

THE BECERRA BULLETIN

CONGRESSMAN XAVIER BECERRA'S NEWS AND VIEWS FROM WASHINGTON TO LOS ANGELES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a continued effort to bring news and relevant information about our federal government back to his home district in Los Angeles, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), the only congressional member from Southern California who is on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you "The Becerra Bulletin," a newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discourse about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

BY THE NUMBERS

KATRINA'S DEVASTATING WAKE

First and foremost we recognize the emotional and physical devastation created when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast. The lives lost, the homes destroyed, the slow response by our government – all eye-opening ... all unacceptable ... all tragic and humbling. But Katrina's destruction persists. A stronger, more fiscally responsible federal government would have been able to bear the brunt of this disaster, because helping rebuild what was lost is the absolute right thing to do. However, due to previous irresponsible economic and budgeting policies pursued by this administration, we find our government swimming in red ink, requiring us to go further into debt to do what is right. The result: we all pay dearly in the end, and not just with our taxes, but at the pump, in the supermarkets and in various other sectors of life as well.

Here's what we know:

\$62,300,000,000 = What Congress has spent for the relief and recovery efforts thus far

\$200,000,000,000 = Total estimated cost (as predicted by budget analysts) for the relief and recovery efforts

\$507,000,000,000 = Current projected federal budget deficit for FY05 (this does not account for moneys spent for the relief efforts)

\$2.61 = Average national price for a gallon of gas on August 29 (\$0.74 higher than one year before)

\$3.07 = Average national price for a gallon of gas on September 5

\$2.93 = Average price for a gallon of gas in Los Angeles on September 26

SHORT TAKES – WASHINGTON

31st DISTRICT COMMUNITY LEADERS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Rep. Becerra joined his constituents, Angela Sanbrano, executive director of the Central American Resource Center, and Michael Velasquez, chief executive officer of Padres Contra el Cancer, at the Sixth Annual Democratic National Hispanic Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. on September 17. Nominated by Rep. Becerra, these two outstanding community leaders joined hundreds of Latino leaders from across the nation to network with members of Congress in this one day conference.

"It was quite an experience to be standing that close to all those elected officials," Velasquez said. "It was a privilege and extremely worthwhile to be in our nation's capital advocating for what is truly important."

Angela and Michael had the opportunity to interact not only with their own member of Congress, but also with Senators Clinton and Lieberman, among others. Angela found it important to have access to the senators and discuss the issues with them directly. Congratulations to our community leaders, and thank you for representing the 31st District so well in Washington, D.C.

SHORT TAKES – LOS ANGELES

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS GET A FEDERAL BOOST

During his visit to Egret Park in Elysian Valley this summer, Rep. Becerra announced that North East Trees was the recipient of a \$435,000 federal appropriations grant for fiscal year 2005. The federal funds, which Rep. Becerra worked diligently to secure for this worthy nonprofit organization, are designated to expand North East Trees' Youth Environmental Steward Program for at-risk youth.

The Youth Environmental Steward program serves to instruct young people on the importance of preservation of green space, sustainable design, and encourage continuing education. The youth environmental stewards in attendance at Egret Park were eager to show off their newly acquired skills and gave Rep. Becerra a tree pruning demonstration, as well as proper landscaping tips.

For more information, please contact Steve Haro, 202.225.6235.



Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California
 Committee on Ways and Means
 Subcommittee on Human Resources & Subcommittee on Social Security

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1910 Sunset Blvd., #560, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213.483.1425
 CAPITOL OFFICE: 1119 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202.225.6235
 becerra.house.gov

