

The NUNES Report

Inside this issue:

Nunes visits Arctic refuge	2
Testimony on transportation priorities	3
Clean air and minority housing	4-5
Legislative work keeps busy pace	6-7
Appropriations requests submitted	8-9
Photos from around the district	10
American farmer to the rescue?	12

Health care takes center stage

Rep. Nunes calls for "Rural Health Care Delivery Summit" with Central Valley leaders

Medical leaders from around the Central Valley will gather May 28 for a summit called for by Rep. Devin Nunes to address some of the critical issues facing health care in the region.

High poverty rates, chronic unemployment and low reimbursement rates for doctors are quickly eroding what's left of the area's health care system.

New physicians are reluctant to set up practices in the Central Valley because of the high Medi-Cal population, and some existing doctors are reluctant to take on new patients or work in trauma centers because of low or no reimbursement for their time. Other doctors are leaving the area altogether.

Recent events in Fresno County illustrate the problem. Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno has been unable to negotiate a new Medi-Cal contract with state officials. The hospital lost more than \$11 million last year and nearly \$41 million in the past five because of



Rep. Devin Nunes participates in a roundtable discussion with members of the Rural Health Care Delivery Summit steering committee. Seated near the congressman are Family Healthcare Network President and CEO Harry Foster, and Community Medical Centers government and community relations manager John Taylor.

The steering committee is made up of 14 health care leaders in Fresno and Tulare counties.

the high cost of medical care and low reimbursement rates from Medi-Cal.

To stem the outgoing tide of medical service in the Central Valley, Rep. Devin Nunes and others hope focused workshops may uncover some relief.

The summit will feature three workshops in which participants led by professional facilitators will craft

realistic proposals that could become part of a pilot medical enterprise zone in the Central Valley.

"This summit is not a cure all, but it is the most strategic effort to date aimed at pinning down practical solutions for problems facing health care delivery in the Central Valley," Mr. Nunes

See Health Summit page 5



Rep. Devin Nunes shakes hands with President George W. Bush during a congressional event in Greenbrier, W.V. The two leaders have met on at least four occasions.