



For Immediate Release

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**Robert Saperstein Named “Member of the Year”
by the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County**

Santa Barbara, CA. June 19, 2003 - Hatch & Parent congratulates partner Robert J. Saperstein on being named member of the year by the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA).

“For the past several years Rob has worked to become the leading legal authority on water issues in Ventura County,” noted Steven A. Amerikaner, managing partner for Hatch & Parent. “He has spent countless hours attending meetings and writing articles for the benefit of the AWA. We’re proud that the AWA recognized Rob’s continued service by designating him ‘member of the year’ for the organization.”

Mr. Saperstein is a partner at Hatch & Parent, and presently serves as the practice group leader for the Water Law Group. For more than 30 years, Hatch & Parent has been at the forefront of Water Law in California, representing numerous cities, counties and public agencies.

Most recently, Mr. Saperstein, along with Steven L. Hoch, a partner in Hatch & Parent’s Environmental Quality Group, successfully represented the City of Oxnard in a contamination case brought against Shell Oil Products Company. In this matter, a Shell gas station, located next to the City’s groundwater wells and production facilities, had leaked gasoline contaminating the nearby groundwater. In six months of negotiations, Rob and Steve negotiated for Shell to purchase a new site for the City’s groundwater wells and facilities, absorbing the relocations costs of up to \$8.5 million.

ABOUT AWA: The Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA) was formed in 1976 to provide a forum for the exchange of information on local and regional water issues. AWA is governed by an 18-member board of directors comprised of leaders representing various water related entities in our region (agriculture, municipalities, water districts, small systems, industrial water users, concerned citizens, etc.). www.awavc.org.

ABOUT HATCH & PARENT: Hatch & Parent is a full-service law firm with expertise in public agency and water law, real estate and land use, environmental quality, trusts and estates, employment law, business and tax, complex litigation and legislative advocacy. The firm has offices in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, South Lake Tahoe and Thousand Oaks.

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