



My Commitment to the Environment

Central and South Coast residents take great pride in our region's tremendous natural beauty – from the Los Padres National Forest to the Channel Islands National Park and from the Guadalupe Dunes to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Unfortunately, these unique areas are currently threatened by habitat loss, air and water pollution, and climate change.

I'm continuously working in Congress to preserve, restore and protect these special places and the many other natural treasures we cherish so that future generations are able to enjoy and benefit from them. I'll continue to push for critical air and water quality monitoring programs which will ensure that our air, water and beaches are safe and clean.

My Priorities

- Supporting legislation to protect our nation's air, water, wetlands, forests, and other wilderness areas
- Upholding robust environmental laws to conserve our natural resources and to prevent future environmental degradation
- Preserving and protecting public lands and coastal areas from harmful development
- Increasing environmental education and research opportunities
- Ensuring that our oceans, coastal communities, and working waterfronts receive adequate federal support
- Working with local leaders to promote innovative, locally based approaches that protect our environment and enhance our economy

My Accomplishments

- Authored laws to protect sensitive coastal ecosystems on the Gaviota Coast and around Morro Bay, to designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station in San Luis Obispo an Outstanding Natural Area, to help the government monitor and forecast coastal and ocean conditions, and to reduce beach closures
- Blocked new oil and gas drilling in the waters off the Central Coast and in the Los Padres National Forest
- Fought to implement recommendations from the President's independent commission on the BP oil spill, which was based on legislation I introduced, and helped develop a plan to track the health effects of cleanup workers that was later adopted by the government
- Established the National Marine Sanctuaries Caucus in Congress improve awareness and support the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries
- Drafted legislation to research the links between ocean and coastal resources and human health, and to encourage innovative environment-based K-12 education programs
- Supported the President's National Ocean Policy using practical and successful examples from the Central and South Coasts