



For Immediate Release: May 25, 2005

Barrow Announces House Approval of \$300,000 for Augusta Area Flood Damage Reduction and Prevention

Funding will complete the Raes Creek Feasibility Study and Initiate the First Phase of Flood Control Design for Rocky Creek and the Augusta Canal

Washington, DC - The U.S. House of Representatives late last night passed the 2006 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill. Included in the measure was a request by 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) for \$300,000 to fund the completion of the Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility study of Raes Creek. The money will also be used to initiate the "Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design," or PED phase, of the proposed flood control measures along the Augusta Canal and Rocky Creek basins.

"As Augusta continues to grow, we need to make sure that we're taking all the necessary steps to protect local citizens from the threat and expensive damage of flooding," Barrow said. "This money will help continue the work that the Army Corps of Engineers is doing to study and implement comprehensive flood control measures throughout the area."

Once the Raes Creek Feasibility Study is complete, the PED phase would begin implementing the following flood control measures along the Augusta Canal and Rocky Creek basins:

- Rocky Creek Basin:
 - Two detention basins to collect and retain flood waters for a slower and delayed release;
 - Ecosystem restoration of the widened channel to restore the natural channel characteristics and to increase flow capacity;
 - A small, approximately 4 foot high levee, several hundred feet long, to protect an area upstream of Nixon Street;
 - The relocation of five homes out of the flood plain, and the construction of a small green space in that area; and
 - A 2.61 mile long recreation trail along the south side of Rocky Creek.

- Augusta Canal:
 - Raise the height of flood levees in downtown Augusta to provide for a higher level of protection;

- Provide for the remote control of some of the flood gates along the Augusta Canal to quickly keep excess water from entering the upper end of the Augusta Canal; and
- The construction of a 750-foot long spillway on the upper end of the Augusta Canal that would re-direct rising water levels into the Savannah River, rather than downtown.

The 2006 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill now moves to the United States Senate for further consideration and approval

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