

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 13, 2010, 10:00 AM

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MICHAEL WINN, CHAIR
LARRY VIERHEILIG, MEMBER

PRINCIPAL STAFF

DON SPAGNOLO, GENERAL MANAGER
LISA BOGNUDA, ASST. GENERAL MANAGER
PETER SEVCIK, DISTRICT ENGINEER
JON SEITZ, GENERAL COUNSEL
CELESTE WHITLOW, CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

MEETING LOCATION • District Board Room • 148 S. Wilson Street • Nipomo, California

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND FLAG SALUTE.**
ACTION RECOMMENDED: None.
2. **DISCUSS CONSERVETRAK.**
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Review and file.
3. **UPDATES.**
 - A. SLO County Plumbing Retrofit at the Time of Re-Sale Program.
 - B. Landscape Maintenance District #1.ACTION RECOMMENDED: Review and file.
4. **EVENTS.**
 - A. Creek Day
 - B. October Festival.ACTION RECOMMENDED: Provide direction to Staff.
5. **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**
2010 Conservation Newsletter, Issue 1
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Review, publication, provide direction to Staff.
6. **NCSD OFFICE LANDSCAPE CONVERSION TO WATER-EFFICIENT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN, SHORT-TERM: REPLACEMENT OF MORIBUND HEDGE, NORTH BOUNDARY OF NCSD OFFICE PROPERTY.**
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Provide direction to Staff.
7. **INITIATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR CUSTOMERS TO USE WATER SOFTENERS THAT DO NOT USE SALT.**
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Discuss concept, provide direction to staff.
8. **SET SUBSEQUENT MEETING.**
ACTION RECOMMENDED: Set time/date for next meeting.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.**

*** End Special Meeting Notice ***

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: 09/06/2010

AGENDA ITEM 2

SEPT 13, 2010

ITEM 2: CONSERVE-TRACK UPDATE

ITEM

Update on the progress with ConserveTrack. [RECEIVE AND FILE].

BACKGROUND

ConserveTrack is software for managing and tracking water conservation measures. It is a very sophisticated and powerful software program, which can become even more dynamic with tweaks on its existing programs to better serve its customer(s). NCSD is currently in the "tweaking stage," and the results so far have been gratifying.

Water consumption now appears in the month it occurs. One of the "tweaks" is highly useful, and will make interpreting results easier. The consumption data now appears in the month of the consumption, not the month the meter was read or the statements were mailed.

ConserveTrack is separate from NCSD's accounting software, MOM, which still posts the consumption in the month the bills are mailed.

Rebate tweaking. We are currently working on modifications for rebate reporting and tracking. ConserveTrack will allow us to find customers who have received a rebate, or all customers receiving one type of rebate (i.e., high-efficiency washer rebate), or multiple rebates.

The results of all data searches can be exported into Excel, for mailing labels or envelopes, for insertion into letters, and many other customized uses.

Customer groups. One of the useful features of ConserveTrack is the ability to define a group of customers, and track their statistics both individually and as a group. Example: A group of residences is in a development containing a high-percentage of landscape space devoted to turf. We could put this group of people into a ConserveTrack group, and customize interventions and offers uniquely suitable for their situation and needs. I am now starting to create groups.

Ability to define searches and filters. There are several parameters by which searches of the data can be accomplished, including lot size, consumption over the last X time period, of residences on X street, customers who have received rebates, and the top X number or X percent of a defined group. All of these parameters can be combined for searches that are more specific.

Other possibilities. There are programs already installed to track, implement, etc. a program of water restrictions, including violations, with the ability to upload supporting photos. If NCSD should find this type of program of use, it would take the usual tweaking to fit NCSD's specific needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discuss and advise of any specific data searches needed.

ATTACHMENTS

None

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
 GENERAL MANAGER
 DATE: 09/04/2010

AGENDA ITEMS
3-A, 3-B
SEPT 13, 2010

ITEM 3: PROGRAM UPDATES

ITEM

Update on the results of the Plumbing Retrofit Program [RECEIVE AND FILE].

3-A: SLO COUNTY PLUMBING RETROFIT AT THE TIME OF RE-SALE PROGRAM.

BACKGROUND

One of the measures enacted subsequent to the San Luis Obispo County certification of a Level of Severity III for water supply of the Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area (NMWCA) is the Title 8 Amendment of the Health and Sanitation Code, adding Chapter 8.91 relating to a plumbing-fixture-retrofit-at-the-time-of-sale ordinance for the NMWCA.

SLO County Planning administers this program, and a *Homeowner's Guide to the Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area Plumbing Retrofit at Time of Sale* was developed by NCSD Staff. The *Homeowner's Guide*, the *Retrofit Verification Form* and a map of the NMWCA is provided on the NCSD website, and copies are available in NCSD's lobby.

The program calls for retrofitting all toilets using more than 1.6 gallons per flush (GPF) with 1.28 GPF toilets, all showerheads retrofitted to fixtures which use no more than 2.5 gallon per minute (GPM), and aerators on lavatories with a rating of no more than 2.0 GPM. In addition, urinals are to be refitted to waterless urinals (0 GPF).

Refer to Table 1 for projected water savings from the retrofits completed through the County program from November 2008 to July 2010.

TABLE 1: CALCULATED WATER SAVINGS (GALLONS) FROM SLO COUNTY PLUMBING RETROFIT PROGRAM (NOV-2008 to JULY 2010)			
	<i>Toilets</i>	<i>Showerheads</i>	<i>TOTAL FOR BOTH FIXTURES</i>
#Homes Retrofitted	15	19	34
Gallons Saved/Day (all retrofits)	212	1,106	1,318
Gallons Saved/Yr (all retrofits)	77,531	403,976	481,507
Gallons Saved/ 5-years (all retrofits)	387,655	2,019,881	2,407,536
Gallons Saved/ 10-years (all retrofits)	775,310	4,039,762	4,815,072

Included are projections for water savings over five years and ten years. Toilets and showerheads are sturdy hardware replacements, and will remain functional for many years. Water savings of toilets are often projected out 30 years.

The projected costs of providing water that would be saved by the water-cost savings, assuming \$1200/AcFt to purchase the water and \$250/AcFt in other costs related to financing and delivery, the savings for all of the NCSD customers who, to date, have certified plumbing retrofits through this program are:

One day:	\$ 6
One year:	\$ 2,143
Five years:	\$ 10,713
Ten years:	\$ 21,427

RECOMMENDATION

Review and file.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

3-B: LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT #1

BACKGROUND

Landscape Maintenance District #1 (LMD#1) is a small part of the Vista Verde homeowners' association common area, and is managed by NCSD.

Refer to attached map of the landscape area included in LMD#1.

Refer to attachment *LMD#1 Water Consumption, 2004-2010* for water consumption data.

- Chart 1 Year totals for 2005 to 2009 (January – December).
- Chart 2 Monthly and yearly consumption figures, 2004 – 2010 (includes partial years 2004 and 2010).
- Chart 3: %change in water consumption for years 2005 – 2009 (January – December)
- Chart4: %change in water consumption for years 2006 – 2010 (January to May), partial years.

The amount of water consumption was considered excessive, and in late 2008, staff met with the homeowners to present options by which the amount of water used by LMD#1 could be decreased. The homeowners elected to install a new, state-of-the-art "smart" irrigation controller. In the beginning of March 2009, a WeatherTrack irrigation controller was installed, and the follow-up check by the installer was in May 2009.

The WeatherTrack irrigation controller (WTIC) was chosen to address a common problem with over-irrigation of landscapes: inefficient water and irrigation-controller management.

The WTIC is adjusted daily, as needed, via satellite broadcast in response to the latest weather information from CIMIS, NOAA, and two other federal weather-station databases. With this

approach, the WTIC is daily adjusted to replace just the moisture lost from the landscape since the last time an irrigation cycle occurred.

Utilizing a WTIC involves a paradigm shift in the basic approach to landscapes and irrigation controllers. Usually, the homeowner or landscape maintenance staff is in charge of the irrigation controller. With the WTIC, the installation and initial programming is done by a specialist trained in the details required to program the WTIC accurately. In addition, the daily programming of changes in response to weather changes will not be a human; it will be done by a satellite broadcasting programming data. This data is compiled by a sophisticated system of weather-reporting organizations and databases. Free phone-call assistance for technical problems can be obtained by dialing a toll-free number to Technical Support. In most cases, the problem can be solved by the Technical Support staff signing on to the WTIC experiencing difficulties and reviewing the history, output, etc. If the problem cannot be determined over the phone-line connection, a local trained technician can be contacted for service. In addition, it is recommended that a yearly "tune-up check" be done on the irrigation controller by a trained technician. This is a recommendation made for all irrigation controllers.

The landscape maintenance company servicing LMD#1 was advised of the change in irrigation controller, and instructed regarding not programming or adjusting the WTIC until the company had staff trained to do so. If an emergency (water leak, broken sprinkler head, etc.) occurred, they would address the problem. If problems occurred in the landscape, such as problems with the plant material, etc., they were to call NCSD. NCSD staff will then handle the program.

It is important that only individuals trained in WTIC install, program and service the WTIC.

The attached *LMD#1 Water Consumption, 2004-2010* is referenced. The data is from the software program ConserveTrack. The consumption for "Mar 2009" is actually for "Mar 2009"; there is no two-month backdating of consumption.

The first table, *Table #1: Water Consumption (by Units or CCF) for LMD#1, 2004-2010*, provides consumption figures by month, by year (January through December), and by partial year (January through May). The latter is done to study year 2010, which only has data through May. In addition, %change is calculated for full years 2005-2009 (January through December) and partial years 2004-2010 (January through May). Shaded fields indicate changes in LMD#1 maintenance and the WeatherTrack irrigation controller installation.

Chart 1 shows yearly totals (January through December) 2005-2009.

Chart 2 portrays the water consumption at LMD#1 from July 2004 to May 2010.

Chart 2 shows an immediate decrease in water consumption following the WTIC installation (March, 2009). Consumption %decrease figures for the entire year and for each month, comparing the post-installation figures against the previous year's figures, demonstrated a %difference of between 69% and 45%.

In March 2010, there was an abrupt and significant rise in the water consumption. The %increase of 2010's consumption compared to 2009's consumption is as follows:

- March 2010: 106%
- April 2010: 105%
- May 2010: 216%

Chart 3 is a visual representation of the %change in water consumption for full years (January through December), 2005-2009.

Chart 4 is a visual representation of the %change in water consumption for partial years (January through May), 2004-2010.

The WTIC-trained contractor who services the controller mentioned the last time she checked the WTIC the irrigation had been increased.

On 9/2/2010, NCSD staff met with the landscape maintenance company to discuss the condition of the landscape, and irrigation controller operation. At that time, it was learned the company's maintenance crew manager had increased the amount of irrigation on the controller.

During the meeting, goals and instructions were again explained. The controller will be re-programmed, and will be monitored to determine water savings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue with WeatherTrack monitoring program.

ATTACHMENTS

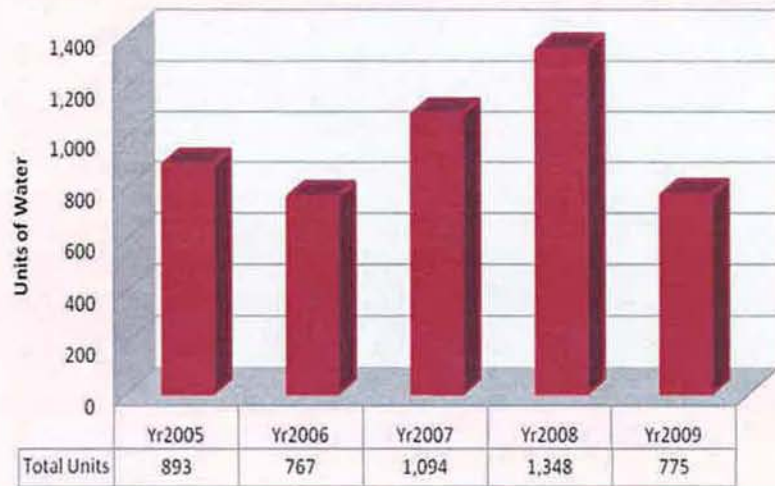
- *LMD#1 Water Consumption, 2004-2010*
- *Tract 2409, Visa Verde Estates*

LMD#1 Water Consumption, 2004 – 2010

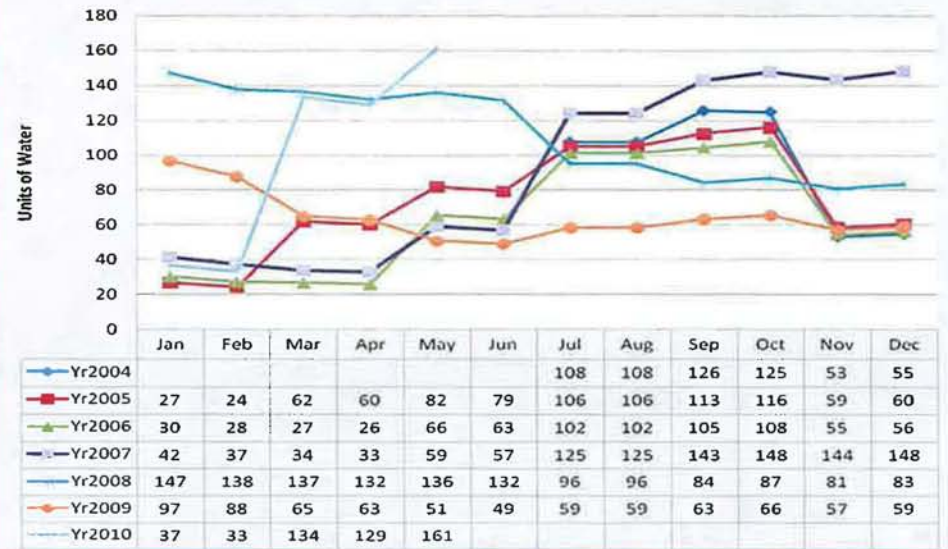
NOTE: Data obtained from ConserveTrack software program. Consumption shown occurred during the month indicated.

Water Consumption (Gallons) for LMD#1, by Month, 2004 - 2010																	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total Jan-Dec	%Change From PrevYr (Jan-Dec)	Grand Total (Jan-May)	%Change from PrevYr (Jan-May)	
Yr2004							108	108	126	125	53	55	575				
Yr2005	27	24	62	60	82	79	106	106	113	116	59	60	893		255		
Yr2006	30	28	27	26	66	63	102	102	105	108	55	56	767	-14%	177	-31%	
Yr2007	42	37	34	33	59	57	125	125	143	148	144	148	1,094	43%	205	16%	
Yr2008	147	138	137	132	136	132	96	96	84	87	81	83	1,348	23%	690	237%	
Yr2009	97	88	65	63	51	49	59	59	63	66	57	59	775	-43%	364	-47%	
Yr2010	37	33	134	129	161								494	-36%	494	36%	
Grand Total	380	348	458	444	554	381	594	594	634	650	447	462	5,946		2,184		
		GLM Landscape Maintenance (2002)					Landmark Landscape Maintenance				WeatherTrack Irrigation Controller						

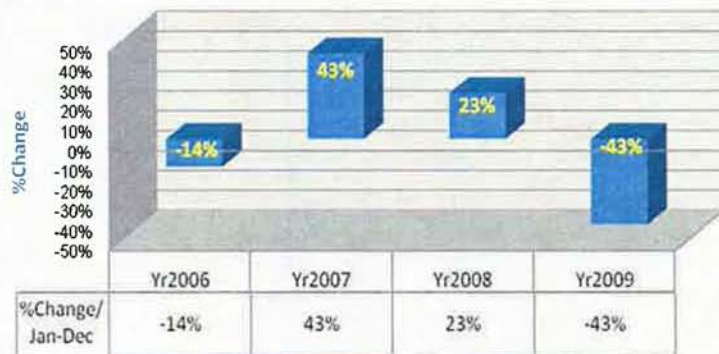
**Chart 1: Water Consumption, LMD#1
2005 - 2009 (Jan - Dec)**



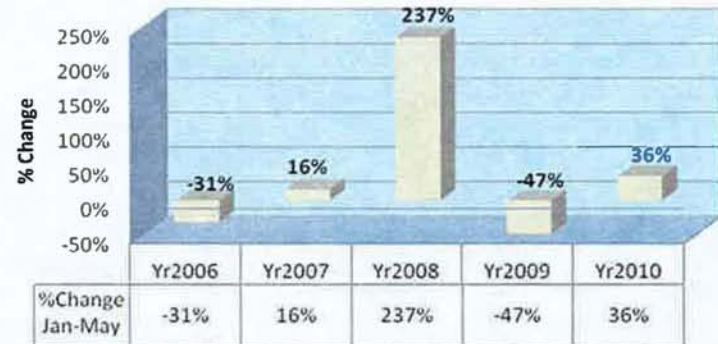
**Chart 2: Water Consumption for LMD#1,
2004 - 2010**

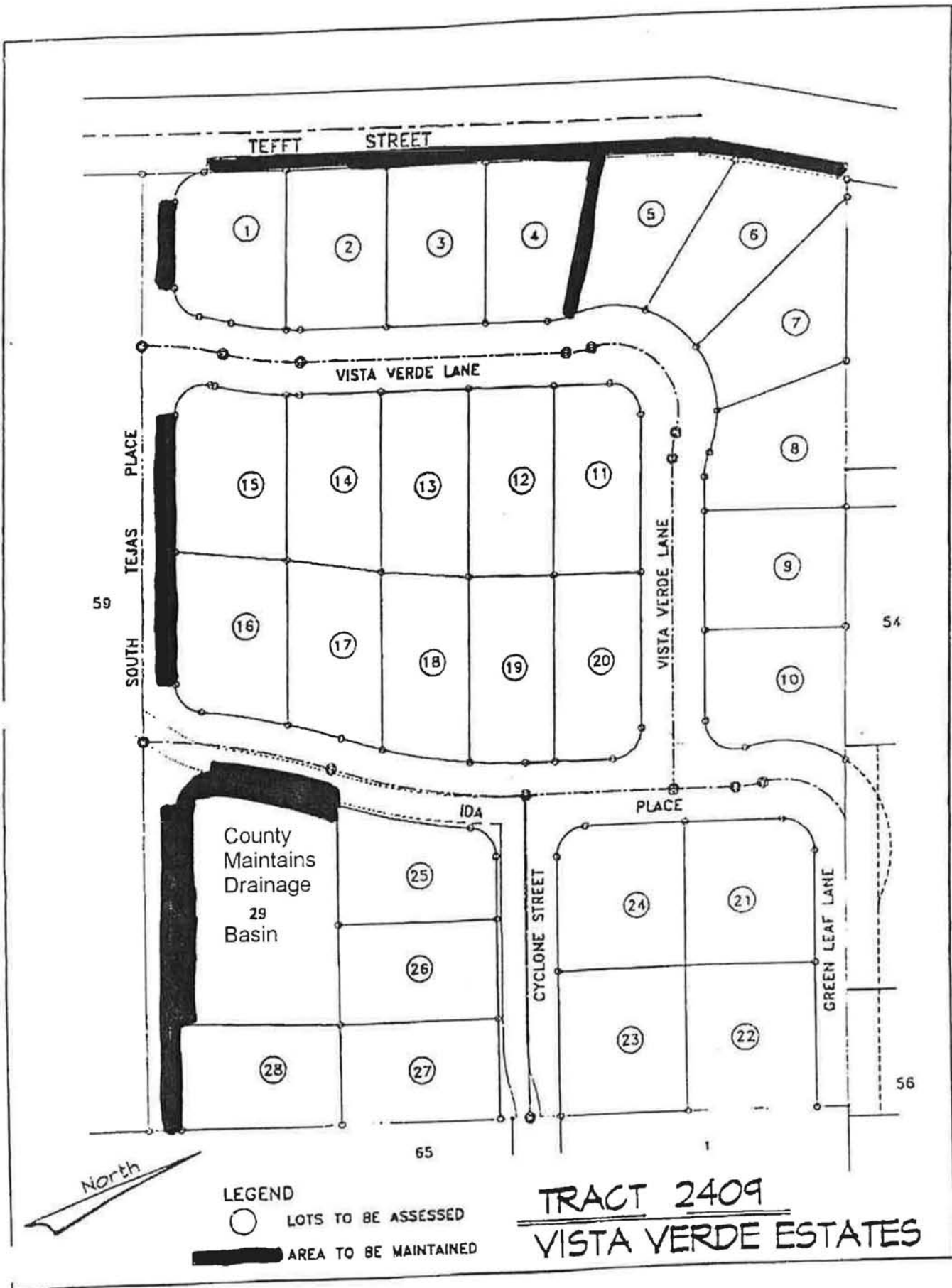


**Chart 3: % Change in LMD#1 Water Consumption
for Years 2005 - 2009 (Jan - Dec)**



**Chart 4: % Change in LMD#1 Water Consumption
for Years 2005 - 2009 (Jan-May)**





LEGEND

- LOTS TO BE ASSESSED
- ▬ AREA TO BE MAINTAINED

TRACT 2409
VISTA VERDE ESTATES

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: 09/06/2010

AGENDA ITEM 4-A, 4-B

SEPT 13, 2010

ITEM 4: EVENTS

ITEM

Events. [REVIEW AND DIRECT STAFF].

ITEM 4-A: CREEK DAY 2010.

BACKGROUND

On an annual basis, throughout San Luis Obispo County, local Creek Day events are held. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the importance of stormwater pollution prevention and maintaining creeks to promote overall health of the creek and prevention of floods. This agenda fits well with water conservation, and the education provided at the events traditionally has a strong water conservation component.

NCSD staff has, during past Creek Day events, provided information regarding Nipomo's water source and the increasing demands we place upon it. If it was felt beneficial, information on the proposed Santa Maria Waterline Intertie Project could also be provided, to provide a more complete picture of our local water issues. This might also be an opportunity to introduce the concerns associated with salt-using water softeners and sustainable potable water quality.

SLO County has provided staff for 2007, 2008 and 2009. They will be providing one staff member and other needs for Creek Day being held here on 10/2/2010.

In the past, NCSD staff has assisted with the Creek Day in Nipomo. The event in 2008 had 55 participants, and if that number of people attends in 2010, extra staff would be needed.

In 2008, NCSD and County staff organized and presented the event. The cost for NCSD for this event was \$512.15 (refer to the attached *Creek Day 2008 Expenses*. Of that amount, \$27.86 (for Santa Maria transfer station charges for extra large items collected and for trash bags) will not be needed. Therefore, if NCSD staff provided the same resources as provided in 2008, the funds spent would be around \$484.

NCSD Water Conservation Program staff has been present in past Creek Day events from 8:00 AM until approximately 1:00 or 1:30 PM on the day of the event. In the past, NCSD has also made available one of the Utility Crew to assist as needed.

FUNDING

In the past, funding has been provided from the Solid Waste Franchise Funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discuss and make recommendations to the Board.

ITEM 4-B: OCTOBER FESTIVAL 2010.

BACKGROUND

The October Festival occurs annually, in the fall, at Nipomo Park. NCSD usually has a booth at the event. It is one of the ways NCSD can be more visible and available to our customers, in a relaxed and festive setting.

NCSD Staff is required from 8:00 AM until about 3:00 PM. Usually one Utility Crew member has been provided to assist as necessary.

The cost of the booth space is \$45.00.

Water conservation promotional give-aways are usually offered, as are educational information.

If appropriate, information could be provided on the Santa Maria Water Intertie Project and the impact of salt-using water softeners on water quality and sustainability of our water resources.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and make recommendations to the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

- *27th Annual October Festival Application.*
- *Creek Day 2008 Expenses.*

CREEK DAY 2008 EXPENSES

Mileage				
9/30/07	Creek Day Misc. Errands (20 mi@\$0.48 ea)	\$9.60		
Other				
9/29/07	CreekDay Snacks (Von's)	\$34.80		
9/29/07	CreekDay Starbucks \$10 Cards (Prizes)	\$20.00		
8/28/07	CreekDay Meeting	\$10.19		
9/24/07	CreekDay Lunch Meeting	\$47.00		
9/30/07	CreekDay Volunteer Lunch (Subway)	\$67.50		
9/30/07	Santa Maria Transfer Station (extra trash) x	\$15.00		
9/30/07	Trash bags (Von's) x	\$12.86	\$27.86	(won't need)
9/30/07	CreekDay Donuts for Set-Up Crew	\$5.00		
9/30/07	PortaJohns (2)	\$157.36		
9/30/07	So.Co. Sanitation	\$90.04		
9/30/07	Wildflower Seeds (12)	\$6.00		
			\$42.80	(from WCProgram)
9/30/07	Canvas Recycle Bags (10@\$3.68)	\$36.80		
TOTAL:		\$512.15		



27th Annual October Festival

APPLICATION

Saturday, October 9, 2010
 10:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
Nipomo Community Park
(Corner of Tefft St. & Pomeroy Rd.)



FEATURING:

Arts & Crafts, Business Displays, BBQ Contest, Miss Nipomo Contest, Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Food & Drink Booths, Beer Garden, Service & Non-Profit Organizations, Youth Activities, and Live Entertainment!

APPLICATION FEE:

Business/Arts & Crafts (Chamber Member)	\$ 75.00	Youth Non-Profit (No Sales)	\$ 40.00
Business/Arts & Crafts (Non-Chamber Member)	\$ 95.00	Youth Non-Profit (Sales)	\$ 50.00
Food Vendor (Chamber Member)	\$115.00	Youth Non-Profit Food Sales	\$ 50.00
Food Vendor (Non-Chamber Member)	\$160.00	Non-Profit/Service Organization (No Sales)	\$ 45.00
Political Organization (Information Only)	\$160.00	Non-Profit/Service Organization (Sales)	\$ 65.00
Roving Fee (no booth – roving solicitation and flyer hand-outs only)	\$255.00	Non-Profit Organization Food Sales	\$ 70.00

RULES & REGULATIONS:

- **Early bird applications are being accepted through Friday, September 24, 2010.**
- **Late fee of \$50 is applied after September 30th.**
- You are renting a 10' x 10' space, space only.
- You must supply your own tables, chairs, tarps, canopies, signs, change, etc. **(ALL SPACES WILL BE IN THE SUN)**
- There will be no electrical hook-ups available. You may use your own generator (must be a "whisper" generator)
- This event is held Rain or Shine! No Refunds – No Rain Checks
- **NO SILLY STRING OR CONFETTI EGGS ALLOWED IN PARK.**
- Information packets containing your set-up & booth number will be **emailed** one week prior to event.
- **For further information, contact the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce at (805) 929-1583**

NOTE: This Application Will Not Be Accepted Without A Signature

APPLICATION

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Business/Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

If Applicable, Please provide the following:

Vendor's Seller Permit Number: _____ Non-Profit ID Number: _____

Check Those That Apply:

Sales No Sales Information Only Youth Area Adult Area Food Vendor

For each of the following, please provide a specific description:

- Items to be Sold: _____
- Booth Activities: _____
- Type of Food: _____
- Special Request: Same Booth Space as last year (2009) Other Special Request: _____

Payment: Remit Application and Payment to Nipomo Chamber of Commerce 671 W Tefft St. Ste. #2, Nipomo, CA 93444

Number of Spaces: _____ X Fee: \$ _____ = Enclosed: \$ _____

Check Enclosed. Make Checks Payable to "Nipomo Chamber of Commerce" or

Please charge my MASTERCARD / VISA #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I hereby agree to abide by the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce rules and regulations for the 2010 OctoberFest. I hereby agree to assume all risks for loss, theft, damage, liability, cost or expense during the 2010 OctoberFest. I hereby agree to hold harmless the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce, its staff, directors and members from any claim, loss, liability or damage that in any way may be caused by the applicant.

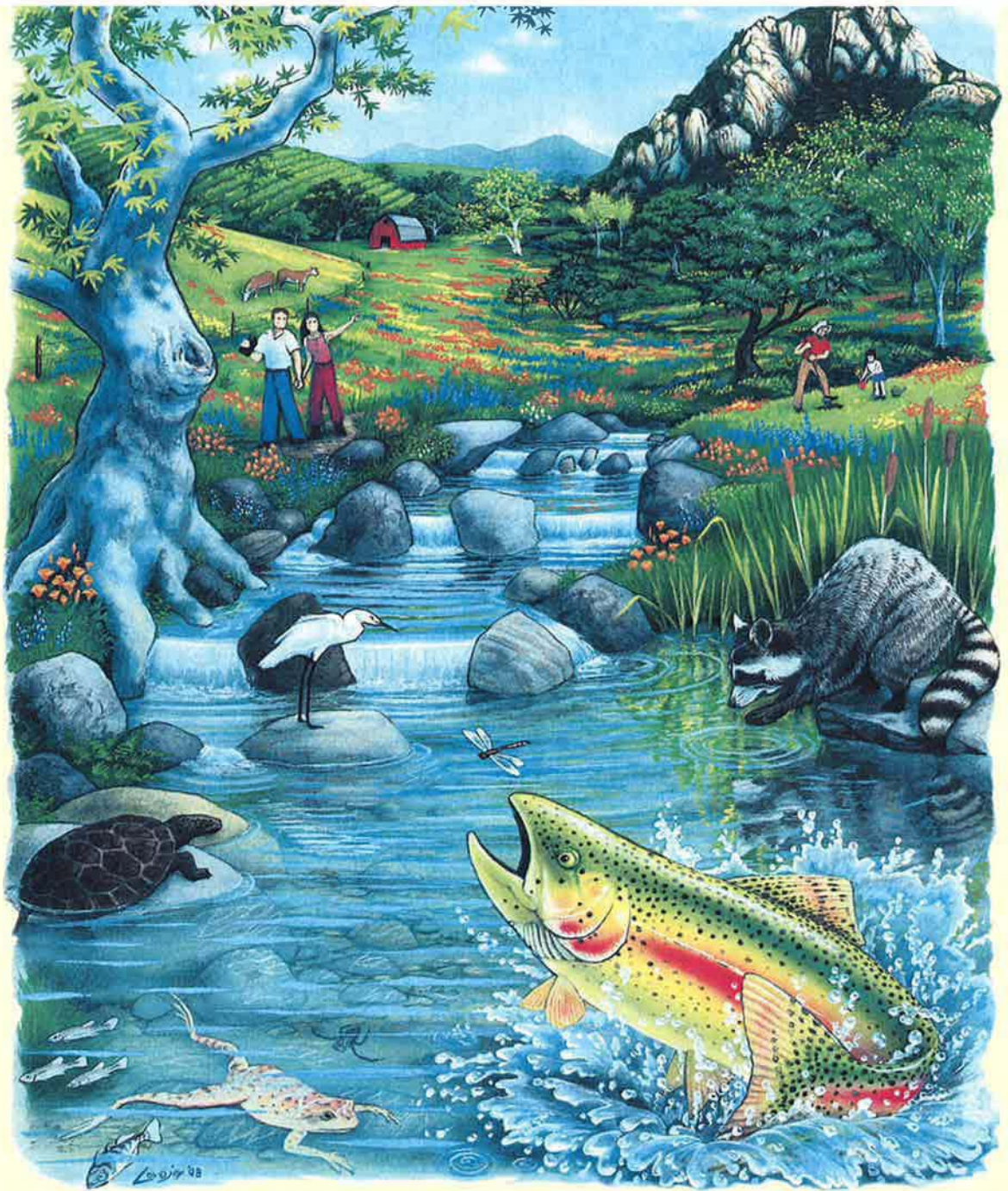
SIGNATURE Required: _____ **Date:** _____

Phone: (805) 929-1583 / Fax: (805) 929-5835 / Email: info@nipomochamber.org

SAN LUIS
OBISPO
COUNTY

CREEK DAY

2010



SLO COUNTY CREEK DAY Saturday | October 2, 2010 | 9am to Noon

Join family, friends and neighbors for a fun morning cleaning up the creeks!

Cleaning the creeks helps protect wildlife and improves the beauty of our county.

Fall is an important time to remove trash, before winter rainstorms arrive and wash debris into the ocean.

PLEASE HELP keep our creeks clean, healthy, and beautiful!

PLEASE CHECK IN at one of these sites on Saturday morning. If under age 18, please bring an adult to sign for you.

PASO ROBLES
Larry Moore Park
Hosts: City of Paso Robles 227-1654 and Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District 434-0396 ext 4. Call for additional locations

TEMPLETON
Templeton Community Services District Office
Host: Templeton CSD 206 Fifth Street 434-4914

ATASCADERO
City Hall Parking Lot
Hosts: Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the City of Atascadero 470-3148

SANTA MARGARITA
8 am to Noon
Santa Margarita Community Park
Hosts: Citizens of Santa Margarita 438-4501 or 438-3329

SAN LUIS OBISPO
Santa Rosa Park
Santa Rosa and Oak Streets, north SLO
Hosts: City of San Luis Obispo and The Land Conservancy of SLO County 544-9096 ext 18

CAL POLY
Dexter Lawn
Host: Environmental Health and Safety Department 756-6664



FIVE CITIES *
Heritage Square Park
Mason and Nelson Streets, AG
Host: Central Coast Salmon Enhancement 473-8221

NIPOMO *
Miller Park
W. Left and Carillo Streets (east of Highway 101)
Hosts: County of San Luis Obispo and Nipomo Community Services District 781-5256

* Sites especially in need of volunteers

Copy of document found at www.NoNewWipTax.com



TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: 09/04/2010

AGENDA ITEMS 5

SEPT 13, 2010

ITEM 5: CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

ITEM

Conservation News 2010, Issue 1 [DISCUSS AND COMMENT].

BACKGROUND

There are usually four Conservation News published each year. This Conservation News submitted for discussion is the first issue of 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accept and direct staff to publish.

ATTACHMENTS

- *Conservation News 2010, Issue 1.*

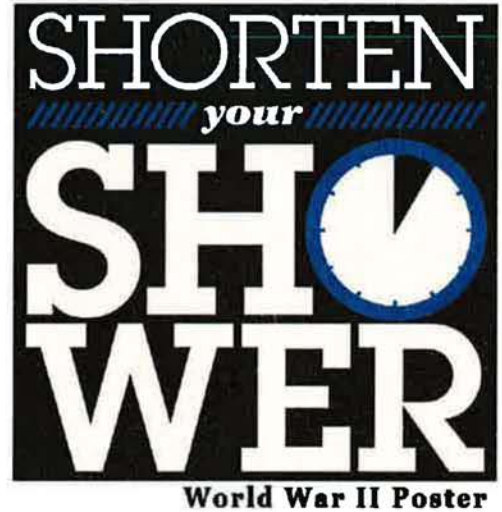
PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS MSWORD TEXT VERSION. IT WILL BE FORMATTED FOR PRINTING BEFORE IT GOES TO THE PRINTER.

NCS D water use at lowest point since 2003!

The NCS D water use has steadily decreased since 2003, with the greatest decrease occurring from 2007 to 2009.

[I WOULD LIKE A QUOTE HERE ABOUT THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF NCS D AND ITS CUSTOMERS TO ACHIEVE THIS DECREASE IN WATER USE, PLEASE?]

With the assistance of information and education on water conservation, rebates for water-saving hardware and landscape renovations, and water-efficiency tactics and hardware for the home and landscape, NCS D customers made the choice to use water more efficiently. Because of these efforts, the groundwater basin serving all of the Nipomo Mesa has had less stress from over-consumption, giving us some breathing room until the completion of the Santa Maria Water Line Intertie Project.



► Look for announcements for Fall Workshops!

NCS D will be expanding educational workshop series to include workshops in the fall. Subjects may include *Lawn Replacement, from Start to Finish*.

Suggestions for workshop topics are always welcome! Just email cwhitow@ncsd.ca.gov

► Water-efficiency habits WORK, so don't stop now!

Winter rains were great this year, but we still need to use water efficiently. The amount of water withdrawn from the Nipomo Mesa Groundwater Basin by its users is, on average, more than nature can replenish the groundwater basin in an average-rainfall year. When we have a run of dry years, as we have in the past, we have even more of a groundwater-basin water withdrawal-replenishment deficit than when our rain amounts are normal. Decreasing availability of new water supplies will continue to be a problem for California, so we must continue our efforts in using water efficiently.

► Using Water Efficiently - Three Simple Steps

1. **Install water-saving devices or make water-saving changes in the home or landscape.** No matter the type of device, usually it is purchased only once, and the savings are reaped for the life of the device.
2. **Repair leaks.** An estimated 16% of water used by residential customer is wasted by leaks. A single dripping faucet can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons per year. Most leaks are easy to find and repair. Because of the potential for polluting our creeks, in San Luis Obispo

County, it is illegal to allow water to run off your property into gutters. Fixing leaks is a quick way to both save water and decrease stormwater pollution.

3. **Change your habits.** Changing habits takes time and patience. Work on changing one habit at a time, and reward yourself as you make progress.



► REBATES ► REBATES ► REBATES ►

NCS D is offering two rebates to its customers: one for high-efficiency clothes washers, and one for lawn removal and replacement with drought-tolerant plants. Want more information? Visit the NCS D website (www.ncsd.ca.gov) or send an email to cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov



► NCS D rebate program supports customers' water-use efficiency.

Two rebate programs offered by NCS D provide financial incentive to customers who wish to increase their water-use efficiency.

NCS D's successful High-Efficiency Clothes-Washer Rebate Program has issued rebates for 137 customers who replaced a low-efficiency clothes washer with a new, high-efficiency clothes washer (HEW).

Washing laundry is a large water user in the average home, accounting for 15% to 40% of the overall water consumption inside the typical household of four persons. A standard washer will use approximately 40 to 45 gallons of water per load. A family of four using a standard clothes washer will wash more than 300 loads per year, using 12,000 gallons of water annually. New, HEWs can significantly reduce this water use by more than 6,000 gallons per year, and can save energy, clean the clothes better, and reduce fabric wear.

NCS D is also offering a Turf Replacement Rebate Program, which is currently in its pilot-program phase. Customers can receive a rebate of \$1.00 per square-foot (up to 500 square feet, or \$500) of turf replaced by drought-tolerant plants. The potential for water (and money) savings is high: the average potential savings is 60% for the rebate applicants who have been accepted into the program.

There are specific eligibility requirements and condition for acceptance into the rebate programs, so if you are interested in applying for a rebate, be sure you check the requirements first before making changes to your existing landscape/clothes washer.

To find out if you qualify for a rebate program, either call the office (929-1133), visit the NCS D website (www.ncsd.ca.gov), or send an email to cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov.

Is your irrigation system at top efficiency? A simple problem, such as a sprinkler head out of adjustment such that instead of spraying it mists, can waste 30% of the water leaving the sprinkler head. A properly functioning, well-maintained system will keep your landscape healthy, while making every drop count! Here is a website with tips to make sure your system is ready to go.

How to Tune Up Your Irrigation System

http://www.irrigationrepair.com/how_to_tune_up_your_irrigation_system.html

FREE!! Soil Moisture Meter for NCSD customers! Only give your plants the amount of water it needs. How do you find that out? Use a Soil Moisture Meter, which shows how dry the soil is. These handy gizmos will be given to NCSD customers (100 meters available, one per customer) on a first-come/first-get basis. Just stop by the office, 148 South Wilson Street, in Olde Towne Nipomo!



World War II poster

Most residential landscapes are overwatered. Overwatering not only wastes water, it also promotes soil diseases and damage from harmful insects.

More often than not, using a finger to judge soil moisture content is inaccurate. For instance, sandy soils often do not feel moist to the touch even when they have plenty of moisture.

Using a hand-held moisture meter provides objective information about the soil moisture content. Test the soil at different locations, especially next to new plants.

Do not water new water-efficient plants when the moisture meter reads higher than low-moderate. For established drought-tolerant plants, do not irrigate unless there is less than moderate moisture present. By the end of the second year, a drought-tolerant plant has been in the landscape, if it is truly drought-tolerant, it should be able to go at least one month, and up to three months or more, without irrigation.

[LAST PAGE HAS THE USUAL DISTRICT INFO, NOT REPRODUCED HERE BECAUSE OF PRINTING FORMATTING]

Names of Board Members and some Staff

Upcoming Board Meetings

General contact information for District

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: 09/06/2010

**AGENDA ITEM
6**

SEPT 13, 2010

ITEM 6: REPLACEMENT OF HEDGE IN NCSD OFFICE LANDSCAPE.

ITEM

Replacement of hedge in NCSD office landscape. [REVIEW, DISCUSS, PROVIDE STAFF DIRECTION].

BACKGROUND

The NCSD Office landscape is over ten years old, and its age is beginning to show. In addition, the majority of the plant material is not water efficient, and does not set a good example of sustainable landscape water use. Discussion has been held over the past three years regarding replacement of the landscape, in phases, with plant material which would both set a good water-efficiency example and serve as a water conservation teaching tool. While, when mature, the landscape would use less water than does the existing not-water-efficient plant material, for the first two years, more water would be required to establish the landscape. With NCSD's emphasis on water conservation for its customers, NCSD has postponed starting the landscape project until the supplemental water project is nearing completion. Supplemental water will take some of the consumption pressure off the groundwater basin.

However, the hedge along the north property line is nearing extremis. The large *Myoporum* "hedge" has just a very small amount of green growth, the majority of the hedge being dry wood. The *Dodonea viscosa* portion of the hedge has, over the years, lost a few plants. The portion of the planting nearest S. Wilson Street has been removed.

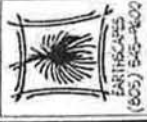
Concerns about the hedge include appearance, increasing pests (thrips), and fire potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

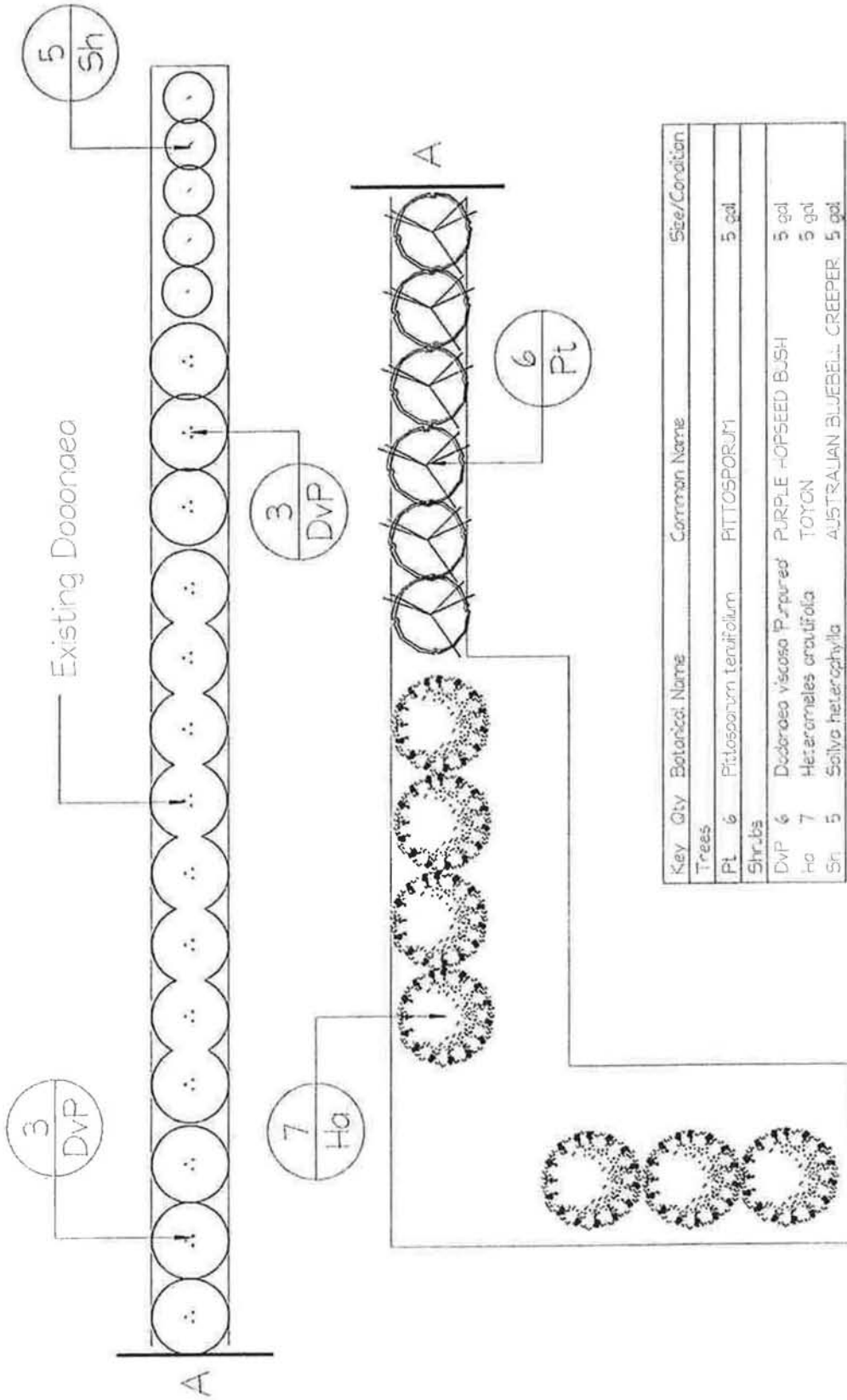
- Planting plan for north boundary of office property.
- Photos of plants.



Nipomo CSD Parking Lot
Nipomo, CA

Planting Plan

DATE: 10/1/10
SCALE: 1" = 8'-0"





TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FROM: DON SPAGNOLO
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: 09/8/2010

AGENDA ITEM

7

SEPT 13, 2010

INITIATE INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR CUSTOMERS' TO USE WATER SOFTENERS THAT DO NOT USE SALT.

ITEM

Consideration of initiating an incentive program for customers to use water softeners that do not use salt.

[DISCUSS CONCEPT, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF].

BACKGROUND

Elevated salts in the wastewater processed by the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility have been a concern and, in the past, have presented a challenge in meeting the California State guidelines. The discharge brine from residential use of salt-using water softeners is one source of the salts in the wastewater. In 2009, the California State Legislature passed and chaptered Assembly bill 1366, which provides water purveyors the option of instituting restrictions on salt-using water softeners.

Providing an incentive to residents for switching to the non-salt-using water softeners is one way of convincing residents to make the change to the non-salt-using water softeners.

There are two companies locally providing the non-salt-using water softeners.

Companies providing water softeners can assist water purveyors in designing and administering an incentive program. Reference is made to the attached flyer from Lompoc Community Services District, which offer a \$150 incentive in the form of a credit for residents who switch to the non-salt-using water softeners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Discuss concept, provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT

Flyer from Lompoc Community Services District.

T:\BOARD MATTERS\BOARD MEETINGS\BOARDLETTER\2010\COMMITTEES\FINANCE\09132010-FIN-ITEM3.DOC

Water Conservation Committee 9/13/2010

Laguna County Sanitation District is teamed up with

Culligan

Water. pure and simple.

922-3585

700 West Cook Street
Santa Maria CA 93454



Rayne
Water Conditioning

925-6555

2239 South Oakley
Santa Maria CA 93454

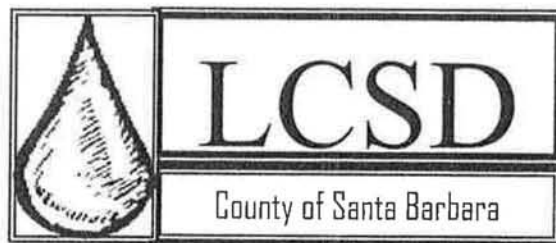
**to bring you a special offer
that helps us meet our
permit requirements and
saves you money.**

You will receive a

\$150.00

Credit

**towards the removal of
your softener and the
installation of a canister
exchange softener.**



Laguna County Sanitation District We Need Your Help

WHY?

As you may know, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board has set Laguna County Sanitation District effluent limits for sodium, chloride and total dissolved solids (collectively known as salts). The recent plant upgrade has reduced the salts by nearly half the amount in the effluent, however, chloride is still slightly high.

How You Can Help

By replacing your regenerating softener with a canister exchange softener. Canister exchange softeners do not discharge brine to sewer system.

**Culligan and Rayne
are offering you a
\$150.00**

incentive to participate

(see other side)

Call for details

Copy of document found at www.santa-barbara.com If you have questions or need additional information please call the district office at (805) 739-8700