



IWVWD, SVM score major court victory over IWVGA in adjudication fight

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The Indian Wells Valley Water District and Searles Valley Minerals are pleased that the California Supreme Court has denied the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority’s petition for review. This denial marks a significant legal victory for the citizens of the Indian Wells Valley in the ongoing groundwater adjudication process.

On August 5, 2024, the trial court entered a phasing order in the adjudication of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The court’s order set a phase of trial specifically to consider the best available science on the amount of groundwater that can safely be withdrawn from the basin.

The GA originally filed a petition seeking to overturn the trial court’s phasing order. This petition was a blatant attempt to block consideration of new scientific data showing the groundwater basin has considerably more water available than the GA previously claimed. On November 14, 2024, the GA’s petition to the California Court of Appeal was summarily denied.

On November 25, 2024, the GA filed a petition for review with the California Supreme Court, seeking yet again to challenge the trial court’s phasing order. The Supreme Court has now properly denied this petition. Today, the Supreme Court’s rejection of the petition marks an important step towards a final, reliable, and scientifically-sound assessment of the basin’s groundwater supply.

This ruling reinforces the commitment to advocating for a fair, science-based, and sustainable water management plan that serves the best interests of the community that relies on the basin. Both the District and SVM remain steadfast in their efforts to ensure responsible groundwater management for long-term benefit and call upon the GA to

consider ALL scientific data when making decisions that could cost the people of the Indian Wells Valley hundreds of millions of dollars. If the courts can recognize the importance of this commitment, so too should the GA.

About Indian Wells Valley Water District

The mission of the IWVWD is to deliver the highest quality water at the best possible price while continuing to serve as respectful stewards of the environment.

About Searles Valley Minerals

Searles Valley Minerals is a leading producer of industrial minerals, dedicated to supporting the local economy, providing jobs, and implementing sustainable practices to protect the environment and community resources.