

Court upholds measure intended to speed up government contracts

04/12/07 14:45:45

The California Supreme Court on Thursday affirmed the state's authority to hire private contractors and architects to help with billions of dollars worth of public construction projects.

The unanimous court upheld Proposition 35 that voters approved in 2000 to make it easier for state and local agencies to contract with private firms to speed up building and repairing schools, highways and other public properties.

The labor union Professional Engineers in California Government sued to invalidate the law because it didn't explicitly repeal existing laws that only allowed private contracting in rare instances.

The union argued that the Legislature needed to pass a law that allowed the agencies to hire more outside contractors.

But the union lost in every court and state agencies are now free to contract widely with outside firms.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said the Supreme Court action will enable the state to move quicker on construction projects, including \$20 billion worth of transportation bonds approved by voters last year.

"The Supreme Court's decision puts to rest a divisive argument about whether the state can expand the use of private contractors in addition to state employee engineers to complete all the infrastructure work in the pipeline," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

[Search Archives, or](#) [Search News](#)

 [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Life](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obits](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Cars](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Text Only](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Advertise](#)

[FresnoBee.com](#) | [ClovisIndependent.com](#) | [VidaEnElValle.com](#) | [SierraStar.com](#) | [FresnoFamous.com](#)

© Copyright 2007 The Fresno Bee | [Help](#) | [Your Privacy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Child Protection](#)

