

Nunes seeks help for homeowners at Housing Expo

Housing is booming here in the Central Valley. New tracts of homes are springing up in virtually every community. Homeowners are taking advantage of historically low interest rates to refinance their houses and property. And even as housing prices rise, this area remains one of the most affordable and desirable housing markets in the state.

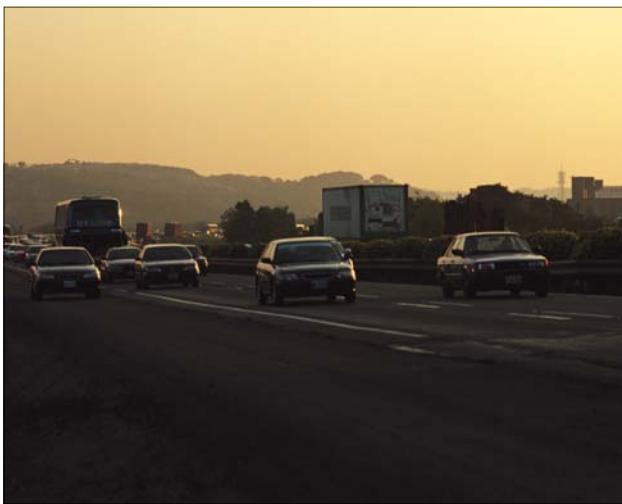
Nevertheless, there are challenges on the horizon for the housing industry. Communities are

grappling with land use issues, building costs and fees and keeping homes affordable for middle-income residents and first-time homebuyers, as well as maintaining an adequate supply of multi-family housing.

To address these and other issues, Congressman Nunes participated with local officials in a housing exposition held April 23 at the Visalia Convention Center for industry professionals.



Highway 99 gets priority designation from House of Representatives



A bill was introduced by Rep. Devin Nunes to designate Highway 99 from Bakersfield to Sacramento as a Congressional Corridor, which would make it a high priority thoroughfare eligible for special funding, was passed by the House of Representatives.

The bill seeks to make Highway 99 part of the National Corridor Planning and Development Program (NCPD program), which awards about \$3.3 billion over 6 years in discretionary grants each year in this program and potentially millions more from other sources. The grants pay for planning, project development, construction and operation of projects that serve high priority corri-

dors throughout the United States.

For the purposes of the federal program, Highway 99 would become known as the California Farm-to-Market Corridor. It would be one of only 54 nationwide, and one of only few within California.

Widening Highway 99 from four to six lanes, as well as making other needed improvements to the roadway, has been a priority for Rep. Nunes since he took office. The widening project would ease congestion, reduce smog-forming and dust emissions and enhance the flow of farm products and other goods to important sea ports in Oakland and Long Beach.

Federal contract will help open Tulare County jail

The U.S. Marshals Service has agreed to house federal prisoners in the Tulare County Pre-trial Facility in a deal worth as much as \$1.5 million a year to the county, Rep. Devin Nunes announced.

The congressman worked with Sheriff Bill Wittman for about a year to find a federal contract for the jail facility. The Marshals Service recently agreed to use the facility, paying \$52.04 per prisoner per night with an expected minimum population of about 60 prisoners but up to 100. The role of the Marshals Service is to transport federal prisoners, among other duties. The Federal Bureau of Prisons may also house prisoners under this agreement.

The state-of-the-art jail, which features a courtroom and nearby airstrip, has been dormant for some time because the county lacked the funds to keep it open. The federal contract will help the facility to reopen.

"I am pleased our hard work over the past year has paid off in a way that will help Tulare County use this great facility," Rep. Nunes said.

Sheriff Bill Wittman said he was pleased they found a creative solution to the vacant jail facility.

"I applaud Congressman Nunes for his hard work in obtaining an agreement to house federal prisoners in Tulare County," Sheriff Wittman said. "I look forward to the day when we will

reopen the Pre-Trial Facility, thereby providing better law enforcement for our citizens."

"We greatly appreciate the efforts of Congressman Nunes to reach agreement on a rate to house federal prisoners," Tulare County Board Chairman Bill Sanders said. "With his help, we have taken an important first step toward reopening the Pre-Trial facility."



<h3 style="text-align: center;">Visalia District Office</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">113 N. Church St. Suite 208 Visalia, CA 93291 (559) 733-3861</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Clovis District Office</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">264 Clovis Ave. Suite 206 Clovis, CA 93612 (559) 323-5235</p>
--	--

U.S. Supreme Court throws out case on 'under God' pledge ban

"As one of the first lawmakers to call for a Supreme Court review of this issue last year, I am pleased to see that the pledge will remain unchanged for now," Rep. Devin Nunes said. "Unfortunately, the Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of the case. This issue will likely return in some form in the future. While in Congress, I will continue to uphold the sanctity of the pledge with the phrase 'under God' intact."

