
CAPITOL CONNECTION

A Weekly Update of News and Views
For Opinion Shapers and Policy Makers

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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Groundwater Replenishment System Unveiled in Orange County

Today, the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District unveiled the world's largest, state-of-the-art water reuse project, the Groundwater Replenishment System. The GWR System takes highly treated sewer water and purifies it using a state-of-the-art, three-step process of microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide disinfection. After the water is purified, it exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards and has water quality similar to or better than bottled water. Roughly half of the water from the GWR System will be injected into an underground seawater barrier along the coast of Orange County. The remaining water will recharge Orange County's groundwater basin where the water will take the natural path of rainwater as it filters through clay, sand, and rock to the deep aquifers of the groundwater basin. In December, Congressman Miller secured \$2 million in federal funding for this important project. Moving forward, he will continue to work with his colleagues in Congress to provide this project with the resources it needs to generate additional supplies of water for Southern California.

Congressman Miller Urges Supreme Court to Reject D.C. Gun Ban

This week, Congressman Miller joined more than 175 Members of Congress in signing on to a position paper sent to the Supreme Court in support of an individual's right to keep and bear arms. Late last year, the Supreme Court agreed to review a lower court decision striking down Washington D.C.'s restrictive gun control law that dramatically limits the right of private citizens to have firearms in their own homes. This position paper, also known as an amicus brief, supports the lower court's ruling and asks the Supreme Court to uphold the decision supporting an individual's right to bear arms. While Congressman Miller waits for the Supreme Court to deliver its decision later this summer, he will continue to strongly support Second Amendment rights.

Congressman Miller Continues to Advocate for Border Fence

Congressman Miller this week renewed his push to ensure that construction of a fence along our Southern border proceeds as quickly as possible. In a letter to Speaker Pelosi signed by 70 Members of the House, he urged her to make construction of the fence a top priority during the coming year. The letter comes in response to a comprehensive spending bill approved by Congress last month that virtually guts the Secure Fence Act by eliminating the requirement for double-layered fencing and mandating burdensome consultation with border communities. Making construction of the fence all the more urgent is the death of Senior Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar just this past weekend. Agent Aguilar was killed when he was struck by a fleeing vehicle attempting to enter our country illegally from Mexico. Congressman Miller joins many other Californians in mourning the death of Agent Aguilar and he will continue pushing aggressively to get the fence built to keep our Border Patrol agents safe and our nation secure.

Congress Votes to Honor Coast Guard's Drug Interdiction Efforts

This week, the House of Representatives unanimously voted to honor the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard for seizing a record 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea last year. With an estimated street value of more than \$4.7 billion that amount is equal to nearly half the Coast Guard's annual budget. The Coast Guard's efforts have also protected American families by reducing the supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States. Through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has seized more than two-million pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and continues to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea. Congressman Miller honors the Coast Guard for their quiet dedication and sacrifice and is committed to keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores.