

United Water Joins with City of Oxnard, Legislators & Partner Agencies to Celebrate Rice Avenue/5th Street Grade Separation Project Funding

United Water Proud to Host Press Conference at its Rice Avenue PTP Site

United Water Conservation District's PTP Well #4 was the site for a May press event spearheaded by Jacqui Irwin, 44th California Assembly District, which announced the long-awaited funding of the Rice Avenue/5th Street grade separation project led by the City of Oxnard in partnerships with the County of Ventura.

The California Transportation Commission's staff recommended approval of the funds from state Senate Bill 1, the 2017 Road Repair and Accountability Act. The legislation is funded by increased gas taxes and new vehicle license fees. The \$68.6 million award for the project would be part of more than \$1.2 billion in SB 1 funds recommended for cities and counties throughout Southern California to reduce congestion, support local investments in streets and roads and upgrade the nation's trade corridors and freight network.

Integral to the funding allocation for the project was Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, who worked to assure the project was part of SB 1 funds. Addressing the audience, ASM Irwin, Darren Kettle, Executive Director of Ventura County Transportation Commission, Kristin Decas, the Chief Executive Officer for the Port of Hueneme and Carrie Bowen, CalTrans District 7 Director, detailed the much-needed safety benefits of the project.



Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin poses with UWCDC General Manager Mauricio Guardado.

In addition, Ventura County's 5th District Supervisor John C. Zaragoza, City of Oxnard's Mayor Tim Flynn, and the Board of Directors for United Water, local partners and stakeholders also participated in the event.

The high-priority Oxnard project, technically known as a railroad grade separation, will lift South Rice Avenue over railroad tracks near East Fifth Street, which is also State Route 34. The project will eliminate the conflict between vehicles and trains at the rail-highway crossing and will address future traffic and circulation issues forecast for the area.

United Water is involved in the project in that their utilities on Rice Avenue will need to be relocated to accommodate the project.

Officials say that if everything goes according to plan, construction of the bridge could begin by the end of 2020.



UWCD Board of Directors poses with Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin.

Left to Right: Edwin T. McFadden III, Sheldon G. Berger, Vice President Daniel C. Naumann, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, Bruce E. Dandy, President Robert Eranio, and Secretary/Treasurer Michael W. Mobley.