

(Continued from page 1)

NCS D: Fliers tipped balance in water vote

By Tom Friesen
Staff Writer

NIPOMO — In the election post-mortem, local water officials are blaming the defeat of Measure C on voter apathy and a last-minute mailing of anti-state water fliers.

Voters within the boundaries of the Community Services District rejected the idea of importing state water by a margin of 349 to 325.

David Manriquez, president of the Community Services District board, called the circulation of the fliers "an 11th-hour plan full of outright lies and misinformation."

The four-page flier was distributed by the Citizens Planning Alliance, a non-profit organization with between 300 and 400 members throughout the county.

The alliance focuses on educating citizens about issues affecting their quality of life, according to members.

The flier was written by Charles Gulyash, a Nipomo resident and president of the alliance.

He acknowledged that only one other member of the organization had seen the fliers before they were mailed out, but he said alliance members would agree with the fliers content.

"I felt it was my responsibility to

"I didn't think it was fair to Nipomo to buy into the system without knowing all the facts."

— Charles Gulyash

make this information available," he said. "I didn't think it was fair to Nipomo to buy into the system without knowing all the facts."

He said the fliers contained information that was "as factual as possible" and perhaps even conservative. He mailed out 839 of them on Saturday. They arrived in local mailboxes the same day or on Monday.

"It's the first time we ever heard of this group," Manriquez said. "We didn't have time to respond."

He and NCS D General Manager Ryder Ray both said the fliers could have tipped the balance.

"They scared a lot of people — or scared enough of them," Ray said, noting the small turnout of voters.

"I was surprised by the number of people that voted," he said. "If you were in charge of your own destiny, I'd think you'd go out and vote."

(Continued from page 9)

Ray said the fliers were "loaded with a lot of misinformation. If he thinks we can get desalination or Nacimiento cheaper, then I'd like to see his crystal ball."

Kathy James, an aide to 4th District Supervisor Ruth Brackett, said the information in the flier was "really slanted and uninformed. I think it did some damage, or some good, depending on your point of view."

But she also said that "Most of the people who really want state water live outside the district boundaries."

Gulyash said his estimated cost of \$900 an acre-foot was based on information from Van Laurn of the county engineering department. The fliers also included the "official" projected price of \$470 for comparison.

Laurn had worked on the state project for five years before he became dubious about its benefits and was taken off the project by his boss, County Engineer Clint Milne.

NCS D officials have been estimating the cost of state water at \$30 an acre-foot, based on information in the state's environmental impact report.

Ray said he had heard Laurn's cost estimate, but "I couldn't find anything to substantiate it."

He also pointed out that the fliers put the cost of the district's well water at \$150 per acre-foot instead of the actual cost of \$222.

He said the fliers calculated state water costs using NCS D's initial entitlement of 3,500 acre-feet instead of the 1,500 to 2,000 that the district board recently decided to request instead.

But Gulyash believes that "the true costs of state water have been grossly misrepresented" by county officials like Milne, who has been actively pushing the project.

"He's really not doing us any favors by not presenting both sides," Gulyash said.

He quoted Laurn as saying operation and maintenance costs have been rising at 18 percent a year and said, "I call it a disaster."

Gulyash said he moved to the county in 1975 from the Bay Area and enjoys the more rural atmosphere, but he can't be categorized as a typical slow-growth advocate.

"I'm a general contractor and I'm exposed to a lot of points of view," he said, adding that he opposes state water because local control over resources is important and because it's just a bad business deal.

For Manriquez, the defeat of state water was perhaps as much a result of voter apathy as the fliers.

"We had less than one-third of the voters. That's the most discouraging

In another theft that occurred in mid-October, a social security was on the check told investigators he hadn't cashed it.

He said the check had been taken in mid-October and the company reports four other checks are also missing. The person whose name Cndr. Bill Andrews.

In one forgery case, a check from the D.W. Peterson construction reported Wednesday that involve checks and credit cards.

ARROYO GRANDE — Police are investigating three crimes

Forgery, theft investigated

was worth \$345.

Robert Reed Hatfield Jr. of Bakerfield, police said. The equipment

The driver's license that was left as a security deposit had the name

\$36 on Saturday. Police were notified Tuesday that he did not return.

A 31-year-old man rented the equipment for three hours at a cost of

Cypress St.

PISMO BEACH — Police are investigating the possible theft of

Wetsuits, boards believed taken

POLICE BEAT

Information
Supreme
t:

projected price of \$470 for comparison.

Laurn had worked on the state project for five years before he became dubious about its benefits and was taken off the project by his boss, County Engineer Clint Milne.

NCSO officials have been estimating the cost of state water at \$530 an acre-foot, based on information in the state's environmental impact report.

Ray said he had heard Laurn's cost estimate, but "I couldn't find anything to substantiate it."

He also pointed out that the fliers put the cost of the district's well water at \$150 per acre-foot instead of the actual cost of \$222.

He said the fliers calculated state water costs using NCSO's initial entitlement of 3,500 acre-feet instead of the 1,500 to 2,000 that the district board recently decided to request instead.

But Gulyash believes that "the true costs of state water have been grossly misrepresented" by county officials like Milne, who has been actively pushing the project.

"He's really not doing us any favors by not presenting both sides," Gulyash said.

He quoted Laurn as saying operation and maintenance costs have been rising at 18 percent a year and said, "I call it a disaster."

Gulyash said he moved to the county in 1975 from the Bay Area and enjoys the more rural atmosphere, but he can't be categorized as a typical slow-growth advocate.

"I'm a general contractor and I'm exposed to a lot of points of view," he said, adding that he opposes state water because local control over resources is important and because it's just a bad business deal.

For Manriquez, the defeat of state water was perhaps as much a result of voter apathy as the fliers.

"We had less than one-third of the voters. That's the most disgusting part, and it will hurt Nipomo's future," he said. "It only took 349 votes to beat us."

The Next Nomination
to the Supreme
Court:

SHOWN ANY EVIDENCE
SOUND OR IRRATIONAL
JUDGMENT?

nde, Calif.