

Killing a Farming Economy: Why You Should Demand Alternatives to a New All American Canal

More than \$300 million in taxpayer money is being spent to destroy an existing and functioning *earth*-bottomed canal and replace it with a new, *concrete*-encased canal. The lining of the All American Canal with concrete will have a direct impact on U.S. farming operations that have moved to Mexicali over the past decade due to labor shortages and increased regulation in the U.S. Our farms are now unnecessarily threatened by an expensive and unnecessary project and legislation that DEMANDS the lining occur regardless of other alternatives.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has temporarily enjoined the lining due to the imminent economic and environmental threats it poses, including:

- Putting American and Mexican farmers out of business, by drying up at least 35,000 acres of farms;
- Eliminating \$200 million in cross-border agricultural trade, and up to \$900 million in cross-border retail trade annually.
- Creating widespread unemployment in Mexico, increasing illegal immigration and border-crossing deaths.
- Destroying 15,000 acres of wetlands and critical habitat;
- Threatening endangered migratory bird species;
- Adding massive air pollution to California's most polluted county;
- Reducing water flows to, and increasing pollution in, both the New River (California's filthiest river) and the struggling Salton Sea.

The existing canal runs along the California-Mexico border and, together with its predecessor, the Alamo Canal, has been the region's principal source of water for over 100 years. The Canal's aquifer sustains more than 80% of the economy in the region. The new canal will run parallel to the existing AAC, but its concrete bottom will prevent any water from seeping into the aquifer.

HR 5427 §211 attempts to stop the Courts or any *state governor* from negotiating an alternative to the lining. Such legislation will prevent U.S. farmers from crafting alternatives that could solve the water shortage issues in both countries, and at the same time preserve a billion-dollar economy. Strengthening our businesses in Mexico reduces migration and helps both countries in positive ways. If the new canal is built, our investments will be destroyed – a fact no one has ever considered.

We need Congress to demand – not prevent – negotiations to achieve water management alternatives that support American farmers' livelihoods.

Support American Farmers!

Getting the Facts Straight

Groundwater Facts:

- 85% of all freshwater in the world is underground, in **groundwater aquifers**
- Water **wells** are the method by which ground water is pumped to the surface for agricultural or home use
- **Seepage** is water that naturally seeps from the surface into aquifers, and **recharges** the water supply
- Destruction of an aquifer leads to water pollution, land subsidence, and elimination of wetlands.

The All-American Canal

- The All-American Canal was completed in 1942. It is an earthen canal that is the Imperial Valley's lifeline from the Colorado River.
- Approximately 3.1 million acre-feet of Colorado River water is delivered annually through the Canal to nine U.S. cities and 500,000 acres of agricultural lands.
- About 70,000 acre-feet of water annually seeps into the aquifer, which is used by families and farmers on the Mexican side of the border.

**Call your congressman and demand they pull §211 from
HR 5427 before they kill our farms!**

MAP OF ALL-AMERICAN CANAL

