

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman Gary G. Miller
42nd District, California



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CONTACT: Scott Toussaint
(202) 225-3201

Rep. Miller Secures Passage of Key Water Bill

Washington, DC – Today, the House of Representatives approved legislation authored by Congressman Gary Miller to significantly increase Southern California’s supply of water. The Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2007, which passed the House unanimously, authorizes federal funding for a number of important local water projects. When complete, these projects will increase Southern California’s water supply by 37 billion gallons per year.

Following House passage, Congressman Miller said, “Because of dwindling supplies, increasing demands, and looming drought, Southern California communities continue to seek non-traditional methods to produce dependable water sources. I am pleased that the House has recognized the importance of addressing the chronic water shortages in Southern California by providing the funding resources necessary to help local water agencies improve water reliability and diversity.”

H.R. 813, the Santa Ana River Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2007, will improve Southern California’s water supply by:

Developing Wetlands in the Prado Basin. The bill authorizes the federal government to spend \$20 million to develop large-scale wetlands along the Santa Ana River in the Prado Basin, to purify the River before it replenishes Orange County’s groundwater supplies. This expanded natural treatment system will provide an additional 24.5 billion gallons of water per year.

Expanding Groundwater Desalination in the Chino Basin. The bill authorizes \$50 million in federal funding to expand groundwater desalination in the Chino Basin from the current 2.9 billion gallons per year to 13 billion gallons per year. This will provide a new fresh drinking water supply for Jurupa Community Services District, Santa Ana Mutual Water Company in Riverside County, and the cities of Norco, Chino, Chino Hills, and Ontario in San Bernardino County.

Constructing Regional Brine Lines. The bill authorizes \$40 million in federal funding to provide methods to safely and efficiently discard excess brine from nearby desalination plants by constructing a line that transports residual brine to the Pacific Ocean. This will ensure salt water does not contaminate fresh groundwater supplies.

H.R. 813 was cosponsored by Representatives Ken Calvert, Ed Royce, Dana Rohrabacher, David Dreier, and Loretta Sanchez. Congressman Miller would also like to thank the following local water agencies for their support of these important projects: Orange County Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, the Chino Basin Watermaster, and the Chino Basin Desalter Authority.

Added Congressman Miller, “If we want to sustain America’s economic growth and provide for a rapidly increasing population, we must ensure our communities have efficient and reliable access to water resources. By encouraging the use of innovative technologies through water recycling and desalination, this bill ensures that more drinking water will be available across Southern California.”