

## Legislative work encompasses many issues

### Agriculture

#### Pesticides

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently considering new regulations to clarify the pesticide consultation rule. Currently, when registering or re-registering pesticides, the EPA is required to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service and multiple other agencies if there are Endangered Species Act (ESA) concerns. However, the rules are vague and have left the EPA open to lawsuits over the proper amounts of consultation, even when the lawsuits did not claim a species had been harmed. These new rules will clearly delineate the required consultations and ESA review for pesticide registrations and help eliminate unnecessary lawsuits and ensure that farmers have the tools necessary for a plentiful and health food supply. Congressman Nunes joined colleagues in the House asking the Secretary of Interior to complete these new regulations as quickly as possible.

### Banking

#### Stock Option Reform

Congressman Nunes became a cosponsor of H.R. 3574, the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act. This bill is designed to combat corporate abuse scandals by requiring the top five executives to disclose the expensing of their stock options. This bill has an exemption for small business, as defined by the Small Business Administration.

### Education

#### Vocational Education

Congressman Nunes signed onto a letter of support for Vocational Education funding. This bipartisan letter expressed that the Perkins and other VocEd programs should not lose 25% of their funding next year and to continue the long-standing bipartisan commitment to career and technical education.

#### Educational Center in Fresno

Congressman Nunes recently introduced H.R. 4581 a bill that would transfer former USDA land from the federal government to the City of Fresno for purpose of building a military academy. Fresno Mayor Alan Autry has unveiled plans to build the new educational institution and the former USDA laboratory located at 2021 South Peach Avenue would make a perfect location. This is an important piece of legislation that will greatly increase the educational opportunities for children in the greater Fresno area.

### Fire Fighting

#### Air Tankers

The Forest Service recently grounded the fire fighting air tanker fleet after the National Transportation Safety Board expressed concern with the agency's process for ensuring the airworthiness of some planes. The concerns arose following an NTSB investigation of three air tanker crashes in the last decade. However, the NTSB does not have the regulatory authority to inspect and certify the planes, and the FAA

is not required to certify contracted Forest Service aircraft. This issue is of critical importance considering the severity of the fire season already upon us. Consequently, Rep. Nunes cosponsored H.R. 4533 which would get these tankers back up in the air until the end of the calendar year. During this time, the air takers can fight during this fire season and resolve the bureaucratic issues that face the fleet.

### General

#### Congressional Research Service Report on San Joaquin Valley

Rep. Nunes joined with his fellow San Joaquin Valley colleagues to request that Congressional Research Service (CRS) undertake a comprehensive review and report on the status of government assistance to the San Joaquin Valley of California. To date, there has been a great deal of information published by various organization, task forces, and government agencies that point to specific economic problems our area. In order to address these problems appropriately, there needs to be a comprehensive review of the data to identify inter-relationships and the scope of the problems facing the region. Specifically, the CRS report should include, but not be limited to the following: Statistical information on: employment, population, immigration, key infrastructure, education, economic base; Historic levels of federal investment – sorted by agency and specific pro-

### Quick Facts

In the month of June, 2,862 web surfers visited Rep. Nunes' website at [www.nunes.house.gov](http://www.nunes.house.gov).