
COUNTY LINES

SANTA MARIA

Ruling issued in groundwater suit

The final revised rulings have been issued in a nine-year battle regarding who holds the rights to groundwater in the Santa Maria Valley. Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Jack Komar submitted the decisions Monday for phase four and phase five of the trial.

The rulings are similar to the tentative rulings except for minor technicalities, according to attorneys in the case.

The tentative ruling for the latest phase of the trial was issued Nov. 7, 2006. Komar wrote in that decision that two groups of Santa Maria Valley landowners, called LOG and Wineman Group, who did not settle earlier in the case along with other landowners do not have priority use of the water on their property.

A judgment will be issued in the coming months which will give the case legal finality, said an attorney in the case.
