

## Nunes secures funds to fight meth

### Rep also gets funds to back innovative ag crimes program

Rep. Devin Nunes voted to give California what it needs to continue the ongoing fight against methamphetamine production.

In a vote, the House of Representatives budgeted \$60 million for methamphetamine enforcement and clean up. Within that amount, the House urged the Department of Justice to make a portion of this money available for the California Methamphetamine Strategy. The request for funds was made by the Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, of which Mr. Nunes is a member.

The funds will be used to combat methamphetamine production and distribution, to target drug 'hot spots,' and to remove and dispose of hazardous materials at clandestine methampheta-

mine labs. Production, trafficking, and use of methamphetamine, an extremely destructive and addictive synthetic drug, continues to be a national problem.

While some of the total \$60 million budgeted for the meth problem will be used for training and technical assistance, other funds may be awarded on a competitive basis to those state and local communities with the largest meth problems and with effective strategies to reduce meth production and abuse. Fresno and Tulare counties have been identified as a high-traffic area for methamphetamine and will likely benefit from the grant programs.

At the request of Mr. Nunes, the House also urged administration officials to make a portion of the \$615 million available under the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Pro-



gram available to Tulare County's innovative rural agricultural crime project, known as ACTION (Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operations Network).

The funds are meant to be used to continue the project and to develop the "Light Speed Project" which will digitize agricultural crime

reports. The monies could be used to develop a National Resource and Research Center for new technology to fight agricultural crime.

Both measures will be considered in the Senate version of the 2004 budget, and must be signed by the President for approval.

## Water cont. 'd from page one

flood control, irrigation, protecting wildlife and recharging our groundwater for use by our residents."

Among the requests Mr. Nunes made that were approved in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill were:

- \$2 million to study the feasibility of building a dam on the upper San Joaquin River

- \$400,000 to continue Phase III of the Kaweah River Delta Corridor Enhance-

ment Study of the Central Valley Project

- \$2.1 million to continue a project to raise the spillway at Success Dam

- \$1 million to enhance Success Dam safety

- \$8.4 million to complete construction of the spillway at Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River

Within the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, the bill urges the Bureau of Reclamation to use \$500,000 to participate with the Orange Cove Irrigation District to evaluate fishery restoration opportunities in the Mill Creek watershed.

- \$1 million for the Regional Drainage Plan for lands in and around the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project



**Workers continue Terminus Dam spillway project.**