

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE

Dear Friend:

In a few short weeks, President-elect Barack Obama will be inaugurated as our 44th President. Congress also begins a new session in early January. The new President and Congress will face major challenges, including the most severe recession in decades, two wars, and the need for healthcare reform.

I will be working closely with the new Administration to craft solutions to these challenges. It is clear that we need to stimulate the economy, bring our troops home from Iraq quickly and responsibly, and develop alternative sources of energy. While the nation faces unprecedented challenges, 2009 will present a great opportunity for Congress and the Obama Administration to implement much-needed reforms.

In order to represent you well, I need to know your opinions on national issues. On Thursday, January 29, I will be holding a Telephone Town Hall, where I will hear from you about your concerns and answer your questions. Please see the back of this brochure for details.

Working in Washington on national legislation is only part of my job. As always, please contact my office if we can help you with any federal agencies.

Sincerely,



BRAD SHERMAN
Your Congressman

Congressman BRAD SHERMAN
TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

**PARTICIPATE IN A
CONGRESSIONAL
TOWN HALL –
FROM YOUR
HOME**

On **Thursday,**
January 29,
Congressman
Sherman will hold a

“Telephone Town Hall” meeting from **7:00-8:30 p.m. (PST)**. A Telephone Town Hall operates like a large-scale conference call, where you will have a chance to hear from Congressman Sherman and ask him questions about major federal issues. To participate in the discussion, and listen to what other Valley residents have to say, call the toll-free number, **1-877-229-8493 (Pin# 13402)**, during the Town Hall.

For details, visit our webpage:
BradSherman.house.gov

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M.C.
PRSRT-STD

Official Business

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**TELEPHONE
TOWN HALL
JANUARY 29TH**

See back for details.



**CONGRESSMAN
BRAD SHERMAN**

REPORT TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN. WORKING FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY.

THE \$700 BILLION WALL STREET BAILOUT

In September, the Bush Administration came to Congress with a plan to use \$700 billion in taxpayer funds to purchase the “toxic assets” of Wall Street firms, a proposal that one expert dubbed “cash for trash.” Their Bailout plan included no effective limits on how the



money could be spent, no meaningful limits on compensation for the executives of bailed-out firms, and nothing to prevent the funds from being used to buy toxic assets from foreign firms and governments.

Congressman Sherman

opposed the Bush Administration plan, and proposed a strong alternative. He is working for measures that will stabilize our credit markets, while helping American homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages.

THE NEW PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PLAN

President-elect Obama has put forward a plan for economic stimulus in 2009. Congressman Sherman will work with the new administration to pass legislation to implement this plan as soon as possible. We need to ensure that the actions taken in early 2009 work fast, but are also self-reversing—as economic conditions improve, we must move to pay off the debt the federal government will incur in 2009.

The plan includes a big investment in America's aging roads, bridges and schools—expenditures that will create or maintain 1 million jobs. Sherman is focused on making sure that Valley projects, like the Orange Line extension, are among the projects funded.

The plan also provides 95% of American working families with a tax cut of \$1,000 to help pump cash back into the economy. Small businesses will receive tax breaks for creating jobs in the U.S., and states such as California facing a budget crunch will receive funds from the federal government to help avoid tax increases and cuts in spending on schools and public safety.

The complete Obama-Biden Administration plan can be viewed at: http://change.gov/agenda/economy_agenda.



HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS & HOMEBUYERS

“Conforming” loans help middle-class families afford their mortgages because they have interest rates that are usually at least 1%-1.25% less than non-conforming (jumbo) loans. Until recently, the conforming loan limit was \$417,000, which is plenty for a home in most parts of the country, but far below the cost of most Valley homes.



In early 2008, Congressman Sherman successfully fought for an increase in the conforming loan limit and FHA loan limit, to \$729,750 for areas like the San Fernando

Valley where housing costs are high. However, the \$729,750 limit was temporary, and the conforming loan limit declined to \$625,500 on January 1, 2009. Sherman is working to increase the limit back to \$729,750, permanently.

Congressman Sherman is committed to helping homeowners struggling to make their mortgage payments. Last summer, Sherman helped pass the *HOPE for Homeowners Act*, but the voluntary loan modification process contained in that Act has not been implemented well. Congressman Sherman will work with the Obama Administration to fix these problems and create an effective mortgage modification program for homeowners who play by the rules.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Congressman Sherman's Valley office has helped thousands of constituents with Veterans benefits, Social Security and Medicare, visas, passports, IRS problems, and tours of the Capitol and other Washington attractions. Whether you are seeking assistance for a victim of the fires, or need help with any federal agency, please call us at (818) 501-9200.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Congressman Sherman has consistently earned a 100% rating from the Sierra Club for his voting record in Congress. He is committed to working with President-elect Obama to pass policies that will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Sherman supports science-



based legislation to fight global warming while creating millions of new green jobs and building a clean energy economy. This legislation should ensure 10% of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25% by 2025.

Congressman Sherman is working for policies to protect our oceans, rivers and wetlands, and to ensure that the water we drink is clean. Sherman is working locally to expand recreational facilities in the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area to include more sports fields, picnic areas and walking paths. He has secured nearly \$5 million for the improvements being made now in the basin.

HELP FOR FIRE VICTIMS

This fall, three destructive fires struck the North San Fernando Valley, destroying over 750 buildings and burning over 30,000 acres from Chatsworth to Lake View Terrace.

Congressman Sherman pushed to get the fires declared a National Disaster so that fire victims could benefit from federal aid.



Congressman Brad Sherman and his staff visited the shelters to inform fire victims of assistance programs administered by FEMA, SBA, and other federal agencies.