



ASSEMBLYWOMAN SALLY LIEBER
22ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN LIEBER, SAN JOSÉ STATE STUDENTS & FACULTY ANNOUNCE PUBLIC HEARING ON POST-KATRINA CONDITIONS

(Sacramento, CA) – Assemblywoman Sally J. Lieber (D-San José) today announced that she is convening a public hearing on post-Katrina conditions and the implications for California and the nation. The hearing is cosponsored by the San José State University Chapter of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project and the San José State Sociology Department, Community Change Concentration. Other co-sponsors include State Senator Ellen Corbett, Assemblymember John Laird, Assemblymember Ira Ruskin and Community Homeless Alliance Ministry.

The hearing will be held on:

Friday, March 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Room 229
150 E. San Fernando Street, San José

The purpose of the event is to hear from San José State students and faculty who traveled to the Gulf Coast region in January to speak with residents about post-Katrina recovery efforts. Twenty-five SJSU students joined over 100 other students from 15 colleges and universities across the nation as part of “Louisiana Winter,” a component of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project.

The Project was initiated by Professor Scott Myers-Lipton and SJSU students to raise awareness of the continuing crisis and neglect in the region. “We were angered about what we saw and heard in Louisiana and Mississippi. The lack of rebuilding was stunning,” said Myers-Lipton. “We’re calling for federal legislation, the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, to create 100,000 jobs for residents to rebuild their lives and communities.”

Assemblywoman Lieber, Speaker Pro Tempore of the California State Assembly, is sponsoring the hearing because **“we need to hear and learn from the experiences of the Gulf Coast residents. I’m proud and inspired by the commitment of the San Jose Staté students – they are serving as the voice of the residents and conscience of our nation. The Katrina tragedy sounds a cautionary note for the ability of all levels of government to respond in times of great emergency.”**

The Louisiana Winter visit and this hearing are only two aspects of the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project campaign. Students are also sponsoring summits on college campuses throughout the country. San José State’s “National Post-Katrina College Summit” will take place the week of April 9-14. As Tasha Easton, a SJSU student organizer, recently stated, “We are the richest nation in the world; yet we continue to have Americans from the Gulf Coast deprived of shelter, employment, and the faith of their government. The Post-Katrina College Summit is part of our campaign to change this.”

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