

From: "Rep. John Duarte" <Duarte.press@mail.house.gov> To: Alexa.Manning@mail.house.gov Subject: TEST Update from Congressman Duarte Date: Mon, 24 Jun 2024 15:54:24 -0400 Update from Congressman Duarte Dear Friend, As your Congressman, I wanted to update you on what I've been doing in the Valley and California this past week. Trip to the Southern Border On Thursday, I met with Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officers to tour the Otay Mesa and San Ysidro Ports of Entry along the U.S.-Mexico border. This visit provided valuable insights into the operations and challenges faced by our CBP officers. During my trip, I received an overview briefing from the U.S. Border Patrol San Diego Sector. I learned of the ongoing replacement projects within the border infrastructure system, including primary and secondary barriers, border access roads, and advanced technologies such as autonomous surveillance towers, radar systems, and small unmanned aerial systems. America is a nation of immigrants, and our Valley represents that strength. However, we must fix our immigration and border systems to protect our CBP officers, Central Valley residents, and all Americans. I was proud to tour the Otay Mesa and San Ysidro facilities and learn firsthand from our brave CBP officers about the challenges they face securing our borders and combating drug trafficking. Additionally, I learned how Congress can best support these challenges at the ports of entry and along our border. The Otay Mesa Port of Entry is the busiest commercial port in California and processes over \$50 billion in exports and imports, including many for and from our residents. In January 2024, a \$134 million modernization and expansion project of a new U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection facility will mitigate logistical issues and benefit our Central Valley farmers and residents. The San Ysidro Port of Entry is the busiest border crossing in the Western Hemisphere and the 4th busiest globally. Along with legal trade and lawful entries, there has been a significant increase in illegal border crossings, fugitive arrests, and fentanyl and other drug seizures. Congressman Duarte continues to advocate for more funding to combat the opioid epidemic by supporting the communities by providing financial and judicial support to get drug traffickers and drugs off our streets and individuals struggling with addiction the help they need. Image:Photo , Caption: Congressman Duarte with Chief Patrol Agent Patricia McGurk-Daniel of the San Diego Sector. Bringing Water Back to the Central Valley This week, I joined Representative Jim Costa and several other colleagues in sending a letter to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Camille Touton demanding that our Valley's water allocations are revised upwards. Given that most of California's reservoirs are at capacity or near fully filled, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation needs to increase the current Central Valley Project water allocations, which are currently only at 40%. Not doing so is simply unacceptable. With the Central Valley residents relying on groundwater, the need to bring more water from reservoirs in California that are operated by Reclamation to our communities is critical. Our Valleys' livelihood is dependent life giving water coming to our homes, cities, and our farms. I will always fight in Congress for the water we need. Photo Image:Photo , Caption: Congressman Duarte supports bill for increasing water allocations in the Valley. Service Academy Night Recap On Monday, I hosted a Service Academy Information Night at the Castle Air Museum. We began the night by honoring the six future officers I nominated to the Military Service Academies last year. Then these students and representatives from the Service Academies provided advice and information on the process to the high school students interested in applying for one of them. The six soon-to-be

Cadets leave next week, and I am proud to recommend six future officers who will become outstanding leaders in our military this year. For additional information on how to submit an application to be considered for a nomination, please visit my website

here(<https://duarte.house.gov/forms/serviceacademynomination/>) . Image:Photo ,

Caption: All five service academies presented to a crowd of high school students and their families. Image:Photo , Caption: Congressman Duarte congratulates a nominee and his family. It is my honor to be your voice in

Washington. To learn more about my positions on the issues, share your views with me, request assistance with resolving issues you may have with Federal agencies or programs, or to subscribe to my email list, please visit my

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