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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Applauds Nearly \$65 Million in Federal Funds to Shore Up Projects in Dredging, Flood Control and Beach Protection

Gov. Christie Whitman today applauded members of the Joint Appropriations Conference Committee and announced victory for New Jersey as the committee approved funding for vital projects in port dredging, shore protection and flood control.

"With the help of the New Jersey congressional delegation, we have won our battle to ensure that we receive critical federal funds for important New Jersey projects. Funds that will ensure the vitality of our port industry, provide protection for our clean and pristine shoreline, and arm New Jerseyans with greater protection against devastating floods," said Gov. Whitman.

"The Clinton budget attempted to cut millions of dollars out of vital New Jersey projects and underfunded our priorities. I have fought long and hard along with members of New Jersey's congressional delegation to defeat the Clinton administration's efforts to cut critical funding for our state," said Gov. Whitman. "Today we have won a crucial victory. Tomorrow, and in the future, we will continue to work to ensure that New Jersey receives its fair share of federal dollars."

Gov. Whitman sent a letter to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees in July, urging them to maintain desired funding levels for coastal infrastructure and flood and navigation projects in the FY1999 budget.

The federal budget now provides more than \$36 million in funds for port dredging projects, including \$30 million for the dredging of the Kill Van Kull. The President's budget originally included.

The budget now provides more than \$12 million in funding for shore protection and beach replenishment projects, including \$10 million for the Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet project. This funding will supplement the \$15 million that is available each year in the New Jersey state budget for shore protection projects. The federal budget also provides more than \$16 million in funding for flood control projects to help shore up vulnerable underlying areas of the state.

Gov. Whitman congratulated members of the New Jersey congressional delegation and applauded them for their efforts in working to preserve funding for these projects.

The House and Senate are expected to give final approval to the Conference Committee bill on Monday.