Land, Water, And Power: A History Of The Turlock Irrigation District, 1887-1987

Alan M Paterson
Wind power has been used as long as humans have put sails into the wind. For more than two millennia wind-powered machines have ground grain and pumped water. Wind power was widely available and not confined to the banks of fast-flowing streams, or later, requiring sources of fuel. Wind-powered pumps drained the polders of the Netherlands, and in arid regions such as the American mid-west or the Australian outback, wind pumps provided water for livestock and steam engines.
Appellant Turlock Irrigation District (TID) is an irrigation district formed and existing under Water Code sections 20500 et seq.

Legislative enactments governing the powers and purposes of irrigation districts specifically limit such an entity to provision of water and electricity, drainage and to engaging in closely related activities such as operation of cement plants and rock quarries. In 1887, the California Legislature enacted the Wright Act, which gave irrigation districts the power to construct and maintain irrigation and drainage systems. However, regardless of the specific legal nature of an irrigation district, it is universally recognized that an irrigation district has only those powers granted to it under the enabling legislation.