MONTCLAIR, Calif. (CBS) — The recently passed stimulus package is designed to help create jobs. Here in California, experts say that's good news for the construction business.

What used to be a common site in California is becoming rare -- a construction crew working on a project. In fact, the unemployment rate for California's construction workers is estimated to be about 20 percent.

"We need help from Washington; I believe we need help from the state," said Matt Pim of the Riverside Construction Company.

It appears that the construction industry is going to get a huge boost from the economic stimulus package. A projection from the White House on Thursday listed a projected almost 400,000 jobs for California and a fair share of $29 billion for roadway construction.

"I think we're all sitting here wondering how much is going to be designated towards transportation," Pim said. "The numbers are out there, but what actually ends up happening are probably two different things. And then how much California gets?"

Mayors from cities across California and across the country have submitted lists to Washington with ready-to-go projects that they want stimulus package money to fund. The list is long.

"There is at least, that I know of, a dozen grade separations (bridges) that are on the books, either ready to come out to bid or in design and several road-widening projects," Pim said.

Pim's company is building a bridge in Montclair. warns, that even with the stimulus package money is dispersed, it will still be about a year before we notice a real increase in construction activity.

The organization, Stimulus Watch, has posted the list requested projects submitted by California's mayors. You can find a project and add your own comments by clicking the link below.

stimuluswatch.org
Stimulus Could Mean New California Construction Projects - cbs2.com


2/21/2009