November 5, 2009

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jerry McNerney issued the following statement today in response to the Governor's remarks at an event in Stockton yesterday during which he confirmed that the water agreement passed by the California legislature will be used to, "build a canal around the Delta."

The text of the Congressman's statement is below:

"Governor Schwarzenegger confirmed yesterday what so many of us have feared – that he intends to use this water package to build a peripheral canal around the families, farmers, and small businesses that make up the four million people in the San Joaquin Delta region.

"I am committed to providing relief to drought affected areas, but the peripheral canal is the wrong answer. His comments are unacceptable, and I remain concerned that a decision of this magnitude has come without sufficiently consulting residents and farmers from the San Joaquin Delta region.

"The fact that the Governor announced his intentions in Stockton, the heart of the region that would be most harmed by a canal, shines a bright spotlight on the problem; Sacramento bureaucrats don't recognize what's right for our communities.

"I urge the Governor to reconsider his support for a canal, and I will firmly oppose any proposals that are harmful to my constituents."