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**WASHINGTON SURF REPORT**

Welcome to the Washington Surf Report! I hope you will find this report to be a useful tool in keeping up with the activities of the United States House of Representatives. This report will be updated every week so that you can follow the issues that are important to you. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the 50th Congressional District of California.



Congressman Bilbray recently toured a border tunnel in Otay Mesa that extended for about a half of mile. Authorities found two tons of marijuana inside this tunnel in January.

**NCTIMES.com More Money for Immigration Control**  
By: Ed SiFuentes

SAN DIEGO -- Standing in front of a warehouse where a tunnel running under the border was discovered in January, a group of Republican congressmen announced Wednesday tough new border security measures signed into law by President Bush.

The \$21.3 billion Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, signed Wednesday by the president, includes money to hire 1,500 additional U.S. Border Patrol agents, build more border fencing and add 6,700 detention beds. The act also makes it a crime to dig tunnels under the nation's borders.

"Today's bill signing is an important step (to) have a more secure southern border," said Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wisc. More than two tons of marijuana were found inside the tunnel, which ran about 2,400 feet from a warehouse near the airport in Tijuana to a warehouse in an industrial neighborhood in Otay Mesa. Authorities have discovered more than 39 secret tunnels on the U.S.-Mexico border since Sept. 11, 2001.

Under provisions of the new law, those who build these tunnels could face up to 20 years in jail for building or financing them. The press conference held in Otay Mesa about a quarter of a mile from the border also included North County congressmen Darrell Issa, R-Vista, and Brian Bilbray, R-Carlsbad.

Bilbray said the stretch of border between Tijuana and San Diego, one of the major routes for illegal immigrant traffic, was once a lawless and violent area. Most of the traffic moved east of San Diego towards the mountains and deserts when the fence was built, Bilbray said.

"Even with a very primitive fence that we have at the Tijuana River Valley, it has made a major transformation," he said. "It ended up moving people to the east, but if they are trying to move away from where the fence is, then the fence is working."

Bilbray said he would like to see a fence across the entire 2,000 mile border with Mexico, "if that's what it takes" to stop illegal immigration. Thus far, the Congress has approved an additional 700 miles of fence.

View the complete article at: [http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/10/05/news/sandiego/2\\_01\\_4110\\_4\\_06.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/10/05/news/sandiego/2_01_4110_4_06.txt)



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