

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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SPENDING BILL FUNDS GREAT BEND, HALSTEAD FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

Washington, DC -- The omnibus spending bill, expected to be approved by the Senate today, will provide \$2.6 million for construction starts on flood control projects in Great Bend and Halstead proposed by Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

"This year's heavy rains in many parts of Kansas show the magnitude of flood problems in our state," said Sen. Dole. "While it's not possible to fund flood control projects everywhere, the Great Bend and Halstead funding will help areas where we have a long and consistent history of flooding problems."

The Great Bend project was authorized more than 20 years ago - by the 1965 Flood Control Act - and would cost approximately \$45 million when completed. Dole said \$1.5 million will be appropriated by this year's spending bill.

The Halstead project is authorized in the 1986 Water Resources Development Act - still under negotiation by House and Senate conferees - and is expected to cost \$7 million when completed. This year's appropriation would be \$1.1 million, according to Dole.

In mid-1985, Sen. Dole proposed start-up funding for the Great Bend and Halstead projects in supplemental appropriations legislation. However no new projects, beyond those approved in the previous year's regular appropriations bill, were accepted at that time. Dole then persuaded the president to include funding for the projects in the Administration's 1987 budget proposal.

Sen. Dole explained, "I went to the president and sought his support for an Administration request for initial construction funding. He agreed, and because the president asked for the funds - originally \$2.6 million for Great Bend and \$1.1 million for Halstead - we were able to get the ball rolling."

"After lengthy negotiations, and despite Gramm-Rudman constraints, we've been able to get \$1.5 million for Great Bend and \$1.1 million for Halstead. This funding will be a good start in getting these projects underway, and construction should be able to begin soon," said Sen. Dole.