

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: MICHAEL S. LEBRUN *MSL*
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM
F
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ITEM

Standing report to your Honorable Board -- *Period covered by this report is November 9, 2013 through December 6, 2013.*

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Administrative

- Filling staffing vacancies remains a top priority. Mr. Richard Fernandez began work as a Utility (wastewater) Operator on December 2. In January, a new Customer Service (Operations entry level) will join staff. Recruitment to fill the Wastewater Supervisor and Secretary Clerk vacancies are ongoing. Second interviews of Secretary Clerk candidates are scheduled for the week of December 9. An initial interview with a candidate for the wastewater plant supervisor position is scheduled for the week of December 15.
- The District's Strategic Plan consultant conducted individual interviews with each Director and management staff person on December 3rd. The consultant, Rauch Communications, will conduct two full-day strategic plan workshops (public meetings) with your Board and management staff in January and February 2014.
- In the past two weeks, the two County rain gauges located at the Southland Wastewater Plant (Nipomo South) and the Tefft Street water storage site (Nipomo East) recorded a fraction of an inch of rain. The cumulative rainfall for the season remains under 0.4 inches at both gauges. County rain gauges are reset on July 1 each year. Last rain year, Nipomo South gauge (Sensor 730 – located at Southland WWTP) measured total rainfall for the year of 7 inches, 44% of the 16-inch annual average. Last year the Nipomo East gauge (Sensor 728 – located at Tefft Street Water tank storage site) measured 5.9 inches for the past year, 33% of the 18 inch annual average.; Lopez Lake stands at 60.0% capacity (29,694 Acre-feet). The District does not have access to Lopez water; however Lopez is a major source of recharge to the Northern Cities Management Area portions of the Santa Maria Groundwater basin.

Safety Program

- No incidents to report

Public Outreach

The following Public Outreach Program materials are provided:

- A summary of outreach and education activities

- Recent outreach materials;
 - 4th Quarter District Newsletter
 - November 29th water conservation message
 - November 29th Inside the NCSD column
- Recent press releases and press release log
- District related news articles

Monthly Connection Report

Nipomo Community Services District
Water and Sewer Connections

END OF MONTH CONNECTION REPORT 2013

	DEC-12	JAN-13	FEB-13	MAR-13	APR-13	MAY-13	JUN-13	JUL-13	AUG-13	SEPT-13	OCT-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Water Connections (Total)	4259	4268	4268	4268	4268	4287	4287	4289	4290	4290	4293	4310	
Sewer Connections (Total)	3055	3064	3064	3064	3064	3083	3083	3083	3084	3084	3086	3102	
Meters turned off (Non-payment)	20	18	34	32	14	20	13	13	28	30	23	20	
Meters off (Vacant)	52	55	57	56	58	57	55	53	48	45	45	44	
Sewer Connections off (Vacant)	20	22	24	22	23	24	20	28	18	14	14	11	
New Water Connections	12	9	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	3	17	
New Sewer Connection	12	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	16	
Galaxy & PSHH at Orchard and Division Sewer Connections billed to the County	462	462	462	462	462	462	462	462	462	462	463	463	

Other Items and News of Interest (Attachments to this Report)

- December 10 SLO County Board of Supervisors Agenda
- December 2013 Blacklake Breeze
- Pismo Beach staff report on State Water sales
- Tribune article on lawsuits against SLO County Urgency Water Ordinance
- Merced Bee article on land subsidence cause by excessive pumping
- Noozhawk article on Montecito water rates and rationing
- CSDA e-News on Carlsbad Desalination project costs and financing
- Web traffic report for Garden Soft website – water saving landscape information

Meetings

Meetings Attended (telephonically or in person):

- November 12, Finance and Audit Committee
- November 12, Rate Consultant
- November 13, Regular Board Meeting
- November 14, Quarterly All Staff and Safety
- November 14 & 21, Management Coordination
- November 15, Supplemental Water Project Pipe Pull-Through
- November 18, Board Officers
- November 19, Water Resources Committee
- November 20, NMMA Sub Committee
- November 20, South SLO County Sanitation
- November 20, Standpipe Tank Project Bid Open
- November 21, Special Counsel on Personnel Manual Update
- November 22, Rate Consultant

- *November 22, Supplemental Water Right of Way*
- *November 25, City of Santa Maria Utilities Director*
- *November 25 & 26, Board Clerk Interviews*
- *November 27, General Counsel coordination*
- *December 2, NMMA Technical Group*
- *December 2, Board Officers*
- *December 3, Strategic Plan interviews*
- *December 3, SLO County on Supplemental Water Right of Way*
- *December 4, Science Discovery education consultant*
- *December 4, SLO County Water Resources Advisory Committee*
- *December 4, Heritage Ranch CSD GM*
- *December 6, Strategic Plan Consultant*

Meetings Scheduled:

- *December 11, Regular Board Meeting*
- *December 12, Rate Consultant*
- *December 12 & 19, Management Coordination*
- *December 16, Board Officers*

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction and input from your Honorable Board

ATTACHMENTS

- A. NCSO Outreach Materials
- B. December 10 SLO County Supervisors Agenda
- C. December Blacklake Breeze
- D. Pismo Beach Council Agenda Report
- E. Lawsuits against Urgency Ordinance
- F. Merced County Sinking
- G. Montecito Water Rationing
- H. Carlsbad Desalination Cost
- I. Garden Soft web site statistics

DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT A

**NCSO Outreach Summary
December 2013**

Date Started	Outreach	Description	Status	Date Completed
7/2/2013	FOG	Creating page and graphics for website regarding Fats, Oils, and Grease	In Progress	
8/19/2013	Brochure	Update of "Reading Your Water Meter" and "Detecting Leaks" brochures	In Review	
10/16/2013	Website Upgrade	"Design Phase" with website consultant	In Progress	
11/8/2013	Bulletin Board	Duplicated lobby bulletin board information in Board room	Complete	11/12/2013
11/13/2013	Founding BOD Plaque Ceremony	Covering for plaque; pictures	Complete	11/13/2013
11/13/2013	Press Release	District Awards Grant Funds for Continued Solid Waste Removal to Nipomo Chamber of Commerce	Complete	11/14/2013
11/13/2013	Press Release	Board Recognizes District's Billing Clerk for Twenty-Three Years of Outstanding Service	Complete	11/14/2013
11/13/2013	Press Release	Board Honors District's Founding Board of Directors	Complete	11/14/2013
11/20/2013	Ad	Fall Water Usage 1/4 page ad in Adobe, pub date 11/29	Complete	11/22/2013
10/1/2013	District Newsletter	Fourth quarter newsletter for November 30th distribution	Complete	11/22/2013
11/22/2013	Manager's Column	Article 9 for Manager's Column in Adobe Press, pub date 12/6	Complete	11/25/2013
11/15/2013	Website Updates	Press Releases, Manager's Column; newsletter; links	Complete; Ongoing	12/5/2013
11/25/2013	Report	Design/Update of SWP Narrative Report	In Progress	
12/4/2013	Conservation Education	Updating/Upgrading Science Discovery conservation education program in schools	In Progress	



District News



Out with Fall and In with Winter - Watering Tips for the Season

Happy Thanksgiving!

As fall is nearing the end, it's time to start thinking about your winter watering. With the wet, cool winter weather around the corner consider shutting off your outdoor irrigation system for the next few months and realize some significant savings on your water bill. Few, if any, of your landscape areas need supplemental irrigation during this time of year.

For information on landscaping with California native plants, visit www.slowaterwiselandscaping.com

Supplemental Water Project Celebrates Construction

On October 23rd, the District celebrated beginning construction on the Supplemental Water Project Phase I.

The Project will facilitate interconnection of four regional water providers and the importation of developed water from the City of Santa Maria to the Nipomo Mesa Management Area in accordance with a court order. The Project diversifies Nipomo's water supply and thereby increases supply reliability into the future. River crossing is scheduled to be completed Fall 2013

with the Project scheduled to be completed May 2015.

Elected officials including California Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian, San Luis Obispo County 4th District Supervisor Caren Ray, City of Santa Maria's Mayor Alice Patino and Councilmen Jack Boysen and Willie Green were present for the celebration.



Nipomo Community Services District
148 South Wilson Street, Nipomo, CA
93444

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Peter Sevcik
Director of Engineering and
Operations

Jessica Matson
Public Information Assistant

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**Southland Wastewater
Facility Update** 2

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Director** 3

What is CCF? 3

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\$75 REBATE for High-Efficiency Washers!

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Nipomo Community Services District
www.ncsd.ca.gov | 805.929.1133



To find out if you are eligible for the \$75 clothes washer rebate, visit the NCSD website at www.ncsd.ca.gov, click on the "High Efficiency Washer Rebate" link under Quick Links, then scroll down for the clothes washer rebate information and application

If you have any questions, stop by the office at 148 S. Wilson in Nipomo or call NCSD at 929-1133.

Update on Nipomo's Groundwater Supply

With sparse rainfall last winter and dry conditions prevailing so far this winter, the District is asking all its customers and all users of the area's groundwater resources to "Use Wisely." District Managers are working with managers from other area water companies to develop a uniform approach to mandatory water use restriction should they be necessary next summer.

Visit the District's website at www.ncsd.ca.gov for tips on how to use water wisely.



Update on Southland Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility Upgrade

Construction on the Southland Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility Upgrade is making good progress. The Project is currently ahead of schedule with over 78% of work completed.

Project improvements include a flow-metering station, pump station, screening system for incoming fluids, a grit removal

system, extended-aeration system, two final clarifiers, drying beds, and facility water system. The upgrade will also include the construction of two additional disposal ponds.

The Project is scheduled for completion in July 2014.

For more information on the Project, visit the District's website at www.ncsd.ca.gov



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send us your comments, questions and suggestions to info@ncsd.ca.gov

Meet the District's Finance Director

Ms. Lisa Bognuda has served as the Finance Director for the District for over 20 years.

Prior to coming to the District in 1993, she was a Tax Accountant with Glenn, Burdette, Phillips & Bryson, CPA firm for 6 years. Ms. Bognuda became a Certified Public Accountant in 1988. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concen-

tration in accounting from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1985.

Lisa oversees all financial aspects of the District including the day-to-day office operations as well as the preparation of all monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports. In addition, she coordinates annually with the Dis-

trict's independent auditor to ensure the audit is completed in a timely manner. She is proud to report the District has received an "unqualified" (clean) audit opinion each year for more than 20 years.

Lisa has been married to her husband, Ray, for 27 years and they have two children, Ryan and Brianna. The family enjoys boating at Lake Nacimiento and traveling.



Lisa Bognuda,
Finance Director

CCF - What Does This Mean on My Water Bill?

CCF can stand for a lot of things (Cambodian Children's Fund, Canadian Car and Foundry, chili cheese fries), but when it comes to your water bill, what does it mean?

CCF is a unit of measurement commonly used for measuring water volume. 1 CCF is 100 cubic feet which is equal to 748 gallons of water.

If you take a look at your last water bill, you will see a box labeled "Detail of your water use this period." Under "Units Used," you will see numbers. This is the number of units, or "CCF", you used in a two-month billing cycle.

Detail of your water use this period

Water Use Tiers	Cost Per Unit	Units Used	Total
0 to 24	\$1.80	24	\$43.20
25 to 40	\$2.25	16	\$36.00
41 to 100	\$3.15	15	\$47.25
101 and up	\$5.40	0	\$.00
WATER USE ONLY ->			\$126.45

Example:
24 units = 24 CCF (2400 cubic feet) = 17,952 gallons of water.

If you feel your usage is high, the District can review your history with you. Call the office at 929-1133. Additionally, you may want to check for leaks. The District's website (www.ncsd.ca.gov) has tips on how to do this.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is my water bill higher?

Most fall water bills reflect summer water usage. Hotter weather leads to more water usage for landscaping. You may also have a leak. The District has some tips for checking your home for leaks.

Who fixes a leak?

NCSD maintains the entire water system up to and including the water meter. It is the customers' responsibility to fix any water leak that happens after the water meter (customer side of meter).

How does the Supplemental Water Project impact my water bill?

Currently, the Project has no impact on rates. The construction is financed by a grant, reserves, and loan secured by current rates. Once water begins to flow from the new pipeline, District water rates will be impacted.



We welcome your feedback and questions! If you have a question you would like us to answer, feel free to contact info@ncsd.ca.gov

Providing the community with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Phone: 805-929-1133 | Fax: 805-929-1932 | E-mail: info@ncsd.ca.gov | www.ncsd.ca.gov

Nipomo Community Services District
148 South Wilson Street, Nipomo, CA 93444



Upcoming Meetings and Dates to Remember

Wed, November 27th
Board Meeting Cancelled

Wed, December 25th
Board Meeting Cancelled

**Thu, November 28th -
Fri, November 29th**
District Office closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday

**Tue, December 24th -
Fri, December 27th**
District Office Closed for Holiday

Wed, December 11th @ 9:00 am
Board Meeting at NCSD Office
(public welcome)

**Tue, December 31st
Wed, January 1st**
District Office Closed for Holiday

Check ncsd.ca.gov for updates

Pay your bill online!
www.ncsd.ca.gov

For customer convenience, Nipomo Community Services District continues to offer an online bill paying service. This service accepts Visa, Master Card, Discover, and American Express, as well as debit cards and e-checks. Customers can also pay in the office Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm, except holidays. There is a payment drop box in the driveway.

CONSERVATION TIP

Let your lawn go dormant (brown) during the winter. Most species of grass need little or no water during winter months.



www.slowaterwiselandscaping.com

MINOR MADNESS

STILL UNDEFEATED: Cowboys win Division 1 title



Nipomo Cowboys Division 1 team players and coaches pose for a photograph to celebrate their championship season after winning the Tri-Valley Youth Football Conference Super Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 23. The team of 7- and 8-year-olds downed Santa Ynez 14-6 in the game at Northridge High School in Ojai to end the season with an 11-0 record. The Cowboys Division 1 team of 13- and 14-year-olds wasn't as lucky, losing a heartbreaker to a Santa Ynez team by 16-14 to end the season with a 10-1 record.

Nipomo FFA shines in Greenhand contest

• High school freshmen gather for test

By Amy Jones
Reporter

Thursday, Nov. 14, more than 90 high school freshmen from around the Central Coast traveled to Nipomo High School anxiously waiting to compete in an FFA site of passage.

The Nipomo FFA chapter hosted the Best Informed Greenhand contest, or BIG, a written test based on the history of the Future Farmers of America.

Among the eight schools competing, Nipomo had one team and 176 members participating.

"I feel like BIG was a great experience, and I had so much fun mingling with other students from different schools," Nipomo freshman Filiberto Hernandez said. "I learned many things about the FFA, and it was a great chance to show off what I have learned."

Nipomo's Greenhands found much success, taking

first high team and four of the five high individual places.

We congratulate our first-place team and 14th individual.

With Alex Andrade as the first high individual, our third high individual was Brenna Tippitt, fourth was Katelyn Maclean and fifth was Lauren Hill.

Our first high team members were Alex, Brenna, Katelyn, Lauren and Chelsea McNeil.

The contest spanned the freshmen's drive for competition and desire to bring their FFA family pride.

Competing in the BIG experience also allows first-year members to meet and connect with other students in their section and gain a new perspective on how competitions bring out the best in people.

We know all our Greenhand competitors are our rising stars in the bright future of our chapter.

Local school districts to get energy funding from tax increases

• State will dole out more than \$106M

By Susan Fennell
Reporter

California school districts will begin receiving a total of more than \$106 million in state funding to plan energy-efficiency projects backed by a tax increase.

The state has earmarked between \$50,000 in funding for local charter programs such as Orcutt Academy Charter and hundreds of thousands for larger school districts such as the Lucia Mar Unified, Orcutt Union and Santa Maria-Bonita districts this fiscal year.

Some local districts will begin receiving a portion of the funding this year, and others plan to apply for the energy financing in a second

application wave planned for February 2014.

State Schools Chief Don Taralosso announced last week that the influx of state funding — projected to bring K-12 public schools, charter schools, county offices of education and community colleges \$2.5 billion in five years — is the result of voter-approved Proposition 53, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act.

Taralosso said energy-efficiency projects in schools will help create jobs, protect the environment, save money and create "teachable moments" for students.

"With Proposition 53, voters made it clear that they see support for education and the environment — and the intersection of the two — as a direct investment in the future of California," he said.

Voters passed Proposition 53 last November to support energy-efficiency and alter-

native-energy projects, as well as "related improvements and repairs that contribute to reduced operating costs and improved health and safety conditions in public schools."

Finance and education officials in local districts including Lucia Mar, Guadalupe, Orcutt Union, Santa Maria-Bonita and Santa Maria Joint Unions said they have not yet determined how to utilize the Proposition 53 funding.

Jeff Dixon, executive director of facilities in the district, said a Lucia Mar accountability committee is waiting until the state finalizes spending guidelines, expected in December, before further considering an option to install solar water heating for two district pools.

"We'd essentially be beating those pools for nearly five," Dixon said.

Trot

Continued from A2

Isabella Romero, 0-50-95.

• First grade — Sophia Espanza, 1-3; Molly Nichols, 1-3; Lauren White, 1-30.

• Second grade — Arya Klopfer, 1-2; Layla McCall, 1-3; Ava Ono, 1-3.

• Third grade — Taylor Jones, 3-0; Abby Holt, 3-28-31; Clara Diaz, 3-28-77. • Fourth grade — Alondra Bellera, 3-0; Madeline Scott, 3-2; Julie Ramirez, 3-13.

• Fifth grade — Anabella Eder, 5-3; Clarissa Padam, 5-7; Geneva Peters, 5-51. • Sixth grade — Joelle Fredrickson, 10-43. • Seventh and eighth grades — Alexa Thomas, 7-13; Sarah Egular, 8-22; Aliyah Garcia, 8-56.

Boys

• Preschool — Cole Ono, 0-5; Nash Fitzgerald, 0-58; Brevin Naber, 1-00.

• Kindergarten — Ethan Scudatto, 0-47; Dylan Smith, 0-49; Samuel Leiva, 0-51. • First grade — Luke Parker, 1-23; Judah Hill, 1-25.

Bas Vink, 1-33. • Second grade — Caden Coacia, 1-22; James Bishop, 1-23; Jack Campluga, 1-25. • Third grade — Thomas Baccelloni, 3-07; Daniel Ortega, 3-13-13; Grant Baskin, 3-13-93.

• Fourth grade — Keaton Portes, 2-54; Cory Wack, 2-59; Ameliah Rappas, 3-02.

• Fifth grade — Samuel Moore, 5-14; Saxon Schriener, 5-24; Drew Baslin, 5-31.

• Sixth grade — Zac Nichols, 5-01; Ryan Smith, 5-51; Alex Hunter, 7-58. • Seventh and eighth grades — Blue Apodaca, 7-13; Richard Ortega, 7-13-30.

YOUTH BRIEF

SESLOC awards grants to local schools

Three South County schools received \$500 education grants this year from SESLOC Federal Credit Union.

Grants were presented to the Dana Elementary School "Walk Through the American Revolution" project, the Lopez High School Algebra Project and the Arroyo Grande High School Regional Occupational Program Technical Theater Group.

Each year, SESLOC awards 10 education grants to local educators at schools serving kindergarten through 12th grade, a credit union spokeswoman said.

Other schools and programs receiving grants so far this year include San Benito Elementary School's ELL Learning Center, Bower Spack Elementary School Photography and Yearbook Project and Santa Margarita Elementary School Outdoor Classroom and Gardens.

"We believe a healthy community is one in which education thrives," said Carla Swift, SESLOC marketing executive. "Our roots are in education and in this county, and we are committed to supporting our local schools."

Applications for SESLOC grants are available at www.sbcu.org.

Brian Beres D.D.S.
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Ways to Save this Fall

Cooler temperatures and shorter days have arrived. Here are some simple tips that could result in a decrease in your water bill this fall:

Outside

1. Water needs of plants (including grass) drop dramatically in the fall. Adjust your watering times back.
2. Lawns need very little irrigation. At the most apply 1/2 inch of water every three weeks.

Inside

1. Fix leaks. Check your toilet and faucets for leaks. The District has tips on how to do this.
2. Wash full loads of clothes or dishes.
3. Rinse vegetables in a pan of cold water rather than using running water.

For more information and tips, visit www.ncsd.ca.gov or call 929-1133.

Manager's Column

Adobe Press; Inside the NCSD

November 29, 2013 Issue

DROUGHT: "GOT WATER"

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Encarta Dictionary defines *drought* as, "a long period of extremely dry weather when there is not enough rain for the successful growing of crops or the replenishment of water supplies". I think most folks agree last year was a 'droughty' year with some of the lowest rainfall on record being recorded throughout the region. The lack of rainfall so far this year is adding to concerns over local groundwater supply.

In order to measure the general health of groundwater underlying the Nipomo Mesa, the court-ordered "Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group" (NMMA) established an index of eight 'key' groundwater wells across the Mesa. Last spring (April 2013), this index of wells dropped by 30% from the previous spring measurement and reached its lowest level recorded in the near 40-year record.

There is no absolute way to know if drought conditions will continue the remainder of this winter or in coming years. We can only look to local weather history and make predictions about future conditions. If we knew the next twenty years would be either extremely wet or extremely dry, our water resources plan would be significantly different one way from the other. It is most prudent that we plan for dry conditions going forward.

A pipeline to bring the area supplemental water is under construction, yet water deliveries from the first phase of the pipeline are not expected until mid-2015. In the meantime, all Mesa water users need to be water conscientious. This winter, members of the NMMA group are planning drought management measures that may be needed should we remain in drought conditions and our local water levels continue to decline.

Drought management measures generally focus penalties on the high end of water use in an attempt to minimize irrigation use. More than ever, now is the time to consider reducing the water demands of your landscape. Many home owners could reduce summer time irrigation by more than 50% by simply being more efficient when watering their existing landscape. There is a great deal of information on the District's website and other local and online sources regarding water use efficiency and converting to low water use landscapes. If you need some help getting started, call the District, our staff will help point you in a water conserving direction.

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, info@ncsd.ca.gov

**Press Release Log
2013**

Date of PR	Title	Date Sent to Media	Date Placed On Website	Media Pub	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published
7/3/2013	Nipomo CSD is Still Looking for a Few Good Operators	7/3/2013	7/5/2013	Adobe	7/26/2013	SM Times	7/26/2013				
7/11/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Authorizes Construction of Additional Disposal Facilities at Wastewater Treatment Plant	7/12/2013	7/12/2013	Adobe	7/19/2013	SM Times	7/25/2013				
9/11/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Deny Agricultural Request for Water	NA	9/13/2013	Tribune	9/12/2013	SM Times	9/12/2013	KCOY	9/12/2013	Adobe	9/13/2013
9/25/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Accept District Transparency Award	9/26/2013	9/27/2013	Adobe	10/4/2013	SM Times	10/7/2013				
9/25/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Award Contract for Rate Study and Capacity Charge Study	9/26/2013	9/27/2013	SM Times	10/7/2013						
10/9/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Award Contract for Strategic Plan Development	10/10/2013	10/10/2013								

**Press Release Log
2013**

Date of PR	Title	Date Sent to Media	Date Placed On Website	Media Pub	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published	Media Published	Date PR Published
10/9/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Approve Amendment for the Development of Park Planning for Jim O Miller Park Takes Significant Step Forward	10/10/2013	10/10/2013	Adobe	10/4/2013	SM Times	10/21/2013				
10/9/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Inspect New Utility Service Truck	10/10/2013	10/10/2013	Adobe	10/11/2013						
10/16/2013	Nipomo CSD to Celebrate Supplemental Water Project Construction Elected Leaders to be Present	10/17/2013	10/17/2013	Adobe	10/25/2013 11/22/2013	SM Times	10/22/13 10/24/13 11/18/13	Tribune New Times	10/23/2013 11/20/2013	Sun	10/29/2013 11/14/2013
10/23/2013	Nipomo CSD Board of Directors Approve Park's Request for Water	10/25/2013	10/25/2013	Adobe	11/1/2013						
11/13/2013	District Awards Grant Funds for Continued Solid Waste Removal to Nipomo Chamber of Commerce	11/14/2013	11/15/2013								

**Press Release Log
2013**

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11/13/2013	Board Recognizes District's Billing Clerk for Twenty-Three Years of Outstanding Service	11/14/2013	11/15/2013	Adobe	11/22/2013	SM Times	11/24/2013				
11/13/2013	Board Honors District's Founding Board of Directors	11/14/2013	11/15/2013	Adobe	11/22/2013						

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 13, 2013
Contact: Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager
Nipomo Community Services District
148 S. Wilson St., Nipomo, CA 93444
Phone: (805) 929-1133 – Email: mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov



District Awards Grant Funds for Continued Solid Waste Removal to Nipomo Chamber of Commerce

On Wednesday, November 13th, the District's Board held their regular meeting at 9AM and unanimously approved to award Nipomo Chamber of Commerce grant funds in the amount of \$10,230 for continued solid waste removal services in the Nipomo community common areas. These funds will cover clean-up services for November 2013 through April 2014.

The Nipomo Chamber of Commerce contracts with Achievement House, who employs developmentally delayed adults, to provide the physical labor. The highly successful program was initiated a year ago. The Chamber administers the program with grant funding from the District. The grant funds are generated by the District's solid waste franchise fee which is paid to the District by South County Sanitary (The Garbage Company) which all District customers help generate through their garbage bill.

With Chamber oversight, Achievement House staff regularly clean the community streets, sidewalks, and vacant lots of debris. The Board recognized the efforts of Nipomo Chamber of Commerce and Achievement House and approved the grant funds to continue the clean-up work for an additional six months. Chamber President Rudy Stowell is widely credited with proposing the plan originally and providing the individual energy and effort to see it through. All agreed these were funds well spent, producing multilayered community benefit.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 9AM, District Board Room 148 South Wilson, Nipomo.

For more information or to view the minutes, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit www.ncsd.ca.gov.

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Established in 1965 to meet the health and sanitation needs of the local community, Nipomo Community Services is pleased to provide a wide variety of services throughout its district including the provision of water, sewer, and waste management services as well as lighting and drainage in limited areas. The mission of Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 13, 2013
Contact: Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager
Nipomo Community Services District
148 S. Wilson St., Nipomo, CA 93444
Phone: (805) 929-1133 – Email: mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov



Board Recognizes District's Billing Clerk for Twenty-Three Years of Outstanding Service

On Wednesday, November 13th, the District's Board held their regular meeting at 9AM and presented NCS D Billing Clerk, Kathy Beltran with a Resolution of Appreciation recognizing her outstanding service to the District for twenty-three years.

Ms. Beltran began her employment with the District on January 2, 1991 and has served the District with great dedication ever since. Her competence, compassion, and commitment to her job as Billing Clerk are some of the many reasons Nipomo Community Services District customers enjoy a high degree of customer service. Ms. Beltran will be retiring from the District next month.

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 9AM, District Board Room 148 South Wilson, Nipomo.

For more information or to view the minutes, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit www.ncsd.ca.gov.

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Board Honors District's Founding Board of Directors

On Wednesday, November 13th, the District's Board held their regular meeting at 9AM and held a dedication ceremony unveiling a brass plaque honoring the District's founding Board of Directors Jim O. Miller (President), Cecil E. Davis (Vice President), William C. Black, James A. Kitchen, and John R. Mylan.

After four confirmed cases of typhoid fever in the early 1960's, the San Luis Obispo County Health Department tested private wells in the community and found high concentrations of nitrate and chlorides in the water. It was later recommended that a public entity be formed to address the water and sewer problems in Nipomo. On January 28, 1965, Nipomo Community Services District was formed under the Community Services District Law of California Government Code Section 61000. A new water system was in place in 1966.

Founding Director Cecil Davis and Peg Miller, wife of Founding Director and first Board President Jim Miller, were present at the ceremony.

General Manager Michael LeBrun stated "The commitment and vision of this founding Board first came to my attention while I was researching District history in preparation for the Supplemental Water Project. In 1964, facing contaminated water supplies and threats of a County or State run water system, this group of citizens did what folks in Nipomo had done for generations before them; they pulled up their boot straps and organized a local community water District - a District that would be governed locally by its customer/owners. In 1966, the District's property owners, with the Board's leadership, passed a \$650,000 bond measure to build the communities first water system. As the District enters its fiftieth year of service to the Community, it is appropriate to recognize these founding Directors to whom the community will be forever indebted."

Next Scheduled Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 9AM, District Board Room 148 South Wilson, Nipomo.

For more information or to view the minutes, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit www.ncsd.ca.gov.

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NEWS RELEASE
November 13, 2013

Nipomo Community Services District Water Line Installation in Blosser Road

On Monday, November 18th, Specialty Construction Inc., under contract with the Nipomo Community Services District, will begin construction of a water line connecting to City of Santa Maria water transmission lines. The project includes connecting a new 18-inch ductile iron water line from Taylor Street north up Blosser Road to the Santa Maria River channel. The project will take approximately seven months to complete.

During construction of the project, the westernmost lane of North Blosser Road will be closed to the travelling public from Taylor Road to Atlantic Place. Traffic will be re-routed within Blosser Road whenever possible to allow for a minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction.

The contractor is required to perform two boring operations to install the water line. Each of these borings will require the full closure of North Blosser Road in both directions. The first boring is scheduled to begin in late November. As such, North Blosser Road will be closed between Rancho Verde and Canal Street beginning on November 21st. A full detour will be in place and is anticipated to be necessary for four weeks.

The driving public may experience delays due to detours and roadway lane closures during construction. The City staff strongly recommends that drivers obey all temporary construction traffic control signs and flagmen, and use alternate routes whenever possible to avoid delays in travel time.

Questions may be directed to the Department of Public Works/Engineering Division, 925-0951 ext. 225.

Department:	Public Works/Engineering
Contact Person:	Shad Springer, Principal Civil Engineer
Telephone Number:	(805) 925-0951, ext. 225
Email Address:	sspringer@cityofsantamaria.org

Cover Story

The following article was posted on November 14th, 2013, in the Santa Maria Sun - Volume 14, Issue 36

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Thirsty for more: The Nipomo Community Services District pushes ahead with its water pipeline project

BY AMY ASMAN

The current construction site for the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project makes anyone who walks its grounds thirsty. Perched atop the bluffs overlooking the Santa Maria River Levee, the bustling spot looks like a beach without its ocean. Every piece of equipment—from a simple hand wrench to the elephantine drilling rig—is covered in a layer of fine, beige dust.

This arid scene makes it difficult to believe that the men and women working here are helping to build a pipeline that, once completed, would pump 3,000 acre-feet of life-giving water per year from Santa Maria to Nipomo.

When the *Sun* visited the site in mid-October, the drilling crew was in the process of reaming a soon-to-be-46-inch-diameter hole—an underground tunnel of sorts—from the top of the bluff to the middle of the river.

"The horizontal directional drilling is the most complex part of the project," Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) General Manager Michael LeBrun told the *Sun* in an interview prior to the site visit.

The first phase of the \$17.5 million project includes three separate bid packages. Southern California-based ARB Inc. is in charge of the horizontal directional drilling under the river. Earlier this year, the construction crew dug a pilot hole and then spent more than six weeks prepping it to receive a 2,700-foot steel-cased pipeline. Using the largest drill bits this reporter has ever seen, crew members ground away at the pilot hole to expand its diameter from 26 inches to 36 inches, and then, finally, to 46 inches.

"[Horizontal directional drilling] is much the same principle as exploratory drilling rigs, but we're not exploring anything. We're just trying to avoid obstacles, and in this case, the obstacle is the Santa Maria River," ARB Inc.'s drilling division manager Jody Parrish explained. "We don't want to disturb the river or the dunes."

The river isn't the only obstacle ARB Inc. is facing. It also has to deal with a combination of contrasting geological formations, including sand blown in from the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes and a very hard form of clay found in the upper Paso Robles Formation. (Not to be confused with the Northern San Luis Obispo County city of Paso Robles currently tackling its own water shortage issues). Because of the sand, the hole caved in several times during the drilling process. The crew went through at least one \$40,000 drill bit due to a metallurgical issue. And the appearance of the California red-legged frog forced a drilling shutdown, as well as construction of a sealed frog barrier around the site.

"They've definitely been put to the test," construction manager Kim Lindberry said of the ARB Inc. crew. "But everything paid off because change orders have been very, very low."

Once the hole is the right size and stable enough to stand on its own, crew members will use a crane and two powerful drill rigs to pull the pipeline into place. All of this is set to a tight deadline, General Manager LeBrun said, because NCSD's original permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife only gave crews riverbed access from April 15 to Oct. 31. NCSD got an extension to let them work in the riverbed through the end of November.

Two Central Coast contractors will carry out the next steps in the building process:



PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

San Luis Obispo-based Specialty Construction Inc. is laying down a mile-long pipeline along Blosser Road to connect Nipomo to the Santa Maria water treatment plant, and Spiess Construction Inc., of Santa Maria, is laying down a half-mile pipeline on the mesa leading to the Nipomo water treatment plant. The Spiess crew will also build a pump station at the top of the bluff overlooking the river and four pump heads, which assist in the disinfection process.

Nipomo will buy a combination of state water and groundwater from Santa Maria at a tier 1-rate, just like any other paying customer.

"Once completed, this pipeline will pump 1 billion gallons of water a year," LeBrun said at a media event at the Santa Maria River Levee on Oct. 23. "It will be a lifeline to the Nipomo Mesa."

A little history

As with many Southern California communities, water has always been a hot-button issue on the Nipomo Mesa. A lot has changed since 1965, when the NCSD took over a handful of wells from Savage Water Company.

"We still have some of their infrastructure today," LeBrun said.

According to the district website, ncsd.ca.gov, four confirmed cases of typhoid fever in the 1960s led the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department to conduct a detailed test of the community's water that found high concentrations of nitrates and chlorides, as well as bacteria. That test and an additional report from county hydraulic engineer Bob Born sparked the formation of a special district to oversee the community's water supply and sewage treatment system.

NCSD, of course, isn't the only water purveyor on the mesa. Others include Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, and Woodlands Mutual Water Company, as well as dozens of smaller, private wells, many of which enjoyed senior rights to the water supply. But back in those days, there was plenty of water to go around—or, at least, that's how it seemed.

"Thirty years ago, Nipomo was just eucalyptus trees. It was a no-man's land, and people thought you had to be crazy to live on the mesa. I'm serious. The old-timers will tell you that, too," LeBrun told the *Sun*.

Since that time, urban and agricultural development have grown exponentially, causing the sleepy, rural community's population to explode. (The most recent U.S. Census data available tracked it at 16,000 people.) To keep up with demand, purveyors have continued to pump more and more water out of the basin aquifer—Nipomo's only source of fresh water.

To better understand the genesis of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project, one must travel back in time to the early 1990s when a much-smaller mesa community grappled with the decision of whether to tap into the coastal branch of the California State Water Project, a 100-mile pipeline designed to pump supplemental water to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, a historically drought-vulnerable area. Concerns over costs and the impact it would have on population size ultimately caused locals to opt out of the project. The pipeline continued on its way to Santa Maria without hooking up to plants in Nipomo.

Several years later, in 1997, a lawsuit commonly referred to as the Santa Maria Groundwater Litigation questioned who in



POINT A TO POINT B

This aerial photo shows the two construction sites for the horizontal directional drilling portion of the Nipomo Supplement Water Project. Crews from ARB Inc. drilled under the Santa Maria River at a 14-degree angle and then dragged through the hole a 2,700-foot pipeline that will help pump water from Santa Maria to Nipomo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MNS ENGINEERS

fact had senior rights to pump water on the mesa. The legal process also raised concerns over the health of the Nipomo/Santa Maria groundwater basin, and called for the creation of a court-approved plan to manage the area's most precious resource.

"Water is the most important utility we have. We can go without gas or heat for cooking. It wouldn't be fun, but we could do it. Without water, we die," LeBrun said.

Studies conducted by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the California Department of Water Resources revealed that there's a long-term decline in the amount of stored water above sea level in the Nipomo area of the basin due to over-pumping. This is called a pumping depression.

"It's all upper Paso Robles Formation, which is very permeable with lots of interstitial space that the water fills," LeBrun said of the basin. "People envision caverns of water below—not so. And once the water leaves the formation, some of those spaces are lost."



THAT'S A BIG PIPE

The steel-cased pipeline was welded and pressure tested prior to being dragged through the hole under the riverbed.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

A 2005 settlement in that case requires the NCSD to provide the Nipomo area with a minimum of 2,500 acre-feet of supplemental water per year. District officials, engineers, and a group of citizen volunteers called the Supplemental Water Alternatives Evaluation Committee looked into several other ways to bring the precious liquid to Nipomo, including a seawater desalination plant, buying into the State Water Project directly, recharging the basin with treated wastewater, and drawing agricultural runoff from Oso Flaco Lake.

According to reports from the district, the NCSD Board of Directors rejected these water sources for numerous reasons: the desal plant was deemed too expensive and too time intensive; hooking up to the State Water Project was considered too expensive because of the buy-rate for water; wastewater treatment didn't produce enough water; and the water from Oso Flaco Lake was considered too low-quality.

So in 2009, the district's Board of Directors approved initial plans for the inter-tie water pipeline. The next step in the plan was to get it funded.

A pipe(line) dream come true

Fast-forward to 2012: The district held a special election asking Nipomo residents to approve a property tax increase to pay for the then-\$26 million pipeline. That measure ultimately failed, forcing the district to go back to the drawing board.

"When that happened, I thought we were done," LeBrun said of the vote. "It would have been much cheaper to finance [the project in 2012]. The markets then were much better, and that's all I'm going to say."

But rather than accepting defeat, the district, led by finance director and assistant general manager Lisa Bognuda, pieced together a cheaper plan that used borrowing power and money from the general fund.

The decision to use money from the general fund had some community members up in arms. A nonprofit group called the Mesa Community Alliance filed a lawsuit against the district, alleging, among other things, that it violated state laws barring community services districts from using money from a reserve fund created for a specific purpose to pay for another project. In this case, \$4 million for the pipeline project would have come from money set aside for infrastructure upgrades.

The NCSD challenged the suit, saying many of the alliance's claims were factually lacking and that it was well within its rights to use money from the general fund because the pipeline would reduce the district's need to repair and refurbish its wells. A San Luis Obispo Superior Court judge allowed the district to move forward with the project under a slightly altered

plan that calls for the borrowing of an additional \$4 million. The project is being paid for mostly with bonds, along with some general fund money, and a \$2.2 million grant from the state.

Bill Petrick, an officer with the Mesa Community Alliance, said his group's main purpose was to "get the correct information [about the project] out to the public."

"We felt the district was only telling one side. They're trying to make it sound like we're going to run out of water and that there's going to be seawater intrusion in the basin—all of these extreme ideas to sell the project," Petrick said.

He said the district hasn't provided enough information to show that the pipeline is a valuable investment for the community.

"A bunch of lawyers got together and decided that [the supplemental water project] would be the best idea," he said. "But it's not really supplemental water because it's already in the basin. It's going to flow here naturally."

He admitted that there's been over-pumping on the mesa for decades, but said that can be fixed by spreading the pumping out over the basin rather than concentrating it in one area.

Petrick's long-term solution for the area's water woes is construction of a desalination plant.

"If the NCSD gets everyone to pay for the pipeline and then it doesn't work out or it doesn't change anything ... they won't have any money to pay for the right solution," he said. "You only get one bite of the apple, and they're going to sour taxpayers on the pipeline."

General Manager LeBrun told the *Sun* that much of the district's pumping occurs in its western quadrant because the Oceano Fault Trace makes it difficult to get water out of more eastern locations.

"People say, 'Well, [the basin's] the same bathtub, so why is it a problem?'" LeBrun said. "If it was just a bathtub of water, it wouldn't be a problem. The formations make each area different."

He said that up until recently, water has been "incredibly cheap," but an ongoing drought, increasing populations, and people's attitudes about water are changing all of that.

"Americans think they should have safe, potable drinking water coming out of their faucets 24/7, 365. It's [viewed as] a birthright," LeBrun said. "And more than half of it is dumped on the ground."

The district is expected to hold public workshops and meetings to discuss potential water rate increases next year—something Mesa Community Alliance's Petrick claims officials said they wouldn't do.

He said his group has been pushing the county to play a bigger part in Nipomo's water wars, like the county has in Paso Robles.

"The NCSD shouldn't be in charge of Nipomo's water issues. That's a county issue," he said.

Nonetheless, LeBrun said he's incredibly proud of what district employees have been able to accomplish.

"We have 15 staff members, three of which are in administration and 12 of which are field operatives. We process 2,500 bills a month. We have two wastewater treatment plants, 13 sewage lift stations, and eight wells—and we're spread out on seven miles," he said. "Our district is getting amazing things done. ... We're a growing community with a future."



SO DUSTY

The entire construction site on the bluffs overlooking the Santa Maria River Levee was covered in beige dust when the Sun visited in mid-October.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

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Construction underway on SM side

By Adobe Staff  Comments  Email this story  Print this story

Crews began construction Monday, Nov. 18, on another section of pipeline to connect Santa Maria's water system to Nipomo Community Services District's system.

Specialty Construction Inc. is installing the 24-inch ductile iron water line along Blosser Road from Taylor Street north to the Santa Maria River channel as part of NCSD's supplemental water project.

At the river, the new line will tie in with a recently completed pipeline underneath the riverbed (see related story).

A pump station and another new pipeline to connect to NCSD's system will be installed on the north side of the river by a Spiess

Construction.

The Blosser Road portion of the project will take approximately seven months to complete, a city spokesman said.

Installation of the pipe will require two complete closures of a section of North Blosser Road. The first started Thursday and is scheduled to last about four weeks.

Otherwise, crews plan to keep at least one lane open in each direction, with the westernmost lane of North Blosser Road closed from Taylor Road to Atlantic Place throughout the project's duration.

Traffic will be routed through and around the area by signs and flagmen.

City officials are advising drivers to use caution through the construction area to protect workers' safety and to take alternate routes whenever possible to avoid delays.

Installation of the Blosser Road pipeline is the second part of the first phase of NCSD's \$17.5 million project to deliver water from the city to the Nipomo Mesa.

NCSD plans to buy some of the city's excess allotment of state water to reduce the amount of water pumped from the Nipomo Mesa portion of the groundwater basin by water purveyors, thus preventing an overdraft.

The 18-inch pipeline along Blosser will tie in with a 30-inch line that was pulled underneath the Santa Maria River last Friday and Saturday in a 12-hour operation.

A different contractor will construct a new pipeline from the north side of the river to connect to NCSD's system on Orchard Road.

Initially, the pipeline will deliver 650 acre-feet of water a year. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or the amount of water generally considered necessary to supply four to 10 people.

A planned second phase would boost the delivery to 1,600 acre-feet a year, and a proposed third phase could put the annual total at 3,000 acre-feet.

Posted Friday November 22, 2013

Pipeline construction beginning on Blosser Road

Work part of Nipomo supplemental water project

NOVEMBER 18, 2013 12:00 AM • STAFF REPORT

Crews are scheduled to begin construction today on a water line to connect Santa Maria's water system to Nipomo Community Services District's system.

Specialty Construction Inc. will install the 18-inch ductile iron water line along Blosser Road from Taylor Street north to the Santa Maria River channel as part of NCSD's supplemental water project.

At the river, the new line will tie in with a pipeline that was pulled underneath the riverbed last Friday and Saturday.

Work to pull the 2,700 feet of 30-inch high-density polyethylene pipeline started about 3 p.m. Friday and finished up about 3 a.m. Saturday.

Another new pipeline to connect the under-river pipe to NCSD's system will be installed on the north side of the river by a different contractor.

The Blosser Road portion of the project will take approximately seven months to complete, a city spokesman said.

During construction, the westernmost lane of North Blosser Road will be closed from Taylor Road to Atlantic Place.

Traffic will be rerouted within Blosser Road whenever possible to allow for a minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction, the spokesman said.

The work will require two boring operations that will require full closure of North Blosser Road in both directions.

The first operation is scheduled to begin in late November.

North Blosser Road will be closed between Rancho Verde and Canal Street starting Thursday, Nov. 21.

A full detour will be necessary for about four weeks, the spokesman said.

Drivers may experience delays from detours and lane closures, so the city staff recommends drivers use alternate routes whenever possible.

Those who can't use alternate routes are asked to obey all temporary construction traffic control signs and flagmen, the spokesman said.

Closure of North Blosser Road set for Thursday

13 HOURS AGO • STAFF REPORT

A seven-month pipeline project that started Monday on North Blosser Road in Santa Maria will require full closure of a section of the street, which city officials expect to begin Thursday.

Blosser will be closed for about four weeks from Rancho Verde to Canal Street, with traffic detoured around the area, city officials said.

The full closure is necessary for crews from Specialty Construction Inc. to bore a hole for a pipeline that will eventually connect the city's water system to the Nipomo Community Services District system.

City officials said one other boring later in the project will also require full closure of a portion of North Blosser Road.

Otherwise, crews plan to keep at least one lane open in each direction, with the westernmost lane of North Blosser Road closed from Taylor Road to Atlantic Place throughout the project's duration.

Traffic will be routed through and around the area by signs and flagmen.

City officials are advising drivers to use caution through the construction area to protect workers' safety and to take alternate routes whenever possible to avoid delays.

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A planned second phase would boost the delivery to 1,600 acre-feet a year, and a proposed third phase could put the annual total at 3,000 acre-feet.

For more information about the Blosser Road project and road closures, contact the Santa



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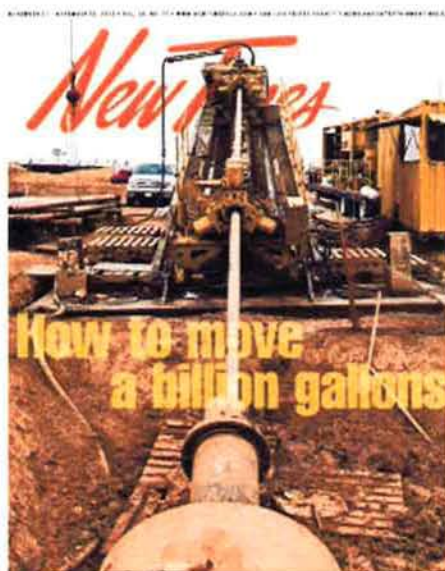
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COVER STORY

Thirsty for more: The Nipomo Community Services District pushes ahead with its water pipeline project

BY AMY ASMAN

The current construction site for the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project makes anyone who walks its grounds thirsty. Perched atop the bluffs overlooking the Santa Maria River Levee, the bustling spot looks like a beach without its ocean. Every piece of equipment—from a simple hand wrench to the elephantine drilling rig—is covered in a layer of fine, beige dust. This... [\[Read More \]](#)

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NEWS

SLO County's district attorney won't run for re-election in June

BY MATT FOUNTAIN



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New Times / Cover Story

The following articles were printed from New Times [newtimeslo.com] - Volume 28, Issue 17
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POINT A TO POINT B

This aerial photo shows the two construction sites for the horizontal directional drilling portion of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project. Crews from ARB Inc. drilled under the Santa Maria River at a 14-degree angle and then dragged through the hole a 2,700-foot pipeline that will help pump water from Santa Maria to Nipomo.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MNS ENGINEERS

Once the hole was the right size and stable enough to stand on its own, crewmembers used a crane and two powerful drill rigs to pull the pipeline into place. All of this was done on a tight deadline, General Manager LeBrun said, because NCSD's permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife only gave crews riverbed access from April 15 to Oct. 31.

Two Central Coast contractors will carry out the next steps in the building process. San Luis Obispo-based Specialty Construction Inc. is laying down a mile-long pipeline along Blosser Road to connect Nipomo to the Santa Maria water treatment plant, and Spiess Construction Inc., of Santa Maria, is laying down a half-mile pipeline on the mesa leading to the Nipomo water treatment plant. The Spiess crew will also build a pump station at the top of the bluff overlooking the river and four pump heads, which assist in the disinfection process.

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A little history



EASY DOES IT

An ARB Inc. employee operated the behemoth drill rig, which packs 760,000 pounds of torque when pulling the pipe through the hole.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

As with many Southern California communities, water has always been a hot-button issue on the Nipomo Mesa. A lot has changed since 1965, when the NCSD took over a handful of wells from Savage Water Company.

"We still have some of their infrastructure today," LeBrun said.

According to the district website, ncsd.ca.gov, four confirmed cases of typhoid fever in the 1960s led the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department to conduct a detailed test of the community's water that found high concentrations of nitrates and chlorides, as well as bacteria. That test and an additional report from county hydraulic engineer Bob Born sparked the formation of a special district to oversee the community's water supply and sewage treatment system.

NCSD, of course, isn't the only water purveyor on the mesa. Others include Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, and Woodlands Mutual Water

Company, as well as dozens of smaller, private wells, many of which enjoyed senior rights to the water supply. But back in those days, there was plenty of water to go around—or, at least, that's how it seemed.

"Thirty years ago, Nipomo was just eucalyptus trees. It was a no-man's land, and people thought you had to be crazy to live on the mesa. I'm serious. The old timers will tell you that, too," LeBrun told *New Times*.

Since then, urban and agricultural development has grown exponentially, causing the sleepy, rural community's population to explode. (The most recent U.S. Census data available tracked it at 16,000 people.) To keep up with demand, purveyors have continued to pump more and more water out of the basin aquifer—Nipomo's only source of fresh water.

To better understand the genesis of the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project, one must travel back in time to the early 1990s when a much-smaller mesa community grappled with the decision of whether to tap into the coastal branch of the California State Water Project, a 100-mile pipeline designed to pump supplemental water to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, a historically drought-vulnerable area. Concerns over costs and the impact it would have on population size ultimately caused locals to opt out of the project. The pipeline continued on its way to Santa Maria without hooking up to plants in Nipomo.

Several years later, in 1997, a lawsuit commonly referred to as the Santa Maria Groundwater Litigation questioned who in

fact had senior rights to pump water on the mesa. The legal process also raised concerns over the health of the Nipomo/Santa Maria groundwater basin, and called for the creation of a court-approved plan to manage the area's most precious resource.

"Water is the most important utility we have. We can go without gas or heat for cooking. It wouldn't be fun, but we could do it. Without water, we die," LeBrun said.

Studies conducted by the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the California Department of Water Resources revealed that there's a long-term decline in the amount of stored water above sea level in the Nipomo area of the basin due to over pumping. This is called a pumping depression.

"It's all Upper Paso Robles formation, which is very permeable with lots of interstitial space that the water fills," LeBrun said of the basin. "People envision caverns of water below—not so. And once the water leaves the formation, some of those spaces are lost."

A 2005 settlement in that case requires the NCS D to provide the Nipomo area with a minimum of 2,500 acre-feet of supplemental water per year. District officials, engineers, and a group of citizen volunteers called the Supplemental Water Alternatives Evaluation Committee looked into several other ways to bring the precious liquid to Nipomo, including a seawater desalination plant, buying into the State Water Project directly, recharging the basin with treated wastewater, and drawing agricultural runoff from Oso Flaco Lake.

According to reports from the district, the NCS D Board of Directors rejected these water sources for a number of reasons. The desal plant idea, for example, was deemed too expensive and too time intensive. Hooking up to the State Water Project was considered too expensive because of the buy-rate for water. Wastewater treatment didn't produce enough water, and the water from Oso Flaco Lake was considered too low-quality.

So in 2009, the district's board of directors approved plans for the inter-tie water pipeline. The next step in the plan was to get it funded.

A pipe(line) dream come true

Fast-forward to 2012. The district held a special election asking Nipomo residents to approve a property tax increase to pay for the then-\$26 million pipeline. That measure ultimately failed, forcing the district to go back to the drawing board.

"When that happened, I thought we were done," LeBrun said of the vote. "It would have been much cheaper to finance [the project in 2012]. The markets then where much better, and that's all I'm going to say."

But rather than accepting defeat, the district, led by finance director and assistant general manager Lisa Bognuda, pieced together a cheaper plan that used borrowing power and money from the general fund.

The decision to use money from the general fund had some community members up in arms. A nonprofit group called the Mesa Community Alliance filed a lawsuit against the district, alleging, among other things, that it violated state laws barring community services districts use money from a reserve fund created for a specific purpose to pay for another project. In this case, \$4 million for the pipeline project would have come from money set aside for infrastructure upgrades.

The NCS D challenged the suit, saying many of the alliance's claims were factually lacking and that it was well within its rights to use money from the general fund because the pipeline would reduce the district's need to repair and refurbish its



THAT'S A BIG PIPE

The steel-cased pipeline was welded and pressure tested prior to being dragged through the hole under the riverbed.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

wells. A San Luis Obispo Superior Court judge allowed the district to move forward with the project under a slightly altered plan that calls for the borrowing of an additional \$4 million. The project is being paid for mostly with bonds, along with some general fund money, and a \$2.2 million grant from the state.

Bill Petrick, a member of the Mesa Community Alliance, said his group's main purpose was to "get the correct information [about the project] out to the public."

"We felt the district was only telling one side. They're trying to make it sound like we're going to run out of water and that there's going to be seawater intrusion in the basin—all of these extreme ideas to sell the project," Petrick said.

He said the district hasn't provided enough information to show that the pipeline is a valuable investment for the community.

"A bunch of lawyers got together and decided that [the supplemental water project] would be the best idea," he said. "But it's not really supplemental water because it's already in the basin. It's going to flow here naturally."



MIND THE GAP

The contractors put a 54-inch steel casing at the mouth of the hole to stabilize it. Sand from the Oceano-Nipomo Dunes caused the tunnel to cave in at least once, but the hard clay and stone of the upper Paso Robles Formation made sure it stood strong.

PHOTO BY STEVE E. MILLER

He admitted that there's been over pumping on the mesa for decades, but said that can be fixed by spreading the pumping out over the basin rather than concentrating it in one area.

Petrick's long-term solution for the area's water woes is construction of a desalination plant.

"If the NCS D gets everyone to pay for the pipeline and then it doesn't work out or it doesn't change anything ... they won't have any money to pay for the right solution," he said. "You only get one bite of the apple, and they're going to sour taxpayers on the pipeline."

General Manager LeBrun told *New Times* that much of the district's pumping occurs in its western quadrant because the Oceano Fault Trace makes it difficult to get water out of more eastern locations.

"People say, 'Well, [the basin's] the same bathtub, so why is it a problem?'" LeBrun said. "If it was just a bathtub of water, it wouldn't be a problem. The

formations make each area different."

He said that up until recently, water has been "incredibly cheap," but an ongoing drought, increasing populations, and people's attitudes about water are changing all of that.

"Americans think they should have safe, potable drinking water coming out of their faucets 24/7, 365. It's [viewed as] a birthright," LeBrun said. "And more than half of it is dumped on the ground."

The district is expected to hold public workshops and meetings to discuss potential water rate increases next year—something Mesa Community Alliance's Petrick claims officials said they wouldn't do.

He said his group has been pushing the county to play a bigger part in Nipomo's water wars, like the county has in Paso Robles.

"The NCS D shouldn't be in charge of Nipomo's water issues. That's a county issue," he said.

Nonetheless, LeBrun said he's incredibly proud of what district employees have been able to accomplish.

"We have 15 staff members, three of which are in administration and 12 of which are field operatives. We process 2,500 bills a month. We have two waste-water treatment plants, 13 sewage lift stations, and eight wells—and we're spread out on

seven miles," he said. "Our district is getting amazing things done. ... We're a growing community with a future."

Amy Asman is managing editor for The Santa Maria Sun, New Times' sister publication. Contact her at aasman@santamariasun.com.

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NCS D honors founding board of directors

By Adobe Staff  Comments  Email this story  Print this story



A plaque honoring the founding board of directors of the Nipomo Community Services District was unveiled last week.
//Contributed

Nipomo Community Services District directors unveiled a brass plaque honoring the district's founding board of directors during their regular meeting last week.

The plaque inside the district office at 148 S. Wilson St. bears the names of the original board members — President Jim O. Miller, Vice President Cecil E. Davis and directors William C. Black, James A. Kitchen and John R. Mylan.

Davis and Peg Miller, wife of the late Jim Miller, attended the dedication ceremony.

"The commitment and vision of this founding board first came to my attention while I was researching district history in preparation for the supplemental water project," General Manager Michael LeBrun said.

"In 1964, facing contaminated water supplies and threats of a county- or state-run water system, this group of citizens did what folks in Nipomo had done for generations before them: They

pulled up their boot straps and organized a local community water district — a district that would be governed locally by its customer/owners."

After four confirmed cases of typhoid fever in the early 1960s, the San Luis Obispo County Health Department tested private wells in Nipomo and found high concentrations of nitrates and chlorides in the water.

It was later recommended that a public entity be formed to address the water and sewer problems in Nipomo.

On Jan. 28, 1965, Nipomo Community Services District was formed.

"In 1966, the district's property owners, with the board's leadership, passed a \$650,000 bond measure to build the community's first water system," LeBrun said.

By the end of that year, the water system was in place.

"As the district enters its 50th year of service to the community, it is appropriate to recognize these founding directors to whom the community will be forever indebted," LeBrun said.

Posted Friday November 22, 2013

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Pipeline pulled under river

By Adobe Staff  Comments  Email this story  Print this story



Crews from ARB use a "pull pipe" attached to a drilling rig atop the Nipomo Mesa to haul 2,700 feet of 30-inch water pipe through a hole bored beneath the Santa Maria River. //Contributed

In the predawn hours last Saturday, Nipomo Community Services District's supplemental water project took another step toward completion.

By 3 a.m. Nov. 16, a team from ARB finished pulling 2,700 feet of 30-inch outer diameter high-density polyethylene pipe through a 42-inch hole bored horizontally beneath the Santa Maria River.

Shorter sections fused together over several weeks created a single long pipeline stretching east along the top of the river levee.

At the same time, two ARB drilling teams bored under the riverbed from opposite sides to

create the hole for the pipe.

NCSD General Manager Michael LeBrun said a 12-man drill crew from ARB was at the heart of the operation, along with crane operators, pump truck drivers, water truck drivers and other

subcontractors.

The combined team of more than 20 men began preparing for the pull before 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15.

"Once the pull began, there was no turning back," LeBrun said.

The actual pulling operation began at 3 p.m. using a sectional "pulling pipe" that drew the water pipe through the bore hole.

Workers and equipment guided the pipeline off the levee around an approximately 7-degree curve and into the bore hole.

As the pipeline advanced through the hole, sections of pull pipe were removed.

"Some of the 86 sections of 30-foot pull pipe took a few minutes to advance and remove, some took nearly an hour," LeBrun said.

He added that equipment and men alike were under high stress as the day wore into night.

"Equipment failed; the men never did," he said. "ARB was well-prepared for every possibility, as they had been throughout the drilling of the bore hole."

Over the next 10 days, ARB workers will recheck pipe integrity and prepare it for connection at each end.

Crews from Specialty Construction Inc. have begun work to install a 24-inch water line down North Blosser Road, LeBrun said.

Spiess Construction will construct a pump station and more piping once ARB clears the northern terminus of the newly installed pipe.

NCSD honors clerk for 23 years service

NOVEMBER 24, 2013 12:00 AM • STAFF REPORT

A woman who has served Nipomo Community Services District as its billing clerk for 23 years was recently recognized for her years of service.

At its Nov. 13 meeting, the board of directors presented Kathy Beltran with a resolution of appreciation recognizing her outstanding service to the district, an NCSD spokesman said.

Beltran began her employment with the district on Jan. 2, 1991, and will retire from her position next month.

During that time, Beltran "served the District with great dedication," said General Manager Michael LeBrun.

"Her competence, compassion and commitment to her job as billing clerk are some of the many reasons Nipomo Community Services District customers enjoy a high degree of customer service," LeBrun said.

DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT B

AGENDA

Dan Buckshi
County Administrator



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Frank R. Mecham, 1st District
Bruce Gibson, Vice-Chairperson, 2nd District
Adam Hill, 3rd District
Caren Ray, 4th District
Debbie Arnold, 5th District

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

CONSENT AGENDA

9:00 AM

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

BOARD BUSINESS

HEARINGS

CLOSED SESSION

RECESS

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 PM

REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

HEARINGS

ADJOURNMENT

5:00 PM

- The Board of Supervisors' weekly agenda and staff reports are available at the following website: www.slocounty.ca.gov. Packets are also available at the County Government Center and may be viewed on-line at the Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles, Nipomo, Morro Bay, SLO City/County Libraries and the SLO Law Library.
- All persons desiring to speak on any Board item, including the Consent agenda, Closed Session or during the general public comment period are asked to fill out a "Board Appearance Request Form" and submit to the Clerk of the Board *prior* to the start of the Board item. Each individual speaker is limited to a MAXIMUM of three (3) minutes.
- Please refer to the information brochure located in the back and outside of the Board Chambers for additional information regarding accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, supplemental correspondence, and general rules of procedure.

9:00 FLAG SALUTE

CONSENT AGENDA – REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The items listed on this portion of the agenda are scheduled for consideration as a group. The staff recommendations will be approved as outlined within the staff report. Any Supervisor may request an item be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda to permit discussion or change the recommended course of action for an item.

Consent Agenda - Administrative Office Items:

1. Request for approval to accept \$302,716 from the Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program and authorize related budget adjustments and changes to fixed asset lists. All Districts.

Consent Agenda - Clerk-Recorder Items:

2. Request to appoint Randy Heinzen to the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Board of Directors. Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Consent Agenda - Human Resources Items:

3. Submittal of a resolution establishing participation in a separate Post Employment Health Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Managers Association (SLOCSMA). All Districts.
4. Submittal of three resolutions approving amendments to: 1) the July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between the County of San Luis Obispo and the San Luis Obispo County Employees' Association (SLOCEA) Public Services Unit (BU01), Supervisory Unit (BU05), and Clerical Unit (BU13); and 2) amendments to the San Luis Obispo County Employees Retirement Plan Appendices. All Districts.

Consent Agenda - Planning & Building Items:

5. Submittal of five resolutions approving new land conservation contracts pursuant to the California Land Conservation Act of 1965. Districts No. 1, 3 and 5.
6. Request to approve Affordable Housing Debt Forgiveness Policy for Individual Owner Occupied Homes. All Districts.
7. Submittal of a resolution authorizing the Department of Planning and Building to submit an application to the California Coastal Commission for a Local Coastal Program Assistance Grant in the amount of \$222,250. District 2.

Consent Agenda - Public Works Items:

8. The following parcel map has been received and has satisfied all the conditions of approval that were established at the public hearing for lot line adjustment COAL 13-0044, a proposed lot line adjustment resulting in 2 lots by Patricia Diane Vineyards LLC and the Richard J. Woodland and Patricia D. Woodland Trust, Paso Robles. District 1.
9. Submittal of a resolution authorizing and directing the actions necessary to satisfy the conditions to effectiveness of the amended bankruptcy in In re the Los Osos Community Services District. District 2.

Consent Agenda Public Works - Board Sitting as Flood Control District:

10. Submittal of a resolution to authorize the Director of Public Works to execute engineering reimbursement agreements for District services associated with utility service requests. All Districts.

Public Comment Period:

11. The general public comment period is intended to provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's purview that are not scheduled on the current agenda. Individuals interested in speaking are asked to fill out a "Board Appearance Request Form" and submit it to the Clerk of the Board prior to the start of general public comment. When recognized by the Chair, each individual speaker may address the Board and is limited to a MAXIMUM of three (3) minutes or a reasonable period of time as determined by the Board Chairperson.

Board Business:

12. Request to approve the revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Clerk's File). All Districts.

Board Business - Public Works - Board Sitting as Flood Control District

13. Request to approve the revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Clerk's File). All Districts.

Hearings:

14. Hearing to adopt the Annual Road Improvement Fee Reports for the fee areas of Avila, Los Osos, South County, Templeton, North Coast, and San Miguel. All Districts.

Closed Session Items:

15. I. PENDING LITIGATION (Government Code, section 54956.9.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning the following items: Conference with Legal Counsel-Existing Litigation (Government Code, section 54956.9(a).) (Formally initiated) 1. Steinbeck, et al. v. County of San Luis Obispo, et al.; 2. Paso Robles Water Integrity Network v. County of San Luis Obispo, et al.
- II. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (Gov. Code section 54957.6.) It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session to have a conference with its Labor Negotiator Tami Douglas-Schatz concerning the following: Name of employee organizations are: 3. SLOCPPOA; 4. SLOCEA-Trades and Crafts; 5. DCCA; 6. SLOGAU.

RECESS1:30 REPORT ON CLOSED SESSIONHearings:

16. Public needs hearing for the proposed annual 2014 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Act (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs. All Districts.

17. Hearing to consider a request by DANA (Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos) for a Land Use Ordinance amendment to: 1) Section 22.112.030.B (South County Planning Area Standards, Combining Designations, Historic Area (H) Dana Adobe), and 2) Section 22.112.080.G (South County Planning Area Standards, Nipomo Urban Area, Recreation – Dana Adobe) to allow the applicant to process a Conditional Use Permit for the site to include a visitor's center, outdoor amphitheater, Chumash Interpretive Area and associated support features, within and immediately adjacent to the community of Nipomo. District 4.

DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT C



Blacklake Breeze

December 2013

◆ Success Without Stagnation Needs Help

Volunteers are what makes Blacklake tick. Our village is blessed with volunteers that serve on our council, help on committees and individuals who just step in quietly when they see a job needs to be done. Blacklake is a community of volunteers and we are lucky to have them.

Our homeowners association is called Blacklake Village (BLV.) It is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of California. We live in a residential deed-restricted community with 598 homes and condominiums. Our amenities include pocket parks, pitching and putting greens, community center, swimming pool, tennis courts, an RV lot, a waste treatment plant, a few private streets and acres of landscaped and natural open space.

Some of our facilities are restricted to certain residents.. The swimming pool is actually deeded to Tourney Hill sub-association which leases it to a swim club organization of homeowners who pay dues for the maintenance and insurance costs. The tennis courts are deeded to the Crown Pointe sub-association for the use of their residents and guests only, while the RV parking lot is deeded to BLV (also called the master association). We in Blacklake, together with the privately owned but public golf course are designated a village. In the County of San Luis Obispo Specific Plan for our area.

Our village has a governing body called a council and bylaws. The bylaws require each of our sub associations to elect a representative to the village council. The larger Fairways association has two council members.. The whole village elects a member-at-large. Our nine council members meet on a regular basis and conduct the business of the master association.

The council uses the management firm of Goetz and Associates to run our office, collect fees, and pay its bills. The council must also deal with complex legal matters, water and sewage services, landscaping, recreation, safety, and enforcement of architectural rules.

Bob McGill is the president of the council. This is the second time he has served in that capacity. Bob and his wife Lynn came to Blacklake from Bellevue, WA. He is a retired telephone company executive and was involved in partisan politics and management consulting before retiring.

The council selects three individuals with professional skills to an Architectural Committee. Richard Holguin is the chair of that committee. Both Richard and committee member Norm Burdick have been on that committee for over ten years. Gerry Meyer, a retired architect who recently moved to Blacklake, serves as well.

The council has organized dozens of residents into subcommittees to perform tasks like updating the CC&Rs, welcoming new residents, operating the community room, landscaping, security, golf, organizing and maintaining the community library, recreation and publicity.

Blacklake needs new volunteers on committees in order to get as much feedback from residents as possible and to keep the village from stagnating. We need to keep Blacklake Village up to date and modern as the world modernizes and leaps forward. Residents, if you are not currently serving, we need your help and your input. Please let your council member or the community room administrator know what you can do to help your village.



Meet Your Neighbors by Ken Kreh

Sam and Jessica Mashayekhan (mass-ye-han) are both originally from Mashhad, Persia (now Iran.) Mashhad is the 2nd largest city in Iran and a major tourist center with 15 to 20 million visitors a year. Sam and Jessica first met while attending college in San Diego, CA. and, because of their common connection to Mashhad, they began seeing each other and found they were connected in other ways as well. They became husband and wife and this nice story continues. The Mashayekhans decided to live in the United States because of the freedom and economic opportunity. Sam's father has passed, but his mother still lives in Iran. Both of Jessica parents are living and reside in Iran.

When Sam and Jessica moved to Nipomo from Concord, CA. in 2011, they rented a home in Crown Pointe and fell in love with both Blacklake and Nipomo because of the beauty, quiet, safety, weather, and lack of traffic. They then knew this was where they wanted to live and recently purchased their beautiful home on Southridge Lane in the Upper Oaks. At this time they have no children of their own, but someday in the future they would welcome such an event.

Both Sam and Jessica work in the health care industry. Sam specializes in pain management with offices in San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande and Santa Maria. Jessica, a graduate of Idaho State University, is a compound pharmacist at Old Town Pharmacy in Nipomo. She makes special prescriptions provided by doctors for both people and pets. Both would like to urge all of us to support our neighbors, as well as the local merchants. And Jessica stresses that Old Town Pharmacy offers free delivery to Blacklake residents.

Sam and Jessica both enjoy bike riding. In addition, Sam is trained as a certified photographer; he is also into soccer, as he once played that international sport. Both Sam and Jessica enjoy their life here and want all of us to know the joys of freedom.

It is truly a pleasure to welcome this young couple to our community. When you see them here in Blacklake or in Nipomo, be sure to say "hello" to our smiling neighbors.



Duffer's Corner by Bill Burney

The golf course has grown the membership at Blacklake from 42 members to 95. Our goal is to hit 100 by year's end. Be sure to check out our very special end -of -the-year deals for both old and new members. Our Superintendent, **Mike Scott**, and staff have the condition of the course the best it has been in several years. Our Food and Beverage Manager/Exec. Chef, **Shannon Hennings**, and staff continue to amaze us with great food and service. **Billy Gibbs**, our head PA Instructor does wonders with the kids in the First Tee Program. It is one of the top rated programs in the State, with folk in Special Olympics, also with our guests in our Golf Development programs. **Jon Stretcher**, our operations manager, takes care of the golfers every day and **Felix Navejar** does a great job with our outside services. **Hans Zehm** has the Ambassador program off the ground and running well. So far this year they have raised over \$10,000 for the Wounded Warrior Foundation. **Ashleigh Enders** continues to sell weddings and oversees our catering. All the weddings hosted in 2013 went flawlessly.

SPECIAL THANKS to the Links Players for hosting Loren Roberts and Scott Simpson to talk at our clubhouse. It was interesting to hear about their lives and careers. We are definitely looking forward to the Canadians who will arrive next month.



WILLOW MARKET by Irene Erwin

Mark Jackson is the new General Manager of the Willow Market. Mark graduated from the San Francisco Culinary School in 2000 along with his brother. They owned a wine bar and bistro for several years in Northern California until Mark moved to Los Angeles. Married to Lisa, Mark has two children and lives in Nipomo. (pictured are Mark Jackson and employee, Maci Knight.)



The chef, Treaver Lynch, is also a graduate of San Francisco Culinary School (2003.) Prior to coming to Willow, Treaver was with Justin Vineyards and the Sea Venture. The market is owned by local broccoli/cauliflower farmer, Sonny Smith.

The Willow Market is open at 6 a.m. each day. The menu has just been updated and prices have been reduced. Half sandwiches, soups and salads, pizza, and gourmet entrees are available every day. More substantial entrees are offered in the afternoon for those who want to take home a special dinner. Craft beer and specialty wines are featured.

The market is 5000 sq. ft. and has a fantastic patio with plenty of umbrellas and space heaters. The

inside bar and seating area is very comfortable, and there is a private room for functions. The market portion features specials each day. The day we were there they had 99-cent romaine and iceberg lettuce. They offer beautiful fresh flowers and holiday décor. Large poinsettia plants for the Christmas season are only \$21.99. The hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. Call 929-0322 for further information.



Resident Publishes Book and Will Have Book Signing

Eileen Carpenter, resident of the Fairways and writing under the pseudonym Madame Aline, has published her first book entitled, "I Became a Vagabond Traveler." Eileen's memoirs recount her world-wide travels and experiences.

delightful read.." Alana Hansen, retired Clinical Laboratory Supervisor and Scientist.

Eileen's book is available through Amazon.com with more reviews, or you can contact Eileen directly at 343-1683.

One reviewer said, "Madame Aline, a continental vagabond, deserves a Master's degree for her vivid descriptions of people and places in Europe, New York, the Republic of Panama, Indonesia, Oregon, Kuwait, and the South Seas. She relates, with clarity and alacrity, stunning stories of European adventures and tantalizing tales of the South Pacific. At times she seems to find a measure of joy amid grossly deficient living conditions and lack of personal effects. The author keeps readers captivated and anxious to continue. You will find this book a

On Feb. 10, 2014 at 1p.m., Diana Jankowski and Nancy Treen will host a gathering for three combined Blacklake book clubs at the community room. Eileen will discuss her book and answer any questions. She will have books for sale or will sign one you have already purchased. Anyone may attend this gathering. Simply RSVP to Nancy at 343-9800, dctreen@verizon.net, or Diane at 343-9069, blacklakebelle@aol.com. Refreshments will be served.



Community News and Notes

Blacklake Clubhouse Events

Blacklake hosts a **Fish Fry** every Friday night in the clubhouse restaurant. There are usually three items on the menu, one of which is not a fish, as well as soup, salad, and dessert. Reservations suggested. Last service at 7pm.

Blacklake will host a **NYNY New Year's Eve Party** on December 31st featuring great music and food. When the ball comes down in Times Square at 9p.m., they will pop champagne and toast the New Year. More information to follow, reservations needed.

Bible Study on Wednesday

A non-denominational Bible Study, under the direction of **Dorothy Zehm** of the Estates takes place each Wednesday morning at 10a.m. in the community room. Everyone welcome. For more information, call **929-2164**

Fairways Water Conservation Project

The park located in the center of the Fairways development consumes a tremendous amount of water due to an antiquated irrigation system which was installed 1988/89 by the original developer. The current annual cost of water for the park is \$10,000.

Billie King is coordinating with Best Way Gardening to eliminate the inefficient rainbird sprinklers that irrigate at 30+ gallons/min. All sprinklers that are no longer required will be capped off. Irrigation lines will be relocated for better placement to enhance ideal water coverage and eliminate excessive overlapping and waste.

Project cost will be \$5,000 to \$5,500 with a water savings of \$3,000 to \$5,000 annually.

Hospitality Greeters

Marlys Donnelly heads up the Welcome Committee for Blacklake. New residents receive a welcome kit comprised of the Directory plus other useful items. The welcome ladies are **Jean DePew, Crown Pointe; Marilyn Bomicino, Estates; Irene Erwin, Fairways; Claudine Murphy, Legends; and Sharon Sacchetti, Lower Oaks.**

Holiday Events on the Calendar

Blacklake Half-Rounders will hold their Christmas Holiday Banquet at the Madonna Inn on Friday, Dec 13, 2013.

Blacklake Women's 18 Holers Christmas party and golf will be December 10, 2013.

Nipomo Newcomers will have their Christmas Dinner Dance at the Santa Maria Inn on Dec. 9, 2013.

Blacklake Gyros will hold their Christmas Luncheon at the Madonna Inn on Dec. 19, 2013

Gerit Fenenga—Beginners Bridge

A successful six lessons of Beginners Bridge was taught by **Gerit Fenenga**. Lessons were held with four tables of play in the Community Room and sponsored by the Nipomo Newcomers. **Special thanks** to the volunteers: **Rick Erwin, Barbara Ward, Margaret Arich, Shirley Foreman, Linda Graham and Marna Lombardi.**

Thank you, Richard Walsh

Big thanks are in order to Richard and his team for getting the new Directories out. If you need to make changes in your listing, contact the community room.

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Issue 13, December, 2013

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Photographer	Ken Kreh	

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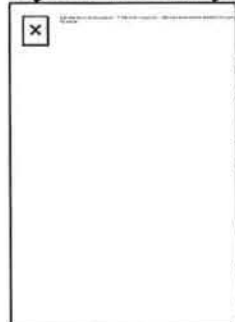
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DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT D



PISMO BEACH COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT/TITLE:
STORED STATE WATER SALE

RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo to sell 1,122 Acre Feet (AF) of Stored State Water and appropriate the proceeds as outlined in the staff report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Water Supply

The City of Pismo Beach (City) has a diverse water supply portfolio made up of both surface and ground water. Our current annual entitlements are as follows: Lopez Water (surface supply) 896 AF, State Water Project (surface supply) 1,240 AF with a 1,240 AF drought buffer and Santa Maria Ground Water Basin (ground water) 700 AF, see Table 1 below. Average cost for Lopez water is approximately \$885/AF and State Water averages \$1,000/AF. The City subcontracts its State Water through the County of San Luis Obispo Flood Control District who is a State Water Contractor.

Source	Annual Allocation (AF)	Additional Drought Buffer
Lopez	896	-
State Water Project	1,240	1,240
Santa Maria Ground Water Basin	700	-
Total Available	2,836	1,240

Table 1. Pismo Beach Water Portfolio

State Water

State Water originates in the mountains and waterways that feed the Feather River in Oroville, CA and travels through a series of rivers and manmade canals to be delivered throughout the state. The Coastal Branch Aqueduct was completed in 1997 to serve San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties.

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County) is a State Water Contractor with a maximum annual allocation of 25,000 AFY. This amount breaks down to 4,830 AFY deliverable allocations, 4,897 AFY drought buffer and 15,273 AFY "excess allocation". The City of Pismo Beach subcontracts with the County with a maximum annual allocation of 1,240 AF (Table A water) for a drought buffer of 1,240 AF.

In years when the State Water Project (SWP) delivers less than 100% of an allocation, the City can draw upon the drought buffer to come as close as possible to a full delivery, i.e. 1,240 AF. For example if the SWP delivery was 50%, the City could receive 620 AF

maximum delivery of Table A water as well as an additional 620 AF of its drought buffer for a total delivery of 1,240 AF. This year the delivery is 35% of the maximum allocation. Therefore, the City can receive 35% of its Table A water plus 35% of its maximum drought buffer, or 421.4 AF of Table A water plus 421.4 AF of drought buffer for a total delivery of 842.8 AF. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

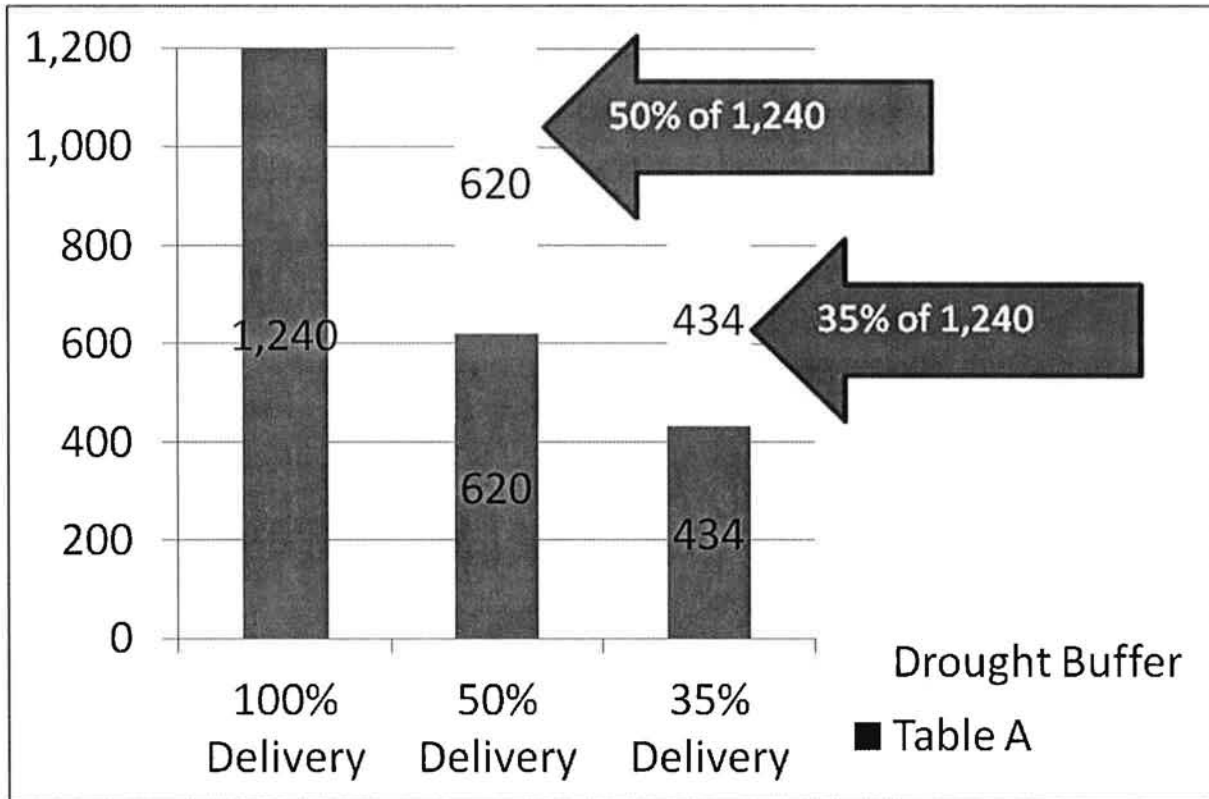


Figure 1. State Water Delivery Diagram

Around 2010, the County began participating in the State Storage Program. In the past, State Water was thought to be a “use it or lose it” supply, that is unused allocations were not stored, captured or able to be utilized. Under the State Storage Program, unused allocations are stored in the San Luis Reservoir which is located on Highway 157, 7 miles west of Interstate 5, or 33 miles east of Highway 101. Stored State Water can be stored in the reservoir until it is used or the reservoir overtops, an event that resets everybody’s Stored State Water to zero. The last time the reservoir overtopped was 2010. Under the State Water Storage Program the City has accumulated 2,050 AF of Stored State Water as of the end of 2012, and this number is expected to rise to 2,305 AF at the end of 2013.

The County has not completely refined the method to request the delivery of stored water to distinguish between the quantity of water to be delivered from storage, drought buffer or allocation; however, the cost of delivering this stored water would be just a portion of the cost of “new” State Water. The approximate \$1,000/AF cost of the State Water is comprised of the cost of the water from the SWP and a “wheeling” fee to deliver the water. Subcontractors wishing to have Stored State Water delivered would

only have to pay the wheeling fee, since they already paid for the water itself. This year the cost of delivery is approximately \$200/AF.

Multi Year Program

In response to the drier than normal hydrology and court rulings related to Delta Smelt, the 2013 Department of Water Resources (DWR) delivery is currently 35%. On May 20, 2013, Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order to facilitate the transfer of water. This is the first time such an order has been issued. In response to this order, the DWR has developed the 2013-14 Multi-Year Water Pool Demonstration Program Agreement through which State Water Contractors can sell excess State Water to other State Water Contractors at prices based on a sliding scale established by the DWR.

The City's Director of Public Works was contacted by the County of San Luis Obispo on June 13th of this year with an invitation to participate in the sale of the City's Stored State Water. The deadline to commit to the sale was June 21. Since the sale of water is a policy decision that should be made by the City Council and not Staff, it was not possible to meet this deadline. The City's Director of Public Works and City Manager had conversations with the County of San Luis Obispo's Director of Public Works and reached an agreement where the County would commit 1,122 AF of unallocated State Water allowing City Staff the time to prepare and present this item to Council for a decision. City and County Staff felt that maintaining a "surplus" of 1,183 AF (2,305 stored water total at the end of 2013 – 1,122 amount proposed to be sold) would be prudent and provide the City with greater insurance than our drought buffer provides. If Council decides they wish to sell a portion of the City's Stored State Water, then the City's Stored Water "account" will be debited and the funds will be transferred to the City. Should Council choose to pass on this opportunity to sell the City's Stored State Water, the County will uphold its commitment and keep the funds generated from the sale and the water will be deducted from the County's excess allocation. If the Stored State Water is not sold, it could be used in the future to make up for "short" delivery of State Water in conjunction with our drought buffer.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Under the Multi Year Program the price the City will receive should it participate in the sale of its Stored State Water is \$253/AF. By selling 1,122 AF of water under this program the City would generate \$283,866 which would be returned to the Water Enterprise Fund. Staff proposes to appropriate the money as follows:

1. Use \$75,000 as matching funds for a recycled water planning grant already awarded to the City.
2. Use \$85,000 for the water system's share of the City's proposed financial software upgrade
3. Split the remaining funds equally between rate payers and contingency for upcoming capital projects.

Grant Matching Funds

In August 2012, the City received a "Water Recycling Facilities Planning Grant" from the State Water Resources Control Board. The grant is for \$75,000 and requires \$75,000 local matching funds. The local matching funds were going to be provided by a private

developer as required by their development agreement, however the development, and subsequent agreement, were not approved by the City Council. Using a portion of the proceeds from a potential water sale would allow the City to complete the Recycled Water Facilities Planning Project with no impact on either the Water Enterprise Fund or the General Fund.

Financial Software

One of the City Council's goals and the top priority of the recently adopted Five-Year IT Strategic Plan, is to replace wIntegrate, the City's antiquated financial software system. It is anticipated that the Water Enterprise Fund would fund a portion of the utility billing component of the new financial system. By contributing a portion of proceeds from a potential water sale, this contribution can be fulfilled with no impact to the Water Enterprise Fund.

Rate Payer Rebate

On September 3 of this year, the City Council authorized a rate increase and a restructuring of the City's utility rates. This rate increase was approved to allow for funding of many of the capital improvement projects planned for the water and wastewater systems. During the public hearings the Council expressed interest in returning excess funds, if and when they became available, to the rate payers. Providing a rebate to each of the 4,618 rate payers would be in line with Council's direction while still providing much needed funds for future capital improvements.

Future Capital Projects

The City has a number of important upgrades to the water system over the next several years. The most costly, and arguably the most important, include upgrades to the reservoirs. The current schedule includes maintenance to Shell Beach 1 Reservoir (\$725,000) this fiscal year, Pacific Estates 1 Reservoir (\$480,000) next fiscal year and Charles Street Reservoir (\$654,000) the following fiscal year. It is not uncommon to uncover additional items that need correction when doing a large scale reservoir maintenance project. By committing a portion of the proceeds from a potential water sale to the Water Enterprise Fund, additional contingency funds will be available to ensure the reservoirs are kept in the best shape possible and that potential additional costs are cushioned to not further impact rates and/or funding needs.

Overview

	Credit	Debit	Balance
Proceeds from Potential Sale	\$283,866		\$283,866
Recycled Water Grant Matching Funds		\$75,000	\$208,866
Financial Software		\$85,000	\$123,866
Rate Payer Rebate		\$61,933	\$61,933
Water Enterprise Fund		\$61,933	\$0

Each rate payer is expected to receive a credit of approximately \$13.41, depending on the number of water customers, on the upcoming water bill.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo for the sale of 1,122 AF of Stored State Water, but direct staff to allocate the proceeds other than as outlined in the staff report.
2. Do not authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo for the sale of 1,122 AF of Stored State Water and direct the City Manager to negotiate, if possible, the sale of a lesser amount of Stored State Water.
3. Do not authorize the sale of any Stored State Water.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

Prepared by: Benjamin A. Fine, P.E. Director of Public Works**Meeting Date:** November 19, 2013**City Manager Approval:**

RESOLUTION NO. R-2013-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PISMO BEACH AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO TO SELL 1,122 ACRE FEET (AF) OF STORED STATE WATER AND APPROPRIATE THE PROCEEDS AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT

WHEREAS, the City of Pismo Beach (City) has a diverse water supply portfolio made up of both surface and ground water; and

WHEREAS, under the State Water Storage Program the City has accumulated 2,050 AF of Stored State Water as of the end of 2012 and this number is expected to rise to 2,305 AF at the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jerry Brown issued an executive order to facilitate the transfer of water and in response to this order the DWR has developed the 2013-14 Multi-Year Water Pool Demonstration Program Agreement through which State Water Contractors can sell excess State Water to other State Water Contractors at prices based on a sliding scale established by the DWR; and

WHEREAS, the City's Director of Public Works and City Manager had conversations with the County of San Luis Obispo's Director of Public Works and reached an agreement where the County would commit 1,122 AF of unallocated State Water; and

WHEREAS, under the Multi Year Program the price the City will receive should it participate in the sale of its Stored State Water is \$253/AF (\$283,866); and

WHEREAS, staff proposes to appropriate the money as follows:

1. Use \$75,000 as matching funds for a recycled water planning grant already awarded to the City.
2. Use \$85,000 for the water system's share of the City's proposed financial software upgrade.
3. Split the remaining funds equally between rate payers and contingency for upcoming capital projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Pismo Beach hereby authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo for the sale of 1,122 AF of Stored State Water.

UPON MOTION OF Council Member _____ seconded by Council Member _____ the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Pismo Beach this 19th day of November 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members:
NOES: Council Members:
ABSENT: Council Members:
ABSTAIN: Council Members:

Approved:

Attest:

Shelly Higginbotham
Mayor

Elaina Cano, CMC
City Clerk

DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT E

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Lawsuits filed against emergency ordinance on Paso Robles basin

By David Sneed and Julie Lynem

dsneed@thetribunenews.com, jlynem@thetribunenews.com November 26, 2013 Updated 1 hour ago

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Dryland farming and ranching have given way to vineyards like this area off Linne Road just outside Paso Robles.

DAVID MIDDLECAMP — dmiddlecamp@thetribunenews.com Buy Photo

Two lawsuits were filed in San Luis Obispo County Superior Court late Monday challenging a county emergency ordinance that limits pumping from the Paso Robles groundwater basin.

The lawsuits could be the first step in putting the basin into adjudication, a lengthy and expensive process that puts the courts in charge of managing the basin.

One lawsuit, a writ of mandamus, asks the courts to overturn the emergency ordinance. The other is a complaint of quiet title that asks the court to affirm the right of overlying property owners to have access to the basin.

The writ of mandamus alleges that the emergency ordinance was not supported by sufficient evidence and that it failed to follow the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The quiet title

claim seeks to reaffirm the right of overlying property owners to pump water from the basin and put it to a beneficial use.

Cindy Steinbeck of Steinbeck Vineyards and Winery was involved in both suits. She said the goal of the lawsuits is to protect groundwater rights.

"I'm convinced that fighting for my rights is the right thing to do, and I believe that as our seven-generation family stands up for our rights we are fighting for all other landowners in the Paso Robles groundwater basin as well," she said.

Steinbeck also said that whether the basin goes into adjudication depends on whether the county fights the lawsuits.

The writ of mandamus was filed by a newly formed group called the Paso Robles Water Integrity Network. The quiet title claim was filed by another new group called Protect Our Water Rights which is made up of property owners in the basin.

The attorney handling the quiet title claim is Richard Zimmer of Bakersfield, who has been involved in adjudicating groundwater basins in Santa Maria and the Antelope Valley

County Counsel Rita Neal said her office is still reviewing the lawsuits and could not comment on their merit. She said she will advise the Board of Supervisors on how to respond to the suits.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson said the Board of Supervisors will continue with a hearing Tuesday afternoon on the criteria for applying for exemptions to the emergency ordinance. Passed by supervisors on Aug. 27, the ordinance prohibits any new pumping from the groundwater basin unless it is offset elsewhere in the basin so that there is no net loss of water.

Several groups that have been working to find a cooperative solution to the crisis in the groundwater basin were taken by surprise by the lawsuits. Sue Luft, president of Pro Water Equity, said the legal filings will not change her group's approach, which is to remain committed to working toward a governance process for the basin.

"We have been working closely with PRAAGS (Paso Robles Agricultural Alliance for Groundwater Solutions), and we hope that we can have agreement on a structure that works for everyone," she said.

Luft added that she had never heard of the groups until Monday, and that she knows little about them or on what basis they are pursuing legal action.

"It's their right to do that if they choose, but the county was on good ground in approving that ordinance," Luft said.

Jerry Reaugh, president of PRAAGS, also said his group was not aware of organizations.

"I think we were all taken by surprise," he said.

However, Reaugh said that PRAAGS neither supports nor opposes what the new groups are doing. Moreover, his group, which has no involvement with the other groups, is on course with its work to create a California Water District. So far, PRAAGS has had three meetings with Pro Water Equity and another scheduled after the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We've been passing proposals back and forth, and we've been frank and honest about what our positions are," Reaugh said. "The dialogue continues."

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DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT F

Modesto Bee

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Merced County is sinking; researchers blame over-pumping of groundwater

By J.N. Sbranti

jnsbranti@modbee.com November 21, 2013 Updated 11 hours ago

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Officials say the buckling of concrete panels along the Delta-Mendota Canal is evidence of the land sinking due to over pumping of groundwater. Officials have measured a 1/2 inch of subsidence per year along the canal south of Los Banos. Photographed on Thursday November 21, 2013.

ANDY ALFARO — aalfaro@modbee.com | [Buy Photo](#)



LOS BANOS — So much groundwater is being pumped from the San Joaquin Valley that it's causing a massive swath of Merced County's surface to sink at an alarming rate, U.S. Geological Survey researchers revealed Thursday.

Parts of Merced south of El Nido dropped more than 21 inches in just two years. That area – often called Red Top by locals – appears to be continuing to sink at a rate of nearly 1 foot per year.

Researchers warn that the area that's sinking is gradually spreading across 1,200 square miles – from the cities of Merced on the north, to Los Banos on the west, Madera on the east and Mendota on the south.

That's a much larger region than previous studies had ever documented.

USGS officials said they fear sinking ground levels will wreak havoc on economically vital man-made structures like the Delta-Mendota Canal, the California Aqueduct and irrigation canals that serve Merced and Madera counties.

The sinking soil – called subsidence – also could damage dams, roads, railroads, pipes and bridges.

The problem area includes part of the San Joaquin River and most of the Eastside Bypass, which is the primary flood control channel east of the river.

"A foot a year of subsidence (near El Nido) is a very rapid rate," said Michelle Sneed, the USGS hydrologist who was the lead author of the new report. "I think that's alarming."

Sneed said that's "among the fastest subsidence rates ever measured in the San Joaquin Valley."

The land closer to Merced and Los Banos hasn't sunk as much. Sneed said it may be sinking by about one-half inch per year, so people may not have realized it's happening.

Subsidence moving north

Back in the 1950s, there was dramatic subsidence in parts of Madera County, but that stopped once the California Aqueduct went in.

That aqueduct and the Delta-Mendota Canal were built to supply farmers surface water, which was supposed to reduce groundwater pumping.

But pumping apparently has increased so much that groundwater levels have fallen to new lows in Merced County. Sneed said that's causing layers of clay to collapse beneath the surface, which is compressing the land above. Once that happens, the aquifers can never be refilled.

"The subsidence is permanent," Sneed warned.

That's bad news for future groundwater reserves. It's also bad for surface water supplies.

USGS researchers warn that sinking ground is reducing the capacity of canals that transport floodwater and deliver water to agriculture, cities, industry and wildlife refuges. They predict falling surface levels could cause infrastructure damage in local communities, too.

Solution: Stop pumping

"To stop subsidence, groundwater levels have to stop being lowered," Sneed said. "If I was queen bee, I would say that would be the thing to do."

Among the things that seems to be causing overdraft of Merced's aquifer, is that farmers have changed what they grow.

"We are finding that row crops are decreasing and more permanent crops are being planted," Sneed noted.

That includes trees – especially almonds and pistachios – and grape vineyards, all of which need water whether it's a wet year or dry year. Sneed said land used for row crops, by contrast, can be allowed to go fallow during droughts.

"There are a lot more permanent crops" in that Red Top area, confirmed Chase Hurley, general manager of the San Luis Canal Co. in Dos Palos. "They're pumping too much water from the deep aquifer and causing subsidence."

Hurley's privately owned mutual water company supplies San Joaquin River water to 45,000 acres of Merced County farmland west of El Nido. But the land under his company's diversion dam has sunk so much the last five years that it soon may be too low for gravity to work to supply his canals.

"If we don't get this subsidence under control," Hurley warned, "I'm going to have to build a \$10 million pumping plant (to move the river water)."

Hurley's company has started working with Red Top landowners who use groundwater to nurture nearly 30,000 acres of farmland. He's trying to find alternatives for them so they'll reduce pumping from the deep aquifer.

Hurley said those farmers, most of whom are in Madera County, don't currently have access to surface water, but that might be one option to stop them from draining down the groundwater basin and triggering subsidence.

Merced County farmer Cannon Michael questioned the wisdom of growers who plant permanent crops, like nut trees, on land that has no access to river or canal water. With no surface water, Michael said, growers must pump groundwater to keep trees alive.

"Once you've made the investment, you have a hard demand for water," Michael explained. "It's not sustainable."

Michael said sinking ground levels is damaging Merced County canals and dams. He said subsiding land has lowered the government-owned Sack Dam on the San Joaquin River near Dos Palos, making it necessary to rebuild.

Public agencies also pumping

But individual farmers are not the only ones pumping groundwater: Cities like Merced and the Merced Irrigation District do it, too.

And despite this week's rain, the valley has been in a drought for two years. That's reduced runoff from the Sierra Nevada, which normally provides surface water to farmers in the Merced Irrigation District.

To compensate for reduced runoff, that irrigation district – which recently annexed El Nido – has substantially increased pumping from its 180 wells.

Hicham El Tal, the Merced Irrigation District's deputy general manager, said his district normally pumps about 6,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year. But this year it pumped nearly 55,000 acre-feet.

"The MID cannot fix the groundwater basin alone," said El Tal, noting how his district only serves about 20 percent of the Merced basin. "The only thing we could do is stop pumping groundwater ... and that would cause even more damage (to the aquifer)."

El Tal predicted that if Merced farmers cannot buy enough water from their irrigation district, they will drill their own wells instead. And once they start pumping, El Tal said they'll pump far more than his district ever has.

"Once they drill their own wells ... they'll not come back to the MID for water even during wet years," said El Tal, who fears that would further deplete Merced County's aquifer.

Over-pumping of San Joaquin Valley aquifers has caused subsidence for decades, but that trouble primarily had been south of Merced County.

Sneed said she was surprised to discover the problem's epicenter has shifted north toward El Nido.

Falling ground levels between 1926 and 1970 in the Madera County community of Mendota convinced state and federal agencies to start importing surface water to that region. Initially that helped groundwater levels there recover.

Court-mandated and drought-related reductions in surface-water deliveries since 1976, however, have led to increased groundwater pumping, which the USGS report said has caused historic low groundwater levels in some areas.

Additional land sinking

Researchers found the subsidence rate doubled in 2008 in some areas around the Delta-Mendota Canal, which weaves through Merced and Madera counties. They said that's when water levels in many of that region's deep wells started hitting historic lows.

So the USGS used satellite technology to measure the declines.

Comparing images and data from 2008 with 2010, they measured the subsidence and discovered the bowl of depression is much larger than originally believed. Sneed said additional research and observations indicate the land continued to compact at alarming rates in 2011 and 2012.

"It seems to be occurring during non-drought years, too," Sneed said.

Canals buckling

That sinking land is buckling and damaging the canals built on the surface, according to the federally funded researchers.

They warn that such large-scale and rapid subsidence could cause significant operational and structural challenges for California's water delivery infrastructure, which brings water from the north to the south to nurture thirsty cropland and cities.

Reliable water deliveries may be jeopardized because of it, the researchers concluded.

"The USGS report was commissioned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to learn more about the challenges we face due to subsidence. It will help us take additional proactive measures to ensure efficient delivery of water to the San Joaquin Valley," explained David Murillo, the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid-Pacific regional director.

To help public agencies and resource managers minimize risk and damage to California's infrastructure, the USGS is studying and providing information on groundwater conditions and land subsidence in the San Joaquin Valley.

Researchers said availability of surface water remains uncertain, so the potential for future subsidence is high.

The USGS uses a range of monitoring techniques to continually measure ground displacement, groundwater levels and aquifer compaction. That information, they said, can be used to develop simulation models of groundwater flow and land subsidence, which can be used to help manage the groundwater and limit future subsidence in the Valley.

The new USGS report is called "Land subsidence along the Delta-Mendota Canal in the northern part of the San Joaquin Valley, California, 2003-10: USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2013-5142," by Michelle Sneed, Justin Brandt and Mike Solt.

A copy of it is posted at www.modbee.com/groundwater.

Fresno Bee reporter Mark Grossi contributed to this report. Bee staff writer J.N. Sbranti can be reached at jnsbranti@modbee.com or (209)578-2196.

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ITEM F

ATTACHMENT G

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LOCAL NEWS sponsored by Jerry Sawar

Amid Dry Spell and Rising Rates, Montecito Water District Eyes Possible Rationing

Parched conditions prompt warning to residents while costs, challenges of State Water deliveries siphon off additional resources



Montecito Water District customers use an average of 290 gallons of water a day, making the community the highest per-capita water user on the South Coast. (Melinda Burns / Mission & State photo)

By Melinda Burns, Mission & State | Published on 11.14.2013 9:28 p.m.

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[Noozhawk's note: [Click here for additional reporting on this story from Mission & State, a nonprofit news organization in Santa Barbara.](#)]

In the face of a tenacious dry spell, the Montecito Water District has decided it can no longer wait for a rainy day.

This month, on the heels of two record dry years and a record rate increase, the district advised Montecito and Summerland residents to conserve more water or risk mandatory rationing this winter.

"The district's water supplies have been stretched to the limit," district officials said in a letter to customers. "Lacking enough rainfall, a water shortage condition, calling for cuts in water use by

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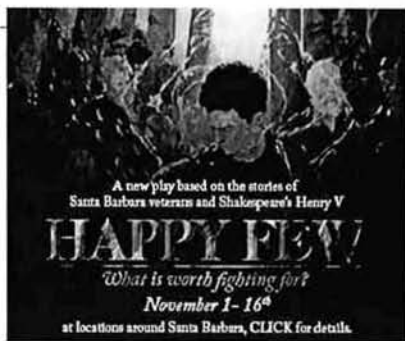


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3. Sansum Clinic Still Negotiating to Be Included in State Insurance Exchange - 11.14.2013 8:58 p.m.





20 percent, is imminent. If conditions do not then improve, we may have to declare a Water Shortage Emergency.”

The warning letter follows a 16-percent rate increase the water district hit its customers with on Sept. 1.

It's the first of five hikes that by the 2017-2018 fiscal year will raise water rates 55 percent in Summerland, a small, tightly packed hillside community with great ocean views and lots of renters, and in

Montecito, one of the wealthiest communities in the country.

Montecito Water District officials say the goal is to encourage water conservation and balance the books.

That local water consumption remained stubbornly high despite the increase in rates came as a surprise, to put it mildly, to district officials.

One reason why the community remains such a water guzzler — at 290 gallons a day its per-capita water use is the highest on the South Coast — is that 40 percent of Montecito Water District residential customers own one or more acres of lushly landscaped land.

Another reason may be that the median household income in Montecito is \$112,656, which makes the district-wide average monthly bill of \$213 easier to handle. In any case, people clearly aren't getting the message, says Tom Mosby, the district's general manager.



According to the Montecito Water District, several customers ran up monthly water bills in excess of \$7,000 in September and October. (Montecito Water District photo)

Records show that a handful of unnamed district residents spent more than \$7,000 each in September and again in October to water their lawns — a \$1,000 increase in their water bills from August. Also, 12 estates abandoned dried-up private wells and began using district water, a trend that started earlier this year.

And compared to the first 10 months of 2012, both the Valley Club of Montecito and Birnam Wood Golf Club have nearly doubled their use of district water to keep their fairways green.

“Help me!” Mosby said, only half in jest. “This is way outside of what we were expecting. We thought everyone was getting on the water conservation wagon.”

The current water demand is unsustainable, Mosby says, because local supplies are shrinking.

The last two years tallied the lowest combined rainfall totals in Montecito since the water district began keeping records in 1924. The reservoirs that make roughly 80 percent of the Montecito Water District supply — Lake Cachuma and Jameson Lake on the Santa Ynez River — have dropped to 44 percent and 31 percent of capacity, respectively.



- Brush Fire - 11/14 2:40 pm
7142 Tuolumne Dr. Goleta
- Vehicle Acc - Serious - 11/13 3:23 pm
814 La Roda Ave. Santa Barbara
- Fire- Structure - 11/13 1:47 pm
125 N Fairview Ave. Goleta
- Vehicle Acc - Serious - 11/13 12:58 pm
3506 Black Rd. Santa Maria
- Vehicle Acc - Serious - 11/13 8:15 am
Cl Real & N La Patena Ln. Goleta
- Fire- Structure - 11/12 8:55 pm
480 Whitman St. Goleta
- Vehicle Fire - Passenger Car - 11/12 1:17 pm
7012 Market Place Dr. Goleta

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Unlike other South Coast communities, the Montecito Water District has only limited groundwater supplies for its 13,500 customers, some of whom live in the western Carpinteria Valley and eastern portions of the city of Santa Barbara.

"We cannot survive on our local sources," Mosby said.

The dry conditions also limit deliveries from the California Aqueduct, the district's most expensive water source, to a trickle. This year, the Montecito Water District will get just 35 percent of the supply it is paying for.

Allocations for 2014, to be announced in December, are expected to drop further if the weather stays dry.

The district will use up the State Water it had been banking in the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County by the end of this year, Mosby says, and will buy some from Carpinteria and Goleta.

Extra State Water also may be available next winter from Central Valley rice farmers who are paid to fallow their land, he adds, but there will likely be heavy competition for that water, and the cost will be higher than what the district normally pays.

State Water costs are already straining Montecito Water District coffers. According to Mosby, the 2013-2014 fiscal year marks the fourth consecutive year the district will be forced to dip into its reserves, this time for more than \$1.5 million.

Much of that will go to replacing the community's deteriorating water mains, some of which are 90 years old. The water main work can run as much as \$1.8 million per mile, and there are still 23 miles to go. That project is expected to cost about \$15.1 million.



The Montecito Water District has been working to replace miles of water mains in a \$15 million project that remains more than 20 miles short of completion. (Montecito Water District photo)

But don't get the wrong idea. Mosby says he's grateful for every drop the water district gets from the California Aqueduct.

From 1973 to 1997, before State Water was available on the South Coast, the Montecito Water District was forced to declare a permanent water shortage emergency, meaning strict caps on water use were assigned to each home, high water rates were imposed for exceeding those limits, and a lot of customers were pretty upset.

"State water is such a huge burden on our budget," Mosby said. "It's incredibly expensive. Do we have enough left to pay for our capital projects? No. But at the same time, State Water has played a significant role as a supplemental water supply.

"If we didn't have state water, I wouldn't want to work here anymore. I couldn't handle the stress."

In 1991, at the end of a five-year drought, most communities in Santa Barbara County voted to build a 143-mile-long branch of the California Aqueduct to carry State Water to Lake Cachuma from Kern County. The price tag, including the cost of a water-treatment plant, was a hefty \$595 million, not counting the still-accumulating interest on the bonds issued to pay for the project.

During the 1988-1989 fiscal year, before the vote on the aqueduct branch, the average water bill in Montecito was \$35 monthly. That's because back in 1989, the district's operating expenses were only \$1.5 million.



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By contrast, reports show that in 2012-2013, the district spent just more than \$11 million — 44 percent of which went to state water.

The Montecito Water District is not alone in its predicament. State water is driving up rates everywhere and now accounts for 31 percent of the Goleta Water District's expenditures, 31 percent of the Carpinteria Valley Water District's and 18 percent of the City of Santa Barbara's water fund.

In 2011, with no money in reserve, the Goleta Water District announced a rate increase of 43 percent over five years.

"We tapped our reserves long ago," said John McInnes, the Goleta Water District general manager. "It's a very scary proposition. But if we hadn't paid for State Water, we wouldn't have enough water for our customers."

Carolee Krieger, a State Water opponent who failed three times in the 1990s to win a seat on the Montecito Water District board, sees things differently.

"The major expense is not the water, it's the fixed costs on the aqueduct," she said. "The water is not there when we need it."

To date, including the interest on the bonds, water agencies in Santa Barbara County have paid \$601 million in fixed capital costs for the aqueduct branch, and still owe \$636 million, according to the Central Coast Water Authority, the Buellton-based agency that treats and delivers State Water to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.

Santa Barbara County, which signed the original aqueduct agreement with the state, is the ultimate guarantor that the State Water bonds will be paid.

Last week, Ray Stokes, executive director of the Central Coast Water Authority, told a skeptical county Board of Supervisors that \$2.5 billion in major pump repairs, seismic repairs to dams and other aqueduct improvements are necessary and must be shared by all of the State Water contractors in California. The extra cost for county water agencies will be about \$25 million, he said.

In addition, Stokes said, State Water contractors will be on the hook for a share of the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan, a \$25-billion proposal to build two aqueduct tunnels under the San Francisco Bay delta.

The project is being billed as a way to improve the reliability of State Water supplies, restore the health of the fragile delta ecosystem and protect supplies in case of earthquakes.

If Gov. Jerry Brown's administration decides to go forward, agencies in Santa Barbara County contracting for State Water from Santa Maria to Carpinteria would be liable for \$100 million of the total cost, Stokes said.

Krieger, who is now president of the California Water Impact Network, a watchdog group that she founded, is opposing both the Bay Delta project and the proposed aqueduct contract extension. She estimates the total cost of the tunnels, including the interest on the bonds, at \$69 billion, and sees no benefits for ratepayers.

"We should not get into more vague and amorphous debt for no new water," Krieger said. "It's bad enough as it is."

For now, the Montecito Water District board is reserving comment on the aqueduct's total capital cost.

"We're a little wary and not believing the numbers they're publishing," Mosby said.

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The prospect of a prolonged drought, however, coupled with the rising cost of State Water, prompted the Montecito Water District board to send a letter earlier this month to the county Board of Supervisors, requesting a long-term analysis to identify new sources of water for the region.

Mosby is hoping that one new source will be seawater desalination. A desalination plant on East Yanonali Street in Santa Barbara has been mothballed for years, but Mosby believes it could someday serve the entire South Coast.

"We know, in the long run, we need to become more autonomous," he said. "State water isn't going to save us."

— *Melinda Burns is a reporter for Mission & State.*

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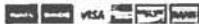
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DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT H



Carlsbad Desalination Project Named 'Far West Deal of the Year' for 2013

The Carlsbad Desalination Project on Friday was named the "Far West Deal of the Year" for 2013 by The Bond Buyer magazine, making it eligible for the publication's top national honor to be announced Dec. 5 in New York.

For more than a decade, the editors of The Bond Buyer have selected outstanding municipal bond transactions for special recognition, honoring issuers who overcame myriad challenges to finalize deals. The 2013 awards considered deals that closed between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2013. The prestigious competition drew a record number of nominations for transactions that ranged in size from a few million to billions of dollars.

Editors selected the California Pollution Control Financing Authority's \$734 million sale of water furnishing revenue bonds on behalf of the San Diego County Water Authority to fund the Carlsbad Desalination Project. "The deal – executed as a public-private partnership with Poseidon Resources – represents the first-ever project financing of a seawater desalination plant in the municipal market, establishing a new asset class for investors," The Bond Buyer said Friday.

For the Carlsbad project, the accolade caps a year in which it also was named the "North American Water Deal of the Year" by Project Finance, an international trade publication that annually highlights major industry accomplishments around the world.

"It took more than two years to nail down all of the details for the public-private partnership that launched construction of the nation's largest seawater desalination plant," said Thomas V. Wornham, Chair of the Water Authority's Board of Directors. "It's gratifying that the finance industry recognizes our trailblazing work, and we look forward to the day when the project provides an additional safe and reliable water supply for our region."

The Carlsbad Desalination Project includes a seawater desalination plant and a 10-mile, large-diameter pipeline being developed by Poseidon Water, formerly called Poseidon Resources. The private, investor-owned company develops water and wastewater infrastructure.

Terms for developing the plant and related facilities are detailed in the Water Purchase Agreement, which allowed the Water Authority to shift appropriate construction and operation risks to developers. The Water Authority only pays for water that is produced according to pre-set quality and quantity standards.

Project development included more than 40 public meetings before the purchase agreement was approved by the Water Authority's Board on Nov. 29, 2012. Board approval launched an effort to meet project benchmarks by the end of 2012. Moody's assigned a Baa3 rating to the desalination project bonds, bolstered by what Project Finance called the Water Authority's "sterling" credit rating.

On Dec. 13, 2012, the project team secured a 4.78 percent interest rate for the bonds, saving Water Authority ratepayers an estimated \$200 million over three decades compared to earlier projections. Financing closed on Dec. 24. Construction is now under way. The project is expected to produce up to 50 million gallons a day of desalinated water starting in 2016.

The desalination plant is being built on industrially zoned land adjacent to the Encina Power Station in Carlsbad. The new pipeline will deliver water from the plant to the Water Authority's Second Aqueduct in San Marcos. The Water Authority will also make a number of improvements to its pipeline system and the Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant to integrate desalinated water.

The total cost for desalinated water, including the pipeline, is projected at \$2,014 to \$2,257 per acre-foot in 2012 dollars. While that is more costly than current water supplies, desalination is a more reliable, drought-proof supply. Water Authority projections also show seawater desalination it may be cost-competitive with imported water sources by the mid-2020s.

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DECEMBER 11, 2013

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT I

Last Update: 05 Dec 2013 - 05:38

Reported period:



Summary

Reported period Month Nov 2013

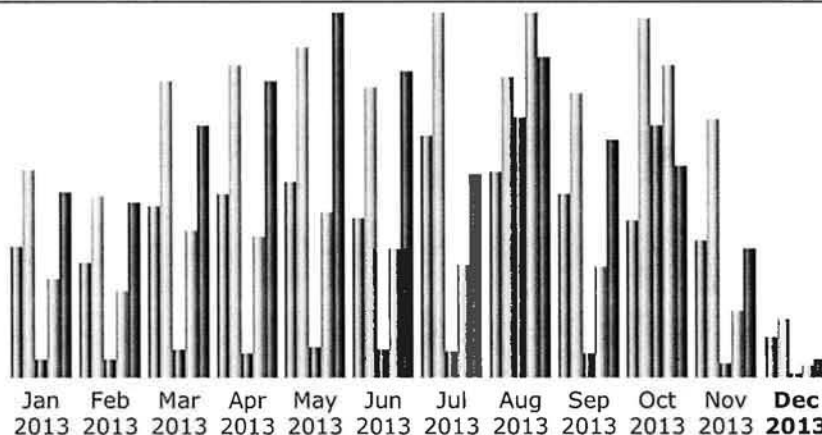
First visit 01 Nov 2013 - 00:03

Last visit 30 Nov 2013 - 22:39

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	738	1,397 (1.89 visits/visitor)	5,980 (4.28 Pages/Visit)	27,857 (19.94 Hits/Visit)	731.25 MB (536 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			74,301	85,103	473.43 MB

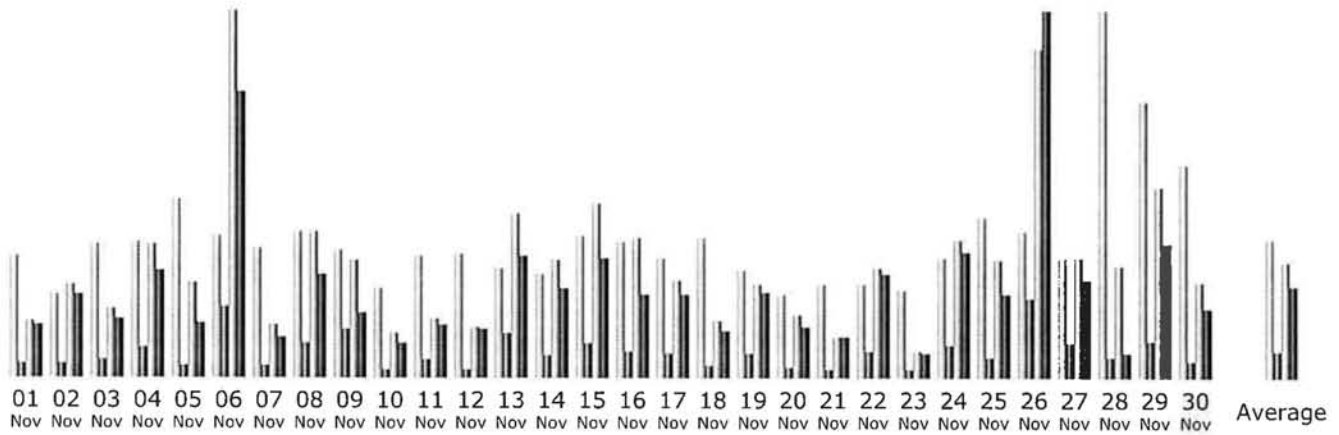
* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

Monthly history



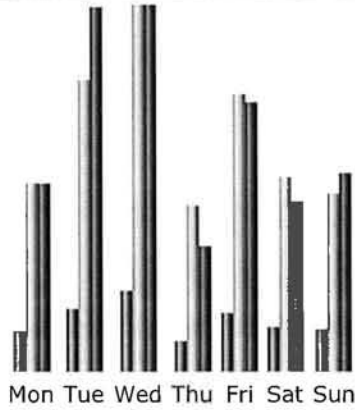
Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2013	710	1,125	7,017	41,747	1.03 GB
Feb 2013	625	986	6,898	36,449	998.28 MB
Mar 2013	931	1,615	11,348	61,699	1.40 GB
Apr 2013	995	1,702	9,711	59,832	1.65 GB
May 2013	1,058	1,803	12,377	69,347	2.03 GB
Jun 2013	868	1,574	11,599	54,731	1.70 GB
Jul 2013	1,312	1,979	10,696	47,487	1.13 GB
Aug 2013	1,113	1,631	109,608	154,067	1.78 GB
Sep 2013	998	1,549	10,069	46,577	1.32 GB
Oct 2013	855	1,954	106,420	132,042	1.17 GB
Nov 2013	738	1,397	5,980	27,857	731.25 MB
Dec 2013	219	310	961	4,553	101.52 MB
Total	10,422	17,625	302,684	736,388	15.00 GB

Days of month



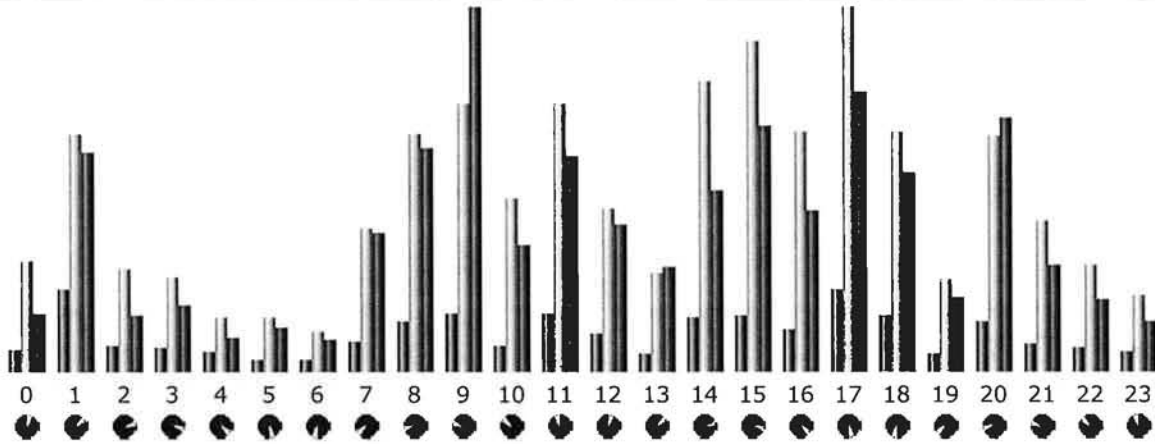
Day	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
01 Nov 2013	41	100	448	14.23 MB
02 Nov 2013	28	105	755	22.28 MB
03 Nov 2013	45	145	551	15.49 MB
04 Nov 2013	46	237	1,072	28.83 MB
05 Nov 2013	60	98	756	14.77 MB
06 Nov 2013	48	560	2,956	77.19 MB
07 Nov 2013	44	96	419	10.78 MB
08 Nov 2013	49	271	1,178	27.54 MB
09 Nov 2013	43	382	950	17.38 MB
10 Nov 2013	30	54	356	9.05 MB
11 Nov 2013	41	141	460	13.91 MB
12 Nov 2013	42	59	403	12.62 MB
13 Nov 2013	37	359	1,322	32.74 MB
14 Nov 2013	35	173	951	23.85 MB
15 Nov 2013	48	265	1,410	32.32 MB
16 Nov 2013	46	210	1,121	22.32 MB
17 Nov 2013	40	189	786	22.07 MB
18 Nov 2013	47	87	457	12.34 MB
19 Nov 2013	36	185	752	22.49 MB
20 Nov 2013	28	82	498	13.19 MB
21 Nov 2013	31	58	314	10.45 MB
22 Nov 2013	31	204	871	27.54 MB
23 Nov 2013	29	54	206	6.39 MB
24 Nov 2013	40	260	1,104	33.90 MB
25 Nov 2013	54	158	943	22.00 MB
26 Nov 2013	49	632	2,651	98.63 MB
27 Nov 2013	40	268	956	26.18 MB
28 Nov 2013	124	150	900	6.35 MB
29 Nov 2013	93	282	1,542	35.98 MB
30 Nov 2013	72	116	769	18.44 MB
Average	46	199	928	24.37 MB
Total	1,397	5,980	27,857	731.25 MB

Days of week



Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	155	733	19.27 MB
Tue	243	1,140	37.13 MB
Wed	317	1,433	37.32 MB
Thu	119	646	12.86 MB
Fri	224	1,089	27.52 MB
Sat	173	760	17.36 MB
Sun	162	699	20.13 MB

Hours



Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	144	742	12.13 MB	12	255	1,091	31.27 MB
01	544	1,585	46.48 MB	13	113	652	22.27 MB
02	175	688	11.88 MB	14	360	1,936	38.55 MB
03	160	628	14.00 MB	15	370	2,211	52.05 MB
04	122	353	7.26 MB	16	282	1,609	33.91 MB
05	73	356	9.29 MB	17	542	2,436	59.38 MB
06	79	261	6.55 MB	18	367	1,607	41.99 MB
07	199	953	29.53 MB	19	121	620	15.82 MB
08	331	1,591	47.52 MB	20	332	1,578	53.63 MB

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: MICHAEL S. LEBRUN *MSL*
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2013

AGENDA ITEM
G
DECEMBER 11, 2013

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM

Review and discuss Committee meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND

The following committee meetings were held for which meeting minutes are being provided:

- o November 12, 2013 Finance and Audit Committee
- o November 19, 2013 Water Resources Committee

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Honorable Board discuss the meeting minutes as appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Finance and Audit Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

9:00 A.M.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Vierheilig called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Vierheilig and Director Armstrong were in attendance along with Staff members Michael LeBrun and Lisa Bognuda. Director Harrison was also in attendance. No public was in attendance.

2. REVIEW DRAFT AUDIT REPORT – FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

Lisa Bognuda, Finance Director, introduced the auditor, Bob Crosby, CPA. Mr. Crosby gave an overview of the draft audit and answered questions from the Committee. The Committee provided Staff with edits which will be included in the final draft to be presented to the Board of Directors on December 11, 2013.

3. ADJOURN –The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2013
2:00 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE AND ROLL CALL

At 2:00 PM on Tuesday November 19, 2013, Chairman Vierheilig called the meeting to order. Chairman Vierheilig and Director Armstrong were in attendance along with General Manager Michael LeBrun, Director of Engineering and Operations Peter Sevcik, and one member of the public. Board President Jim Harrison attended the meeting to observe. President Harrison did not participate in any discussion.

2. REVIEW DISTRICT WATER RESOURCES POLICY

General Manager LeBrun, presented the Item. The General Manager answered questions from the Committee.

NCSD Customer Ed Eby commented on the proposal during public comment.

Committee members discussed the proposed policy and gave staff direction to make minor edits and to schedule the draft policy for review by the full Board.

3. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

No date was set

4. ADJOURN –The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.