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SAN BERNARDINO

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**The Week in Washington D.C. – January 21, 2013**

As the 113th Congress gets underway and President Obama begins his second term, the nation's counties are at significant financial risk depending on the outcome of the high-level debt ceiling negotiations between the President and Congress. While the New Year's Day deal avoided the fiscal cliff, the agreement was only a temporary solution. New deadlines are looming, including the new sequestration trigger date, the expiration of the current continuing appropriations resolution, and the date on which the U.S. could potentially default on its debt obligations.

Over the next two weeks, House and Senate Committees will hold organizational and initial policy hearings.

**Monday, January 21:**

Congress met for the Inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

**Tuesday, January 22:**

**HR 307** – *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act*. This bill reauthorizes and modifies several medical disaster and emergency response programs meant to facilitate the development of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear medical countermeasures. The bill reauthorizes the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement at a level of \$642 million annually through FY 2017 (\$182 million less than previously authorized levels). The agreement, administered by the CDC, provides grants to state and local governments in order to enhance local response infrastructure and better facilitate coordination between federal and local jurisdictions. The bill authorizes \$375 million per year through FY 2017 for regional and state preparedness grants. Funds provided for this program would be used to boost the response and surge capacity of state and local authorities so they can better work at a regional level to respond to pandemic influenza and other biological, chemical or nuclear events. *The House approved this bill January 22, 2013. This is the only bill expected to be considered under suspension of the rules this week.*

**HR 235** - *The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act*. House Energy and Commerce Committee – This bill would provide demonstration grants to states with a shortage of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to streamline state-licensing requirements for military veteran EMTs to prevent unnecessary duplication in training. *The Committee advanced the bill on January 22, 2013.*

**Wednesday, January 23:**

**HR 325** – *No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013*. The House is expected to consider a draft joint resolution to raise the debt limit by an amount sufficient to allow continued financing of government operations and the legislation temporarily suspends the debt limit through May 18, 2013. The Treasury Department hit the limit of its borrowing authority at the end of December and is currently using "extraordinary measures" to finance government operations — but says it needs an increase in its borrowing authority by mid- to late-February to avoid default. To prompt the Senate to consider and adopt a budget, House leaders say this measure will withhold the pay of lawmakers if they fail to adopt a budget.

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*