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UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
“Conserving Water since 1927”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AWARDED
\$635,059 PROPOSITION 1 AGRICULTURAL WATER USE EFFICIENCY GRANT
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SCADA INTEGRATED METERING SYSTEM
FOR ITS PUMPING TROUGH PIPELINE SYSTEM**

**New Metering System Provides Real-Time Monitoring to nearly 100% Accuracy
Improving Cost Efficiencies and Water Usage Measurement**

March 13, 2017 – Santa Paula, CA United Water Conservation District (UWCD), the special district tasked with managing, protecting, conserving and enhancing the water resources of the Santa Clara River Valley and Oxnard Plain, has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$635,059 under the Proposition 1 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency program administered by California Department of Water Resources, Water Use and Efficiency Branch. The grant will be used to install a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) integrated metering system on UWCD’s Pumping Trough Pipeline (PTP) that serves agricultural customers in the Oxnard Plain.

“We’re always looking for ways to manage and protect the water resources available in the region as well as conserve and enhance resources for future use,” said UWCD General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr. “United believes this new metering system will assist us in meeting the growing demands of our customers more efficiently.”

The proposed project will utilize electromagnetic flow meters with a projected lifespan of some 20 years that are virtually maintenance free. With no moving parts, the new system also reduces pressure loss and energy consumption as it is completely free of cross-section constriction. Utilizing an Ethernet communications option, the new meter system also allows for direct network/SCADA integration with continuous visibility, alarming, remote configuration, and has three separate totalizers.

The new metering system measures flow rates in cubic feet per second (CFS) or gallons per minute (GPM). The meter provides totalization in acre feet (AFT) as well as measures raw conductivity. It also provides UWCD with the ability to capture flow variations via the district’s SCADA historian. These functions will be immensely helpful in providing supporting data for current and future operational scenarios that result in greater operational efficiencies while contributing to the further development of improvement opportunities.

“In addition to effectively and accurately measuring water use, these meters make it possible to consider such options as time-of-use scheduling, a tiered pricing structure, and the possibility of bringing new sources of water into the area, all of which helps offset the overdraft conditions in both the upper and lower aquifer systems of the Oxnard Plain and the increasing threat of seawater intrusion,” added Mike Ellis, operations and maintenance manager for UWCD.

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UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Within the three year project period, UWCD will integrate 62 new PTP turnout flow meters with its SCADA system, ultimately resulting in the ability to use real-time water use data to improve operations and maintenance, projecting a cost savings of \$5,000 per year.

UWCD diverts and delivers water directly to agricultural users to satisfy irrigation demand in lieu of the users pumping groundwater. These deliveries are designed to reduce groundwater pumping in areas where overdraft conditions and related water quality issues exist, such as saline water intrusion. The direct use of surface water in lieu of pumping wells also saves the energy required to lift water from deep underground.

“By providing highly accurate and real-time measurements of agricultural water deliveries to the PTP System, a service area of approximately 4,600 acres, we’re able to facilitate potential new water delivery projects and implement strategies to improve reliability of water supply, reduce groundwater pumping in the Oxnard Plain and improve the water quality of Oxnard confined aquifers,” explained UWCD’s Supervising Instrument and Electrical Technician Brian Collins.

About the Proposition 1 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grant program

In November 2014, California voters passed Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Division 26.7 of the California Water Code [CWC]). Proposition 1 §79701(e) provides funding to implement three objectives of the California Water Action Plan¹, an initiative that establishes state water planning priorities. Chapter 7 of Proposition 1 provides funding to improve regional water self-reliance security and adapt to climate change effects on water supply (CWC §79740 et seq). Specifically, Proposition 1 §79746(a)(2) authorizes funding for agricultural water management plans and agricultural water use efficiency projects and programs developed pursuant to Part 2.8 (commencing with Section 10800) of Division 6 of the CWC (Agricultural Water Management Planning Act). Subsequent to Proposition 1, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15 on April 1, 2015 in response to the continued drought state of emergency. Executive Order B-29-15 Directive 13 directs DWR to give priority in grant funding to agricultural water suppliers that supply water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of land for development and implementation of Agricultural Water Management Plans. This grant program implements Proposition 1 §79746(a)(2) and directly supports Executive Order B-29-15 and California Water Action Plan, Action Number One: Make Conservation a California Way of Life, as well as supporting several other Actions, either directly or indirectly. Funding through this grant program is also directed towards achieving or exceeding agricultural water management planning and water use efficiency targets as identified in Senate Bill X 7-7 (Part 2.55 and Part 2.8 of Division 6 of the CWC) and implementation of Agricultural Water Management Plans for agricultural water suppliers supplying water to 10,000 to 25,000 acres of land.

About United Water Conservation District (UWCD)

Since 1927, United Water Conservation District, situated in central Ventura County, has distinguished itself as a leader among water agencies by conserving and enhancing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain, while working to protect the environment's natural attributes. The District conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River within its boundaries, including Piru, Hopper, Sespe, and Santa Paula Creeks. Without these efforts, much of this valuable water would simply flow out to sea.

Committed to managing the area's water supplies through groundwater replenishment and through the construction and operation of efficient water supply and delivery systems, today the District serves as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore, as well as several mutual water districts and numerous farms and individual pumpers. It also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and provides treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. For more information, visit <http://www.unitedwater.org>

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¹ For more information about the California Water Action Plan, go to:
http://resources.ca.gov/docs/california_water_action_plan/Final_California_Water_Action_Plan.pdf