



## Feinstein Harvests Donations From Valley Farmers

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Sanger, Calif. (April 12, 2012) - US Senator Diane Feinstein considers herself as a friend to farmers and they have reciprocated by supporting her reelection at a couple of fundraisers in the Fresno area. A lunch on Wednesday at the Sanger home of the president of the Nisei Farmers League was followed by dinner in north Fresno at the home of the board president of the Westlands Water District.

In Sanger - at the home of Manuel Cunha, Jr. - Senator Feinstein told a gathering of 64 specially-selected people that she had their backs when it came to several key issues facing San Joaquin Valley farming. She told the group that she has discussed the state water bond measure with Governor Jerry Brown and insisted that it must appear on the ballot in November. The governor has indicated a preference to move the bond to 2014 so as not to compete with his plan to raise taxes. Feinstein said she favors increasing surface storage, supporting such plans as increasing the heights of the Shasta and Exchequer Dams to increase supplies. As a Democrat, she is a proponent of preparations for the effects of global warming and increasing water storage and conveyance capacities is an important part of those preparations according to her remarks.

On the labor front, California's senior senator said she expects to see a comprehensive labor reform bill in Congress next year, after the presidential election. In the meantime, the E-Verify program is likely to be approved in Washington and her intent is to give agriculture a delay in implementing the requirement for employers to verify that workers are in the United States legally. While the Ag Jobs bill as previously negotiated between growers and labor groups is essentially dead, a newly tooled version is being constructed.

As for the Farm Bill, Feinstein said she is working to make sure specialty crops are well represented with federal funding. Money to help farmers transition to equipment that emits less pollution is also a priority.

After the meeting in Sanger, Senator Feinstein visited with Don Parucchi of the Westlands Water District and his guests. The fundraiser covered many of the same subjects as the senator continues to portray herself as being California's ag representative. Groups like the California Farm Bureau Federation endorsed her re-election saying Feinstein has always been available to them and works for as many of their causes as her political orientation allows. They cite the ethanol subsidy as an example of where Feinstein lead the challenge against it and was able to get the \$6 billion dollar annual program killed. Livestock producers say they are grateful to Feinstein for that and hope to soon offer the same kind of gratitude when it comes to water and labor availability.

[http://www.kmjnow.com/pages/landing\\_localnews\\_2011?Feinstein-Harvests-Donations-From-Valley=1&blockID=599372&feedID=8257](http://www.kmjnow.com/pages/landing_localnews_2011?Feinstein-Harvests-Donations-From-Valley=1&blockID=599372&feedID=8257)