



Washington Update

Congresswoman Solis supports legislation that . . .

✓ **Makes Polluters Pay for Cleanup**

One in four people in America live within one mile of dangerous pollution. President Bush's budget lets polluters off the hook by failing to reinstate the polluter tax that funds clean up projects. This proposal saves polluters \$4 million dollars per day – and sticks taxpayers with the bill. We should reinstate the polluters' tax and make those who contaminate our environment responsible for cleanup.

✓ **Creates Urban Parks**

We should fund the creation of urban parks for our communities. Neighborhoods need funding to lease and revitalize municipally owned lots. Not only will funding provide places for community recreation, it will raise property values in the areas where parks are enhanced.

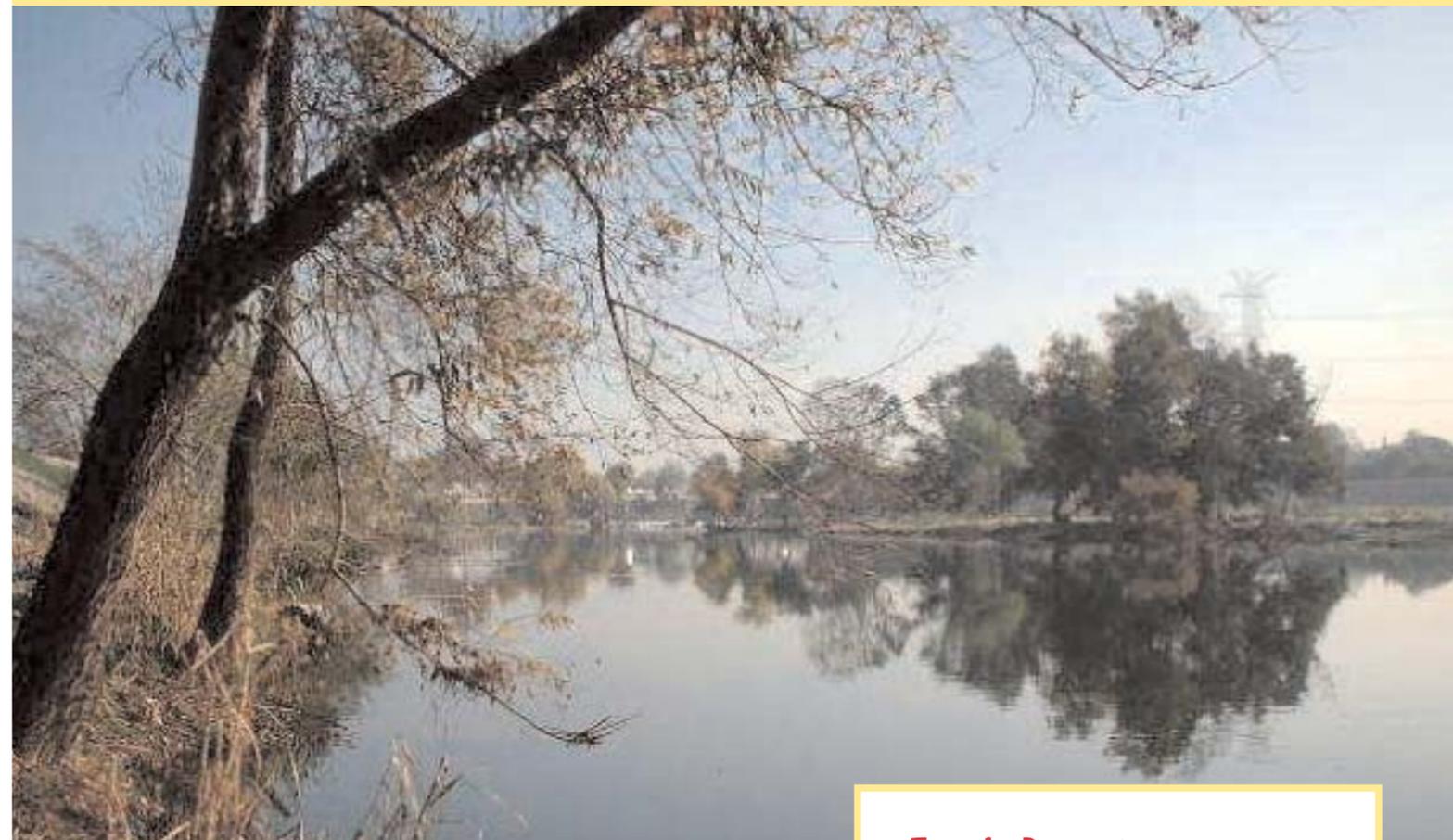
✓ **Protects Our Drinking Water from Arsenic**

Several types of cancer have been linked to arsenic in water. In addition, arsenic has been reported to affect people's hearts and has been associated with the development of diabetes. Congresswoman Solis supports legislation that would limit the amount of arsenic in our drinking water and help local communities upgrade old water delivery systems.

Congresswoman
Hilda L. Solis



Reports on the Environment



Hilda L. Solis

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"Earth Day gives our community the chance to renew our commitment to the environment."

Hilda L. Solis

CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L. SOLIS



Renewing Our Rivers

Studies show that a healthy environment requires 3 to 4 acres of open space per 1000 people. The San Gabriel Valley has less than 1/2 acre of open space per 1000 people. That is why Congresswoman Solis introduced the **Lower Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Study Act** (HR 2534). This bill will study area rivers so that we can consider how best to revitalize our environment and provide recreational space. This bill will give families the chance to enjoy open areas and learn about nature.

Congresswoman Solis noted that, "The population growth in California is expected to double during the next forty years. Now is the time to plan for the future of recreation and open space for our community."

Bringing Communities Together

Congresswoman Solis hosted a discussion with more than forty area leaders to talk about the environmental needs of the San Gabriel Valley on February 19th. Participants at the meeting talked about how they can work together to improve the environment in our region.



"The beginning of change comes with cooperation and a common goal," Solis said. "I am hopeful that these discussions will inspire cooperation and be the next step in improving the environmental health of the San Gabriel Valley."

The February meeting is the first of several events to focus on solving our environmental problems that will take place in our community.



Honoring César Estrada Chávez

Congresswoman Solis introduced the **César E. Chávez Study Act** (HR 2966) to study locations throughout the United States where César Chávez and the farm labor movement can be recognized by the National Park Service.

"Californians celebrate César Chávez's legacy," Solis said. "I am working in Congress to ensure that all Americans will be able to visit these landmarks and learn about the tremendous accomplishments of this extraordinary man."

Reports on the Environment

Studying the Health Effects of Gravel Pits

Congresswoman Solis has joined forces with Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) to ask the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study the environmental and health effects of area gravel pits on the citizens of Azusa, Baldwin Park, El Monte and Irwindale.

"I am pleased that an accurate assessment of the effects of the gravel pits will be known so that we can better understand the immediate and future needs of our communities," Solis said.

The EPA study is expected to be finished in May.



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Making Clean Water A Priority in the San Gabriel Valley

A historical agreement has tentatively been reached that will finally bring cleaner water to our region. Congresswoman Solis joined with other Members of Congress from the San Gabriel Valley to request an additional \$15 million to clean up the area next year.

"I am so happy that all parties have come to an agreement," Solis said. "It has been twenty years since contamination of the San Gabriel water basin was first detected and more than three million residents still live with this pollution. I look forward to a day when our water will be cleaner and our communities will be healthier."

Local water groups, state and federal officials have joined forces to ensure that the area does not have to wait any longer for cleanup.