



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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October 24, 2014

Keeping A Lifeline Open

As it flows through the basin on its way to the Pacific Ocean, the Los Angeles River carries with it sediment and refuse washed into street drains from thousands of miles of roads throughout Southern California. In Long Beach, where the river empties into Queensway Channel, this sediment settles to the bottom of the channel, slowly building up grain by grain.

These deposits, especially in the Queensway Channel, can become such a problem that the operations of the regular Catalina Island ferries and the public boat launches along the channel are threatened.

The ferries are a lifeline not only to the many residents of Catalina Island who commute to the mainland, but they are also one of the main carriers of tourists to the island—the major source of income and revenue for the island's businesses and residents.

To remove these build-ups of sediment in the channel, dredging—managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—must be performed on a regular basis.

To make matters worse, for many years, funds had not been made available to the Army Corps to fully address the problem, resulting in even more sediment build-up over time.

To assure that this dredging problem is dealt with, I have worked hard with the Army Corps, the City of Long Beach, the City of Avalon, and many others over the past eighteen months to secure funding to guarantee that the channel is kept open.

In the FY2014 budget appropriations process, I was able to help secure \$5 million for dredging of the channel. I'm very pleased to announce that a contract to proceed with the work has already been awarded and work is scheduled to begin very soon to keep this important lifeline for so many people operating.

On The Hill

The Need For A Surgeon General

With the expanding Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the recent diagnosis of Ebola cases here in the United States, it is vital that the American people have a Surgeon General to help educate the public about the disease and

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Same-sex marriages are now legal in nearly 30 states. How should this issue be determined on a national level?

The Supreme Court or Congress should affirm or pass legislation making same-sex marriage legal nationwide

Individual states should be allowed to decide for themselves

The Supreme Court or Congress should ban same-sex marriage nationwide

[If you have a problem, click here to open survey in a new window](#)

how to best protect their health.

In addition to being the federal government's leading spokesperson on matters of public health, and the principle public health and science advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Surgeon General is also the overall head of the Commissioned Corps, a 6,500-member group of health professionals who are on call 24 hours a day, and can be dispatched by the Secretary of HHS or the Assistant Secretary for Health in the event of a public health emergency.

However, this position has been vacant for over one year and the Senate has yet to confirm the highly-respected Dr. Vivek Murthy since he was nominated by President Obama in November 2013.

Dr. Murthy is supported by the nation's preeminent health and physician groups, including the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Diabetes Association, and over 50 other organizations.

This is why I have joined with more than a dozen of my House colleagues in sending a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell urging them to expedite the confirmation of Dr. Murthy.

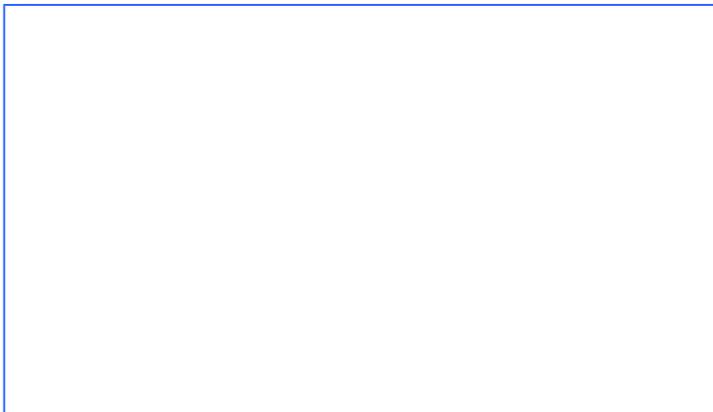
At this critical time, the American people need their Surgeon General, who—as the nation's leading public health official—can provide the American people with sound advice and help combat misinformation.

In The 47th District

Oxford Academy In Cypress

It was my distinct honor to be asked to introduce California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson on his recent visit to the Oxford Preparatory Academy in Cypress. Oxford is part of the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) and Superintendent Torlakson was visiting the campus to honor students from throughout the district who were awarded the first in a series of grants from the newly established AUHSD Student Service Foundation (SSF).

The SSF motto is "Students Making a Difference Through Service, Kindness, and Problem Solving." It was established with a \$25,000 grant from the school district's foundation to promote purposeful civic engagement, community building, and problem solving. Students seeking the grants learn the basics of grant writing, including developing plans, rationales, budgets, timelines, and evaluations.





The awardees are selected by student representatives from each of the nine high schools in the district, who sit on the SFF Board of Directors. Congratulations to all of the winners!

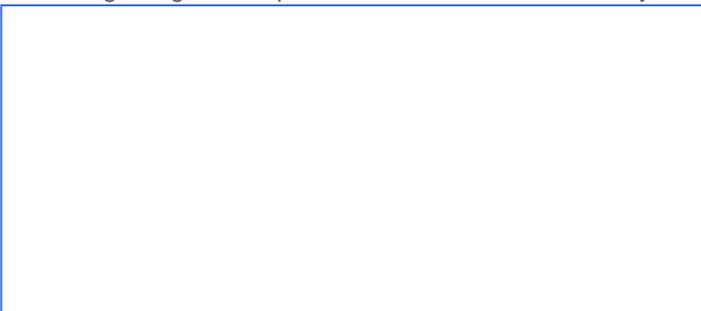
LB Housing Authority Visit

One of the most important roles my office plays in the 47th District is assisting constituents when they need help working with government agencies. In the course of this work, my staff and I have come into contact with many amazing and dedicated workers at all levels of government.

I recently visited with the workers at the Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach and let them know how much my office and my constituents appreciate their hard work helping to provide financial and technical assistance services to low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Long Beach. Everyone deserves to live with dignity in decent, safe, and sanitary housing conditions.



I took the opportunity to present each of the employees with Congressional certificates recognizing their important service to our community.





Recently, I was able to offer my support to several Housing Authority grant applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and I am proud to say that two of those grants were recently awarded. One of these was for nearly \$270,000 to help with low-income housing, and the other, specifically for the Housing Authority's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, was for nearly \$470,000. With these additional resources, they will be able to help even more Long Beach residents.

Rossmoor Elementary Honored

I recently attended the Los Alamitos Education Foundation State of the District event where I presented Dr Jeffrey Barke from the Los Alamitos Board of Education (center), Rossmoor Elementary Principal Kiva Spiratos (right), and Los Alamitos School District Superintendent Dr. Sherry Kropp (not pictured) with a Congressional Certificate honoring Rossmoor Elementary School as a National Blue Ribbon School.



The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Congratulations to Rossmoor Elementary!

Congress U

Capitol Flags

Did you know that the most flags ever flown over the [US Capitol](#) in one day was 10,471 flags on July 4, 1976 to celebrate America's Bicentennial?

Thanks to the Capitol Flag Program, members of the public can purchase flags that have flown over the Capitol.

Since 1937 the Architect of the Capitol has run the flag program allowing members of the public to purchase flags flown over the Capitol through their Representative's or Senator's offices. The program was so successful that an official Flag Office was created in the 1950s.

The Architect's office fulfills all flag requests, flying the requested flags on special poles at the Capitol on every day of the year, weather permitting, excluding Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Since 1976, after it is flown over the U.S. Capitol, each flag is issued a keepsake Certificate of Authenticity by the Architect of the Capitol. Currently, the Architect of the Capitol fulfills more than 100,000 flag requests from Members of Congress annually, with the number of requests and the popularity of the Capitol Flag Program growing steadily each year.

If you are interested in ordering a flag for a loved one or for a special occasion, you can order your own Capitol flag through my website by [clicking here](#).

Last Week's Poll

Due to a technical problem, responses to last week's poll were not registered. The same question is being run in this edition. I apologize for any inconvenience.

Thank you,



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