



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK
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Pete Stark
M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD

A REPORT FROM CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

Preserving and Protecting Our Environment



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please contact my Fremont office,
visit my website, or
email me for assistance with
federal agencies, updates on
important legislation, and
information on visits to
Washington, D.C.

Fremont Office:
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Pete's Town Meetings Saturday, June 12th

Fremont
9:00-10:00 a.m.
Fremont Senior Center
40086 Paseo Padre Parkway

San Leandro
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Marina Community Center
Thunderbolt Room
15301 Wicks Boulevard

Alameda
Noon-1:00 p.m.
Alameda City Hall, Council Chambers
2263 Santa Clara Avenue



"Preserving open space is critical to maintaining
our quality of life in the Bay Area."
Pete Stark

CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

Preserving and Protecting Our Environment

Saving Our National Parks

I am working to increase funding for our National Parks to protect these treasures from neglect and disrepair. From Yosemite to Yellowstone, our parks are under increasing strain from a mounting maintenance backlog that threatens the public's access and enjoyment of these spectacular places.

I joined my fellow colleagues in the Congressional National Parks Caucus in requesting additional funding to meet these challenges. These funds would help better protect park resources, repair roads and trails, renovate dilapidated facilities, and restore vital cultural and historic sites. I am dedicated to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to enjoy our National Parks.

Preserving California's Wilderness

As a cosponsor of the *Northern and Southern California Wild Heritage Acts*, I am working to protect wilderness areas and great open spaces here in California. This important legislation would permanently protect over 2.5 million acres of pristine wilderness—from the Sierras to the California Coast. It would also extend protection to 440 miles of wild rivers throughout California.

This legislation would extend existing National Park lands in California at Lassen and Joshua Tree National Parks, as well as protect unique landscapes like the Ancient Bristlecomb Forest. Preserving California's natural heritage is vital and I will continue to work to protect our wilderness and wild rivers for future generations to enjoy.

Working for Cleaner Air

East Bay residents are exposed to dangerously high levels of nitrogen oxides, the major contributor to smog that is known to cause respiratory illness in young children and seniors. Indeed, according to a report recently released by the American Lung Association, California ranks first in the nation for harmful air pollution. I am committed to protecting environmental safeguards that keep our air clean.

Despite the need to improve our air, the Bush Administration is continuing its effort to relax clean air rules on dirty power plants, a main contributor to air pollution. I recently joined colleagues in strongly urging the EPA to throw out a proposed rule allowing power plants to emit more toxic mercury, a known cause of developmental disabilities, asthma and heart disease in children.

I have also cosponsored legislation, the *Clean Smokestacks Act* that would drastically cut major power plant emissions by 2009. Under the bill, carbon dioxide would be reduced to 1990 levels, mercury cut by 90%, and nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide cut by 75%.



Promoting Safe Drinking Water

Today, communities across California continue to face a major threat from the gasoline additive MTBE. In many areas MTBE has seeped out of underground storage tanks and contaminated local drinking water supplies.

The majority party in Congress is seeking liability protection for oil companies and producers of MTBE so these corporate polluters don't have to pay for clean up.

I have voted against this proposal and will continue to oppose it.

It is not right that Californians and people across the country should have to accept drinking water contamination and the threat this poses to their health. It is not fair that already cash-strapped local communities should have to bear this cost, estimated at over \$30 billion. I am working to give toxic cleanup and protection of safe drinking water the priority it deserves.

