

## Hasta La Vista, Baby to SB 1121

Written by The Saqui Law Group

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Governor Schwarzenegger terminates SB 1121, the bill proposing overtime pay to agricultural workers after 8 hours in a day or 40 hours in a week. Currently, California is the only state to provide overtime for farm workers. SB 1121 attempted to change the state's current overtime after 10 hours in a day or 60 hours in a week.

On July 28, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed Senate Bill 1121, returning the bill to the Senate with an unsigned letter addressing his reasons for the veto. The Governor cited the legislature's prior exemption of agricultural workers from state laws requiring overtime after eight hours of work as well as the exemption from overtime altogether under the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in concluding that "Senate Bill 1121 would cast aside these longstanding rules..." The Governor also cited the well-intended but detrimental effect of SB 1121 resulting in "additional burdens on California businesses, increased unemployment, and lower wages."

(A full copy of his letter can be found here: [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb\\_1101-1150/sb\\_1121\\_vt\\_20100728.html](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/sen/sb_1101-1150/sb_1121_vt_20100728.html) .)

Apparently, UFW union leaders' heart-wrenching and heart-tugging demonstration to the Governor's office last week (which included kneeling, praying, and a Catholic priest) was not able to overturn the sensibilities of the Governor. UFW President Arturo Rodriguez issued a short statement following the veto which begins: "Exclusion of farm workers from...overtime, is part of the shameful legacy of racism that initially targeted the 85 percent of southern African Americans who were farm workers in the 1930s..."

(A full copy of his statement can be found on UFW's website: <http://www.ufw.org/> .)