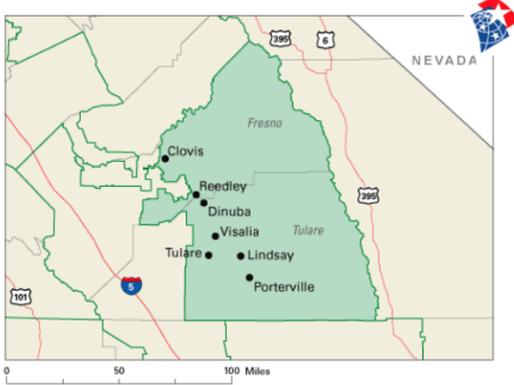


21st Congressional District



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Official Business

Devin Nunes

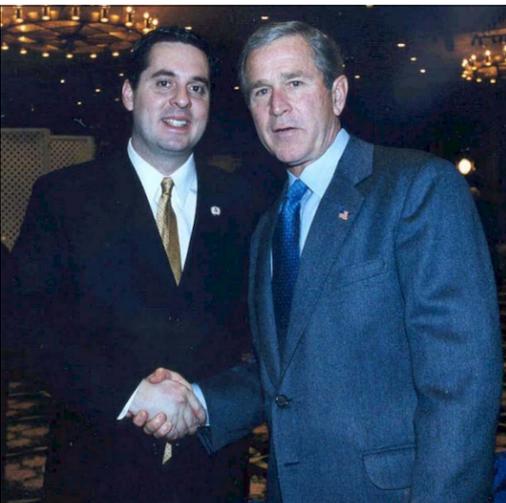
M.C.
PRSRT STD

U.S. Representative

Devin Nunes

Listening to you

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



Rep. Devin Nunes hosted a visit to Fresno and Tulare counties, including a speech at Ruiz Foods in Dinuba, by President George W. Bush in October.

Dear Neighbor:

As the year comes to an end and Congress winds down before the start of the next session, I want to take this opportunity to update you on some of what we've accomplished in the House of Representatives.

In the House, we are working hard to keep pace with our ever-changing world. From our important tax relief and economic growth package to Social Security protection, along with pro-consumer and anti-identity theft legislation, we are making significant progress on key policy issues. For example, my bill to give health care centers more flexibility in dealing with emergency room patients was put on the fast track and spurred a new regulation for the benefit of our overburdened hospitals.

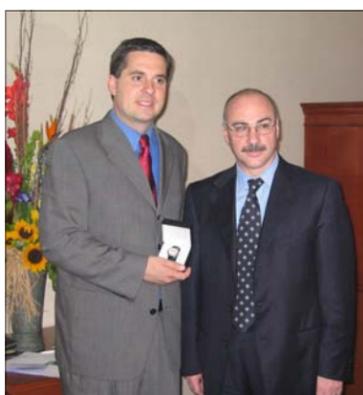
At the beginning of the year, I was appointed to the House committees on Agriculture and Resources. I was also selected by House leadership to be an Assistant Majority Whip, which positions me to ensure the voices of residents in the Central Valley are heard by our nation's policy makers.

To that end, I've made it a point to bring other congressmen and congresswomen to the district to showcase our successes and challenges. In May, we hosted a health summit that brought medical leaders from throughout the Central Valley to discuss ways of improving access to health care.

In June, we hosted a field hearing on water for the House Committee on Resources. Members of the water subcommittee came to hear testimony on legislation to reauthorize a partnership between the state and federal government, called CalFed, to develop and protect water resources in California.

It's been a tremendous honor to serve you. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns.

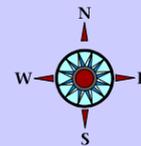
Devin



Rep. Devin Nunes (left) meets with Nagorno Karabakh President Arkady Ghukasian to talk about trade relations between the U.S. and Armenia.

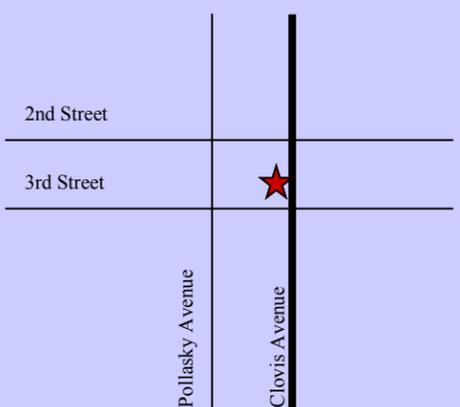
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Federal hearing focuses attention on Valley water needs

The House Subcommittee on Water and Power convened a congressional field hearing in Tulare to hear testimony on the water needs of the Central Valley.

Seven Central Valley residents, including farm, water and environmental interests were called to testify June 28 during a field hearing at the Heritage Complex. More than 300 citizens also attended the hearing.

At least six members of Congress were on hand to hear from a wide range of water, environment and agricultural experts on the needs of the Central Valley.

The House Committee on Resources headed up legislation to reauthorize a partnership between the state and federal government, called CalFed, to develop and protect water resources in California. While tens of millions of dollars have been spent over the years on environmental restoration projects, only a small percentage has been allocated to water supply.

Following the hearing, Nunes called on Water and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert to speed up the process through which new water storage would be built.

Normally, water projects are built only when Congress explicitly votes to authorize them.

Recognizing the rare success in recent years of

getting any new water project approved, Nunes introduced language into a pending House Cal-Fed bill to give water projects more leverage for approval.

More specifically, if approved, the bill would automatically authorize any water project in CalFed deemed feasible.

Additionally, it would give Congress only 120 legislative days to pass a bill disapproving the project.

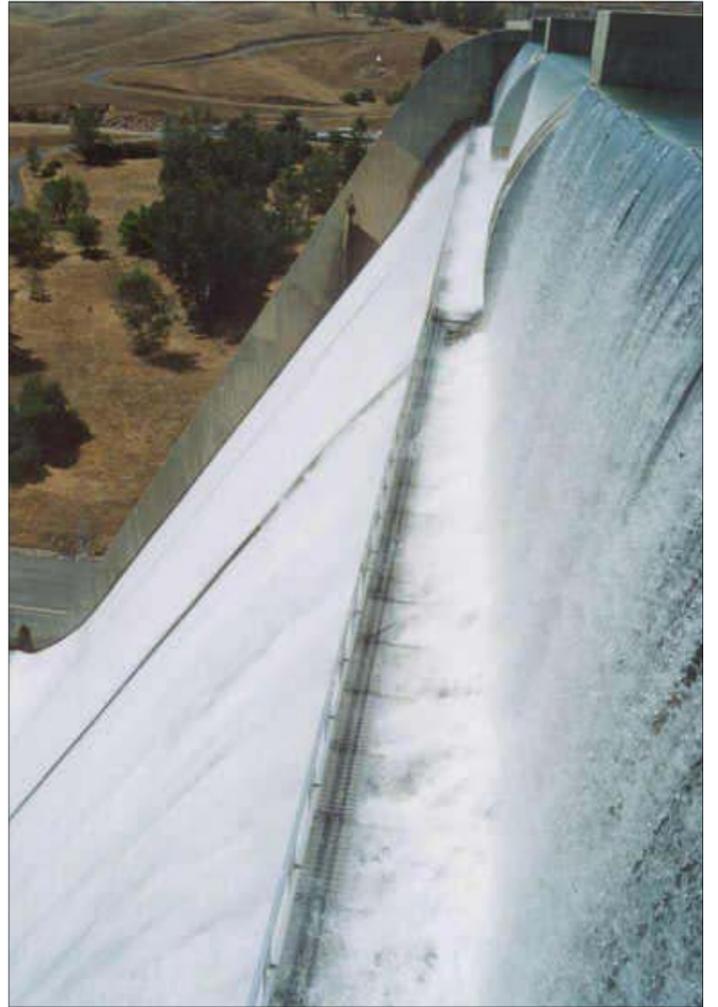
“Providing California with concrete steps toward new surface water storage

will be a great success for all. In the coming decades, the growth in the Valley will only worsen our water crisis,” Mr. Nunes said. “Now is the time to increase our water supply, reliability, and efficiency for the future.”

In other water news, Congress passed a bill that funds the Department of Interior’s energy and water projects, including local funding requests.

In all, the bill included \$15.4 million in funds for projects throughout the 21st Congressional District.

**Now is the time to increase our water supply, reliability, and efficiency for the future.—
Rep. Devin Nunes**



Effort to recruit, retain teachers gains support



Rep. Devin Nunes helped spearhead the passage of the Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act — a congressional plan to place

Rep. Nunes meets with officials in Porterville about Head Start funding for a local center.

highly qualified math, science, and special education teachers in the schools where they are needed most.

Mr. Nunes, a former College of the Sequoias board trustee, was a co-sponsor of the bill. The legislation works with the No Child Left Behind Act to make certain the goal of having a qualified teacher in every classroom is met.

“The teacher shortages that schools are facing in the areas of math, science, and special education are real, and they are staggering,” Mr. Nunes said. “Many students are not receiving a proper, well-rounded education because there simply are

not enough teachers. When students receive anything less than a full education, that’s a crisis, and it’s time Congress acted.”

The law expands on a program created five years ago, which offered loan forgiveness to qualified teachers who commit to teaching in a low-income school for five years.

The House of Representatives is strengthening education for all students. By recruiting qualified teachers through added incentives, we will improve our schools and fulfill America’s promise for our children.

Unsolicited email, such as advertisements or chain letters, are the ‘junk mail’ of the information age.

Email has brought us many advantages. It’s easier to stay in touch with friends and family. It helps businesses run more efficiently. But, unfortunately, like unwanted calls from telemarketers, email has delivered an annoyance. It’s called spam, and it’s flooding our inboxes.

“These unwanted messages are a burden to consumers by slowing down their Internet connections, cripple businesses by infringing on work time, and threaten children and unsuspecting individuals with misleading titles,” said Rep. Devin Nunes, who represents Fresno and Tulare counties.

Spam email has exploded from the occasional

nuisance to a serious problem. Fraudulent email headers disguise the source of the emails, often resulting in pornographic website links being sent

registering your telephone number on telemarketing do-not-call lists.

This much-needed legislation also prohibits the sending of fraudulent spam, and grants law enforcement officials the necessary criminal and civil tools to enforce state com-

puter fraud laws and general fraud laws against spammers. It requires that any commercial email must include: 1) identification that the message is an advertisement; 2) a mechanism to opt-out of receiving future emails; and 3) a valid street address for service of process.

To protect children and cut down on fraudulent email practices, this legislation makes it unlawful to falsify header information or collect addresses from a website and send spam to these unsuspecting email addresses.

Time to cut out spam

to children. Some experts estimate that spam accounts for half of all email—a figure that continues to grow. Service slowdowns and lost productivity caused by spam will cost American businesses an estimated \$10 billion in 2003.

To help deal with this problem, Nunes is supporting the RID Spam Act of 2003 (H.R. 2214). Under this legislation, consumers will be allowed to opt-out of all commercial email. It would work just like going down to your local post office and removing your name from the junk mail lists or

Cracking down on identity theft

Throughout your busy day you may write a check for a bill, charge tickets to a concert, buy a plane ticket online, rent a car, or apply for a credit card. These all seem like simple transactions that do not require a second thought. But, without keeping careful watch of everyday transactions like these and many others you may be putting yourself at risk for identity theft.

Identity theft is a serious problem, not to mention a serious crime. Since the 1990s, there has been a sharp increase in the number of crooks who steal people's personal information and assume their identity to charge up huge credit card bills, telephone bills, buy cars, and apply for loans.

"If your identity has been stolen, it often takes years and thousands of dollars to repair the damage done to your good name and good credit," Rep. Devin Nunes said. "Victims of identity theft may lose job opportunities, be refused loans for education, housing, cars and even be arrested for crimes they didn't commit. Having your identity stolen is more than a headache, it is a mess."

Identity theft is the number one consumer complaint. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reported 162,000 identity theft complaints in 2002 alone, with estimated losses of \$2.1 billion. In fact, identity theft often aids terrorist crimes. Foreign terrorists can move more freely in the

U.S. with illicit ID cards, credit cards, and other documentation.

The Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act (H.R. 1731) 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.

"This bill gives our law enforcement officials the tools they need to prosecute these types of criminals. People who would steal someone else's identity and trash their credit do not deserve a soft landing. They deserve to be behind bars," Nunes said.

Protecting yourself from identity theft

Guarding against and recovering from identity theft is not easy. But there are things you and your family can do to protect yourselves. If you have been a victim of identity theft, call the FTC's hotline toll-free at (877) 438-4338. To learn more about identity theft and all the ways you can protect yourself, visit the FTC's website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

The following is a brief list of some simple steps to help protect your personal information:

- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit-reporting agencies. By checking your record on a regular basis, you can catch mistakes and fraud before it is too late.
- Place passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number, or your phone number.
- Do not give out your personal information over the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or are sure you know with whom you are dealing. Identity thieves often pose as bank representatives or even government agencies to get you to reveal your information.
- Secure your personal information in your home and on your computer, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having service work done in your home.
- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at the post office, rather than leaving it in an unsecured mailbox.



Reps. Doug Ose (center) and Devin Nunes (right) address the media during a press conference after a Congressional hearing on drug production on public lands.

Curtailing drug production on public lands

Rep. Devin Nunes hosted a Congressional hearing on the problem of drug production on public lands.

The hearing in October featured two subcommittee chairmen of the House Committee on Government Reform: Rep. Doug Ose, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs; and Rep. Mark Souder, chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources.

The hearing focused on problems with pot, opium, and methamphetamine on public lands.

Along these lines Chairman Doug Ose has introduced legislation this year called the CLEAN UP Meth Act (CLEAN UP stands for Clean, Learn, Educate, Abolish, Neutralize, and Undermine Production). The bill is a comprehensive approach to combating meth.

Both Chairman Souder and Rep. Nunes have co-sponsored the bill, as have dozens of other lawmakers.

As part of the hearing, the congressman's staff toured a newly discovered pot plantation in the forest with an elaborate irrigation system.

More than 10,000 served

Being a congressman means serving the residents of your area in big and small ways.

The big ways often involve legislation, which must successfully make its way through Congress to the President's desk. Making law usually helps many people at a time; and, more often than not, it's tougher to get done.

But the role of a congressman is more than just helping vast numbers of people in a single stroke, it's about caring for the individual and lending a hand on a personal basis.

Since January, tours of the U.S. Capitol, the White House, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, National Archives, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Mt. Vernon have been or-

ganized for 1,249 constituents, in addition to responses written to more than 8,500 constituents, and casework files opened for more than 500 constituents.

"One of the most important duties is helping 21st District residents when they have problems with a federal government agency," Mr. Nunes said.

"If you need help determining if your problem involves a local, state or federal agency, or if you need help to get your Social Security check, have questions about your military records, Medicare coverage, VA claims, a problem with the IRS, or any other federal agency, please do not hesitate to contact my district office.



Rep. Devin Nunes talks with Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger about the budget crisis in California.



Rep. Devin Nunes meets with representatives of some of the four service academies and retired Brig. General Ed Munger about nominations.

Stop those annoying calls

Every consumer should have the right to choose. So why shouldn't they have the power to say "no" to unwanted telemarketing calls?

American families should be allowed to enjoy their dinner hour without being disturbed.

American households are bombarded with average of 300 unsolicited telemarketing calls a year. Each day, telemarketers have been placing an average of 100 million calls.

Consumers are encouraged to use the new Do-Not-Call Registry to block unwanted telemarketing calls. He strongly supported the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act (H.R. 395) when it passed the House in February.

Individuals fed up with unwanted sales calls can now make their homes telemarketing-free by simply signing up with the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Do-Not-Call website and providing the phone number they want protected.

Individuals can register online at www.donotcall.gov if they have an active email address. You can also register by calling, toll-free (888) 382-1222, (TTY (866)-290-4236) from the number they wish to register. Registration is free.

The FTC expects to register as many as 60 million phone numbers during the first year.

Starting in October, telemarketers who call those telephone numbers listed on the registry can be fined up to \$11,000 per call.

Here's how to sign up

Visit

www.donotcall.gov

Or call

888-382-1222

Students flock to Academy Night event

Dozens of students and their parents turned out for Rep. Devin Nunes' first Academy Night.

The event featured keynote speaker Brig. General Ed Munger and was held at the Heritage Complex of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Representatives from four U.S. service academies offered insights on the application process of becoming a cadet.

Gen. Munger inspired attendees with his insights on military life and told the students a life of service is a worthy goal both in and out of the military.

Also on hand was an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

"Our service academies are producing this nation's next generation of great leaders. We have many outstanding candidates right here in Fresno and Tulare counties who are qualified to join those ranks," the congressman said.

A five-member selection committee made up of Fresno and Tulare County community members will interview candidates and make recommendations to the congressman for each academy.

Health care made a top priority

Rep. Devin Nunes is working to ensure that health care challenges facing Central Valley residents are addressed in upcoming Medicare reform legislation.

Health care leaders from around the valley converged in Visalia in late May to develop proposals that could be included in the legislation.

"While I fully support prescription drug benefits for seniors and other improvements to Medicare, one of the bigger concerns in my district is to keep the hospitals open and enable physicians to meet the needs of their patients," Mr. Nunes said.

More than 150 community and health care leaders attended the summit, participating in one of four workshops. Two workshops focused on developing ideas to recruit and retain physicians, particularly specialists. Other workshops dealt with crowding of emergency departments and ways to increase the rate at which hospitals and physicians are reimbursed when serving patients on low-paying government insurance.

After the summit, staff members began crafting some of the Medicare recommendations into legislative language and advising lawmakers on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

One piece of legislation he introduced helped spark a change in regulations governing hospitals. A few months after the summit, federal health officials announced a rule change that gave hospitals more options in how they handle

patients who enter the emergency room with non-urgent medical needs.

The rule change made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services allows hospitals to screen patients entering their emergency room



Rep. Nunes with Harry Foster, CEO of Family Healthcare Network, and John Taylor of Community Medical Centers during planning of the health care summit in Visalia.

and divert those whose medical needs are not urgent to other health care services within the hospital or outside medical services.

The rule change went into effect Nov. 10.

Nunes gets raisins added to humanitarian aid list

Raisins are now on the menu of humanitarian food items that can be sent from the United States to hungry citizens of countries around the world.

In a letter to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Director Andrew Natsios, Mr. Nunes was joined by more than two dozen colleagues calling for the inclusion of raisins in humanitarian aid to Iraq.

"It is important for U.S. food aid not only to carry the flag of our nation, but also to consist of commodities produced by American farmers," said Mr. Nunes, a member of the Committee on Agriculture.

USAID recently agreed to include raisins on the list of items available for humanitarian aid. The new listing will permit raisins to compete with other U.S. agriculture commodities for

use in humanitarian operations.

"While USAID's global food relief efforts are focused on serving nutritional needs, we are able to increase the local benefits of these programs by including raisins grown in the San Joaquin Valley," Mr. Nunes said.

Congress earmarked \$250 million in funding for food aid programs in the current year, including relief operations in Iraq and other countries.

The purchase of raisins from California farmers will serve the nutritional needs of hungry people anywhere, as well as provide relief to farmers suffering from the worst agriculture economy since the Great Depression.