

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: BRUCE BUEL *BBB*
DATE: APRIL 3, 2009

AGENDA ITEM
E-4
APRIL 8, 2009

STATE AND NIPOMO DROUGHT STATUS DISCUSSION

ITEM

Review state and Nipomo Drought Status and discuss response plan [PROVIDE POLICY GUIDANCE]

BACKGROUND

Thus far in Water Year 2008-09, the Nipomo Mesa has received approximately 8.4 inches of rain compared to the mean annual precipitation of 16.7 inches. In WY2007-08, precipitation was approximately 10.5 inches and in WY2006-07, precipitation was approximately 6.7 inches. Unless significant rainfall occurs this Spring, we appear to be in the third year of a drought. This pattern of low rainfall has resulted in lowering water tables and lower groundwater storage over the past two years and may result in a low groundwater storage value when the results of this Spring's Well Level Readings can be interpreted. Staff should be able to present this information to the Board as early as May 27, 2009.

The Governor issued a Drought Proclamation on February 27th, which called on DWR to evaluate the statewide drought status as of March 30, 2009. As of the publication of this staff note, DWR has yet to release its findings.

FISCAL IMPACT - NONE

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board receive any updates, discuss the State situation, discuss Nipomo's situation and agree to revisit this matter at the May 27, 2009 Board Meeting.

ATTACHMENT – NONE

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