



Case Study

Wastewater Treatment Financing

“Churchwell White’s combined expertise in environmental, land use and political law provided crucial guidance during the approval and financing of vital infrastructure upgrades in the City of Dixon.”

—Joe Leach, Public Works Director

Opportunity

For years, the City of Dixon’s wastewater system was contributing to groundwater salinity. Facing increasingly stringent state regulations, the city was required to make a significant investment in long-term improvements to the city’s sewer infrastructure.

Challenge

Like most cities, Dixon relies primarily on sewer fees and user charges to finance infrastructure improvements. A previous attempt by the city to finance investments in sewer improvements, however, was defeated by a ratepayer initiative.

Solution

As city attorney, Churchwell White successfully guided Dixon through the Proposition 218 process, a subsequent ratepayer challenge, and proceedings by the State Water Board to approve nearly \$30 million in loan financing.

Benefit

Construction of the wastewater facility improvements will allow Dixon to wrap up a long history of regulatory enforcement and compliance orders issued by the state, while improving the long-term health of the groundwater basin that supplies much of the city’s drinking water.



Firm

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