agencies in delivering much needed assistance to languishing water projects.”

## Local Impact of WRRDA:

- Instructs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with communities to capture more water in Corps dams, such as Santa Fe & Whittier Narrows Dams, and recharge groundwater basins
- Improves water supply/levee vegetation management in arid regions like California
- Allows local water agencies, such as the So Cal Water Replenishment District & the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, to pay for increased water storage capabilities at Corps dams
- Continues R&D on expensive invasive species threats, such as quagga mussels, shore crab, and certain algae, presently costing water agencies millions to remove
- More equitable distribution of funds for LA & Long Beach Ports, ensuring greater return of money earned by ports to CA
- Provides for low interest loans to local governments to fund stormwater compliance projects such as runoff



*Appointed a conferee to the WRRDA Conference Committee, Napolitano signs final version of the bill in May.*

mitigation/environmental sustainability projects; specified by Councils of Government (COG)  
For more info on WRRDA, visit [democrats.transportation.house.gov](http://democrats.transportation.house.gov).

## Water & Power Subcommittee Ranking Member Napolitano leads efforts to combat drought in California to develop a sustainable water supply for So Cal:

- Introduced H.R. 4258, the SECURE Water Amendments Act in March to promote funding for local water agencies to increase water recycling, creating jobs and preparing communities for future drought cycles.
- Co-authored H.R. 4239, the Emergency Drought Relief Act, to maximize water supplies for CA without waiving existing environmental laws.

## Napolitano Rallies Emergency Assistance for Mudslide Affected Areas

In March, Rancho Vasquez, an organic avocado farm in Azusa, was hit by a mudslide caused by heavy rains in the aftermath of the Colby Fire disaster. Napolitano toured the affected areas and called federal, state, and local agencies—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CA Office of Emergency Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), L.A. County Dept. of Public Works, Supervisor Gloria Molina’s office—for emergency assistance to ensure smooth collaboration. The Congresswoman’s El Monte District Office aided Rancho Vasquez in seeking USDA assistance for the destroyed avocado trees and irrigation system. To prevent future catastrophes, Napolitano called on government agencies to work with the cities on permanent debris flow management solutions.



*Napolitano analyzes the aftermath of the Colby Fire disaster with Rancho Vasquez owner, Art Vasquez.*

The County Office of Public Works is currently drafting a Flood Hazard Study to diminish future impact. For further information regarding emergency assistance, visit [oes.ca.gov](http://oes.ca.gov) or [lacounty.gov](http://lacounty.gov).

## Use Your Water Wisely!

We are in **extreme drought**; it is **everyone’s** responsibility to conserve water:

- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways & sidewalks, save up to 150 gal each time
  - Fix leaky faucets – drips can waste hundreds of gal/yr
  - Run washing machine and dish washer only when full
  - Turn off water when brushing teeth
  - Shorten your showers – just 1 minute less can save up to 5 gal per day
  - Check sprinklers for leaks and drips
  - Upgrade with water efficient showerheads & toilets
- To learn more about CA’s drought, visit <http://drought-monitor.unl.edu/Home/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>, [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com), or [saveourH2O.org](http://saveourH2O.org).



## Successful Appeal Allows Baldwin Park Resident to Remain at Home

Sally Villarreal (Baldwin Park), who suffers from Systemic Scleroderma Raynaud Syndrome, a debilitating skin condition had both her disability claim and appeal denied before she contacted the Napolitano’s District Office for assistance. Her case was successfully reconsidered and expedited by the Social Security Administration after a complete and thorough review of its merits. “The assistance the office of Congresswoman Napolitano provided me changed my life and that of my entire family,” said Sally. “After more than two years and many doors closed on us with no one wanting to assist us, it took less than two months for the District Office to resolve my case.” Sally received retroactive pay dating to 2011 and has since moved into her own home, remaining in Baldwin Park. If you or someone you know needs assistance, visit [napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/help-federal-agency](http://napolitano.house.gov/serving-you/help-federal-agency).

## Serving Those Who Served Us

In order to receive his disability claim, Veteran Jackson Smith (La Puente) requested help with filing paperwork to prove competency in managing his financial affairs. Due to assistance from staff at Napolitano's El Monte District Office, Jackson's claim was quickly processed by the VA, and he received \$69,000 in retroactive pay for treatments for disabilities caused by Agent Orange. "I just can't thank Congresswoman Napolitano enough," said Jackson. "This situation really stressed me out. I really feel badly for other veterans going through what I went through." If you or someone you know needs assistance with VA claims, call Hector Elizalde at 626-350-0150.

### New Facilities for San Gabriel Valley Veterans

- **"Almost Home" House** of West Covina provides safe transitional housing for homeless women veterans and their children.
- **East San Gabriel Valley ROP/TC** offers direct assistance from a VA representative to meet veterans' educational and employment needs.
- **El Monte Veterans Village** is an affordable housing project for veterans in LA, offering services such as, case management, job training, family reunification, legal services, health & wellness programs, and support groups. For more info on these facilities, visit [napolitano.house.gov/issue/veterans](http://napolitano.house.gov/issue/veterans).

### Napolitano Hosts 3rd Annual Veterans Forum



Local volunteers assist veterans at Annual Forum in Azusa.

On July 26, over 150 Veterans from the 32nd District and surrounding area registered at the National Guard Armory in Azusa, received updates on pending claims, and were seen by the VA Mobile Clinic for physical exams and psychiatric evaluations. "Our veterans and their families have sacrificed so much for our country, and we must ensure timely access to the benefits they have earned," Napolitano said. Attendees also participated in workshops on mental health, women warriors, education & financial planning, and homeless veterans. Visit [napolitano.house.gov/resources-returning-veterans](http://napolitano.house.gov/resources-returning-veterans) for more info.

### 32nd District Mental Health Consortium Fosters Networking Opportunities

40 local mental health professionals and advocates gathered in June at City of Hope in Duarte, to network and raise veterans' mental health awareness. "Congresswoman Napolitano's Mental Health Consortium gives local residents a real understanding of all the available resources for them and their families," said Alfredo Larios, District Chief for the LA County Dept. of Mental Health." Joe Leal, founder of the Vet Hunters Project, added, "As long as we have homeless vets, we will continue to create mental health resources and collaborations to serve veterans at the highest level." The Consortium meets quarterly to discuss and share mental health related information regarding, but not limited to, youth, seniors, veterans, local and state health care resources, advising the Congresswoman on public mental health policy and related issues. For more info, contact 626-350-0150.

### Capitol Goes Lime Green for May Mental Health Month



Napolitano promotes mental health awareness with members of her Mental Health Task Force: Metta World Peace, Brandon & Michi Marshall, and Jill Diamond on Capitol Hill.

Members of Congress, members of Rep. Napolitano's Mental Health Task Force, and advocates joined forces to fight stigma and raise awareness, recognizing May as National Mental Health Awareness Month. Four briefings were held in Washington, D.C., covering children, Native American youth, military & veterans, and LGBT youth. Visit [napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/may-mental-health-awareness-month](http://napolitano.house.gov/legislative-work/may-mental-health-awareness-month) for more info. National Mental Health Crisis Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK.

### Sunburst Academy Graduates Local Cadets

Four San Gabriel Valley youngsters graduated from the Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy in Los Alamitos on June 14: Antonio Robles, La Puente; Ariana Gonzalez, Industry; Bryan Banquells, Duarte; and Oscar Heredia, West Covina. Napolitano congratulated them and the other 194 cadets, adding, "You have a bright future, and you must continue to believe in yourselves." She co-chairs the Congressional Youth Challenge Caucus with Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), and both recently passed an amendment to a Defense bill to protect funding for the Youth Challenge Program and create 2 new programs in California to expand services to our forgotten youth. Challenge is a program run by the National Guard



Napolitano urges 32nd District youth graduates to continue their education with skills learned at Sunburst.

cadre using military discipline and education to assist at-risk youth complete high school to emerge better armed with knowledge and training for success. For info on program, visit [www.ngyf.org](http://www.ngyf.org).

# Updates from Congress

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*Grace F. Napolitano*  
M.C.  
PRSRT STD

\*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

## 2014 Art Contest

On May 3, a ceremony honoring the winners was held at the Walker House in San Dimas. "Thank you to all of the supportive teachers and parents for encouraging these young artists to express themselves creatively," Napolitano said. "We congratulate all of our students and are so proud to have their artwork representing our district." Nhi Pham of Arroyo High School won 1st place with her work, "Windy" and flew with family in June to Washington, joining fellow artists from across the country. "Windy" will be on display in the Capitol for a year. 2nd place winner Julie Hang of El Monte High School's "George Washington" will hang in Napolitano's Washington Office, and Anessa Machuca of Northview High School's 3rd place "Love At First Sight" will be displayed in the El Monte Office. Jarely Bueno of Gladstone High School, an exceptional artist with a visual impairment, received a Special Recognition Award for her piece, "Psycho."



*Pictured from left to right: 2nd place winner, Julie Hang; 3rd place winner, Anessa Machuca; 1st place winner, Nhi Pham.*

### Judge's Choice

Ruby Mendiola, Arroyo High School. "Midnight Howl"  
Daniel Chan, Northview High School. Untitled  
Marilynn Christine Chavez, Sierra Vista High School.  
"School is Important to Me"

### Honorable Mention

Valeria Saucedo, Sierra Vista High School. "Enchainment"  
Raymond Phung, Sierra Vista High School. "Lizard"  
Julie Hang, El Monte High School. "Self-Portrait"  
Airene Cruz, Arroyo High School. Untitled  
Evelyn Alvarado, Sierra Vista High School. "Lost Edges"  
Karina Vega, Northview High School. "Speak up Now"

## 32nd Congressional District Constituent Survey - Share Your Views

What do you think is...

1. The top issue facing you and your family? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Most important problem facing our country?

A) Economy B) Unemployment/Jobs C) Immigration D) High Cost of Healthcare E) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Most important government service for you or your family? Please rank from 1-7 with "1" being the most important.

Medicare  Medicaid  Social Security  Defense  Public Schools & Universities  
 Water & Transportation Infrastructure  Veterans

4. Should US government dedicate more funds for foreign conflicts?

A) Yes, funds for Military Aid B) Yes, funds for Humanitarian Aid C) No, funds should stay in US for local projects D) No opinion E) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Any additional comments or views: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you in advance for your participation!**

Please mail: Rep. Grace Napolitano,

1610 LHOB, Washington, D.C., 20515 **OR**

take online survey at [napolitano.house.gov](http://napolitano.house.gov)

**EMAIL ADDRESS** - write below to receive the results of this poll, e-news, and other updates:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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