

## Research center gets funding

By BROOKE RUTH, Digital Media News Editor

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**BRAWLEY** □ With two-thirds of its annual budget taken care of, the Imperial Valley Conservation Research Center can continue to find new ways to mesh science and agriculture.

U.S. Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, on Tuesday presented the Imperial Valley Conservation Research Center in Brawley with a check for \$340,000.

The researchers at the center conduct experiments on water management, irrigation techniques, soil salinity, crop production, plant breeding and pest management.

The \$340,000 will cover two-thirds of the research center's budget, Filner said.

"It is the research behind the agriculture that has made us so productive as a nation," Filner said.

It was recently discovered at the center that cotton is made more productive when watered differently, Filner said.

At the center they are also exploring different sugar cane varieties that can be used in producing ethanol.

Corn-based ethanol has caused prices to increase, Filner said. He cited that both feed lot and cattle prices were up.

The ability to use sugar cane to produce ethanol "would be an important step forward for the whole country," Filner said.

He said that every year he has represented the Imperial Valley (the past six years) the research center was not in the president's budget and as in previous years they had to find alternative funding.

Filner secured the funding from the Omnibus Appropriations Act, according to a press release.

"He (Bob Filner) is one hard worker for this district and once again he has produced for this station (research center)," Brawley Mayor John Benson said.



TODD KRAININ PHOTO

FROM LEFT: Sugar cane consultant Jose Amador of California Ethanol and Power, Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, and Ben Legendre of Louisiana State University celebrate the funding of water management research at the Imperial Valley Conservation Research Center in Brawley.

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