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plaint. Consequently, Rep. Nunes cosponsored the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act (H.R. 1731) which is aimed at helping facilitate the prosecution of criminals who steal identities in order to commit felonies. It will create a new and separate crime of “aggravated identity theft” for any person who uses the identity of another person to commit certain felonies, bringing with it an additional mandatory sentence of two years for most felonies and five years for terror-related felonies.

Grant Support

Watershed Initiative

Rep. Nunes understands that “Watershed Coalition Groups” (Coalition Groups) have formed throughout California’s Central Valley in response to state water quality mandates, and will seek to implement watershed programs designed to address water quality issues associated with the discharge of water from irrigated lands and managed wetlands. Each Coalition Group represents a broad geographic area. They are utilizing the organizational concept wherein a particular coalition provides administrative and analytical support for regional groups, which will ultimately utilize monitoring results and be responsible for working with growers to implement watershed practices. The Coalition Groups hope to aggressively implement innovative, market-based water quality management programs, a concept that is consistent with EPA’s desire to test the

potential of market-based approaches to environmental issues generally. Consequently, Rep. Nunes sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri to express strong support for the Watershed Initiative grant program to invest in drainage mapping, targeted monitoring, drainage prioritization and information access in the Central Valley, which will bolster scientists’ and landowners’ understanding of watershed functions.

Water

San Joaquin River

Few river systems have been examined more closely than the San Joaquin. The Friant Water Users Authority and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have conducted recent studies on whether and/or how the San Joaquin River might be restored. Unfortunately, limitations within those studies have failed to adequately address all issues. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Fish and Game have taken principal roles in an important new study of the San Joaquin River downstream from Friant Dam. This new study is expected to provide more concrete answers to the

complexities and impacts of river restoration. Consequently, in a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation, Rep. Nunes encouraged continuation of funding for Phase 1 of the study and a commitment to funding activities in subsequent phases to ensure successful completion of this important study.

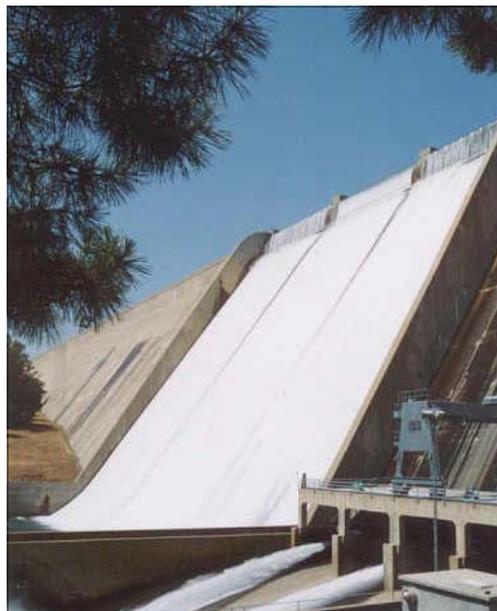
Tales of the San Joaquin – A River Journey

The events surrounding the release of the film “Tales of the San Joaquin – A River Journey” gave Rep. Nunes no choice but to contact Governor Schwarzenegger. In a letter to the governor, Mr. Nunes said that it is appalling that management at CALFED allowed this blatantly biased project to be funded with taxpayer dollars. “From its inception, this project’s goal was to ‘create an evocative picture of the river when it was wild, and imagining what it might look like

in the future when it is restored,” the letter said. “Based on this quote from the filmmaker’s own grant proposal, it is easily inferred that the primary goal of this film is to convince the public that Friant Dam should be breached thereby leaving the entire economy of the San Joaquin Valley’s east-side in shambles.”

Proving this point, the end of the film indicates that the current lawsuit between the Bay Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Bureau of Reclamation will accomplish this task. This film became the centerpiece of a fundraiser for the Bay Institute and NRDC in San Francisco before the general public was even allowed to see the video.

“The funds raised at the film premiere will directly support these organizations’ lawsuit against the Federal government - clearly a politically motivated activity,” the letter continued. “Actions such as this documentary are unacceptable and should not be tolerated. CALFED should be fostering cooperation among all stakeholders for the betterment of the state rather than encouraging divisiveness, which is counterproductive to the program’s mission. If these types of activities continue to occur, we respectfully urge you to consider new management at CALFED that would be a better steward of taxpayer dollars.”



Friant Dam at Millerton Lake