

UNITED WATER PREVAILS IN LEGAL BATTLE

California Supreme Court Confirms United Water's Rate Setting Methodology

In a precedent-setting decision, the California Supreme Court upheld a Court of Appeals ruling declaring United Water Conservation District's groundwater pumping charges comply with the law and are not subject to Proposition 218 as was asserted by litigation brought by the City of Ventura.

"United Water Conservation District is gratified by the decision of California's highest court. Its decision, and that of the Court of Appeals, confirms that our District's rate setting methodology is correct," commented United Water Conservation District Board President Bruce E. Dandy.

In 2013, a trial court ruled in favor of the City of Ventura's assertion that United Water's process for charging pumpers was incorrect. United Water appealed that decision to the Court of Appeals in 2015, at which time the ruling was overturned. The City of Ventura then appealed that ruling to the California Supreme Court, which resulted in the December 5 ruling.

While there remains a need to clarify one minor outstanding issue with the Court of Appeals, UWCD is confident that decision will also validate the fairness of its charges, opening the door to continued collaboration between the two agencies on regional water projects that are vital to Ventura County. In fact, UWCD has proposed a number of water enhancement projects in collaboration with the City of Ventura and other water agencies which will be of tremendous benefit to constituents throughout Ventura County.

"We are eager to continue those discussions with the City of Ventura in preparation for achieving the collective goals of both entities which will ensure the future sustainability of Ventura County's water resources," explained United Water Conservation District's General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.