

# Board passes resolution to overrule the vote

By Tom Friesen  
Staff Writer

NIPOMO — The voters have been overruled.

On a 4-1 vote Tuesday, Nov. 26, directors of the Community Services District reversed the Nov. 5 election results with their decision to tap into the State Water Project.

In what had been considered a binding election, district residents

rejected participation in the project's coastal branch and the higher water bills it will bring.

The board's controversial decision came after another overflow crowd packed the NCS D building for the second time in a week.

The noise level was even higher and the repeated banging of board President David Manriquez's gavel was often lost in the din of shouting

matches among audience members.

State water supporters, many of whom live outside the district boundaries, were again in the majority, protesting their ineligibility to participate in the public vote.

District residents who had voted against state water countered that they are the people who'll be paying higher rates and subsidizing future development.

Dianne Mullikin said that overturning the vote would violate the democratic system and principles of the nation's founders, but a project supporter shouted back that, "If our forefathers didn't have any water, we wouldn't be here."

Manriquez said after the meeting that he voted to overrule the election results because "I didn't feel it was representative."

"This will affect their lifestyle and their children and their grandchildren," he said. "I think state water is a better option than desalination or Nacimiento. ... Economically, it's the most feasible."

Director Kathleen Fairbanks said, "It's an open opportunity for water and we can't live without water."

She said it was "very tough" to overrule the voters, but "Summit Station is already out of water and I want to provide it."

The lone dissenter, Director Steven Small, said he was in favor of importing state water, but "I felt in my own conscience I couldn't violate the sanctity of the vote. I did what was right in my heart."

But Small said he respected the decision of his colleagues and was not disappointed with the outcome.

"That's fine with me," he said. "It will be good for the district as a whole."

Director Gordon Gracia said the directors' "first mistake" was calling an election on the issue because it made the situation Tuesday, Nov. 26, difficult — "None of the board feels good about it."

The state project will be dependa-

we desperately need. It's a lifeline."

Director Alex Mendoza said, "I think it's in the best interests of the Nipomo area."

He said that having to overturn a binding vote "is a very difficult situation to be in."

But as an elected official, he is ultimately responsible for the decision, and people who are unhappy can oppose him in the next election, he said, predicting that "things will be interesting up ahead I'm sure."

The district's legal counsel, Art Shaw, said the ordinance he'd originally prepared as an urgency measure could instead be passed the conventional way, with a second reading scheduled for the Dec. 4 meeting, because the county won't be making its final decision on how much state water to import until the end of January.

The ordinance states that a flier sent out by the Citizens Planning Alliance was an 11th-hour attempt at "scare tactics" that misinformed the public and contributed to a low voter turnout.

The flier's author, building contractor Charles Gulyash of Nipomo, responded to the charge of providing misinformation.

"I don't think I missed any information in this flier. I'd be happy to go over any of the data," he said.

As for the charge about 11th-hour timing, he asked, "Should I have sent it to you guys to review it" and delete what the board didn't like?

Gulyash also questioned the rationale that a 30-percent voter turnout is grounds for overturning the 349-325 result.

He said the 1988 presidential election only brought out 28 percent of the nation's eligible voters and asked, "Should we toss out George Bush?"

Gulyash pointed out that the state project can only deliver about half the water that has been subscribed for. "There is no such thing as water that's there forever," he said.

He said Southern California is losing its other water sources and will increasingly depend on the state project while Northern California will be fighting harder to keep more of the fresh water needed for the environmental health of the Sacramento Delta.

Meanwhile, Nipomo will have to keep paying its share of state water costs even if the area's full entitlement is not delivered, he said.

Paul Lewis of Nipomo charged "The misinformation I've seen has mostly come from the board."

He said district officials were saying that Nipomo's costs wouldn't rise if other water purveyors drop out of the project, while the county engineer was telling the Board of Supervisors that low demand will mean higher prices.

"No one knows how much this thing is going to cost," he said.

Glen Peck said the project would not be reliable. "I would pay \$1,000 an acre-foot if someone could guarantee" there will be water in pipeline.

There are no guarantees, but the district will have to send a check to Sacramento every year for \$1.5 million, he said.

An acre-foot, or 326,000 gallons, is enough to serve two families of three for a year.

Several of the anti-state water advocates were convinced that the public hearing was little more than a waste of time.

"People outside the district are getting you to overturn the vote," Mullikin told the board. "You're talking like you've already decided."

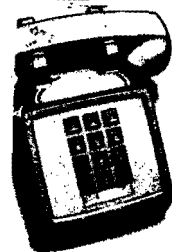
"Why don't you just go ahead and do what you're going to do?" Lewis added sarcastically, bringing loud cheers from the state project supporters.

"You told me this was going to be a binding vote," he said, just before the board took its own poll.

The directors will now have to

## CALL COLDWELL BANKER

### DAN BLOUGH & ASSOCIATES



AT 929-5080  
ABOUT  
THESE OUTSTANDING  
PROPERTIES

**YOU'LL FEEL AT HOME** when you see this 3 bedroom, 1 1/4 bath home on a quiet Santa Maria street. Features enlarged master bedroom and family room. New carpeting to be installed before January 1. \$144,900. (NHL9)

**BIG, BIG BARN** that could be easily converted to a Granny Unit makes this 3600 sq. ft. 4 bdrm home versatile. Large bonus room with it's own fireplace and entrance. Situated on one acre. Seller will carry a second. \$325,000. (NHL10)

**STATELY TREES** dominate this 2.88 acre parcel. Building permit for 3400 sq. ft. home with plans. Mutual water plus an existing small 3 bedroom makes an excellent rental or separate quarters. \$275,000. (NHL11)

**SO MUCH TO OFFER.** Huge kitchen, lots of windows, oak cabinets, over-size garage, big kitchen, formal dining room, 3 big bedrooms and an affordable price. \$189,000. **SOLD**

**COMPLETELY REFURBISHED** executive style 2000 sq. ft. 3 bedroom home on an acre of beautiful landscaping just minutes from Black Lake Golf Course. Country kitchen with Santa Maria style BBQ, greenhouse and a small producing orchard. \$299,750. (NHL13)

**YOU AND YOUR HORSES** will love this mini ranch with its remodeled home, 4 stall barn and workshop with its own bath. Home is sparkling 2 bedroom

Copy on the information Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1988

what was right in my heart."  
But Small said he respected the decision of his colleagues and was not disappointed with the outcome. "That's fine with me," he said. "It will be good for the district as a whole."

Director Gordon Gracia said the directors' "first mistake" was calling an election on the issue because it made their action Tuesday more difficult — "None of the board feels good about it."

The state project will be dependable, he said. "It's a viable alternative

rationale that a 30-percent voter turnout is grounds for overturning the 349-325 result.

He said the 1988 presidential election only brought out 28 percent of the nation's eligible voters and asked, "Should we toss out George Bush?"

Gulyash pointed out that the state project can only deliver about half the water that has been subscribed for. "There is no such thing as water that's there forever," he said. "There's not an endless supply."

"People outside the district are getting you to overturn the vote," Mullikin told the board. "You're talking like you've already decided."

"Why don't you just go ahead and do what you're going to do?" Lewis added sarcastically, bringing loud cheers from the state project supporters.

"You told me this was going to be a binding vote," he said, just before the board took its own poll.

The directors will now have to decide how much water to ask for. They have said their previous plans for 3,500 acre-feet would be too costly and have more recently been mentioning figures between 1,500 and 2,500 acre-feet.



Welcome  
IMPORTS OF NIPOMO

Presents

**TOYS R YOU**  
Christmas Toys at Buyers Cost  
**PLUS 10%**

Saturday, December 7th & 21st  
Sunday, December 8th & 22nd  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**385 Tejas Place, Nipomo**

Copy of document found at [www.NoNewspix.com](http://www.NoNewspix.com)

## Expansion possible

By Tom Friesen  
Staff Writer

NIPOMO — Buoyed by the promise of state water, directors of the Community Services District indicated recently that they will reverse their ban on annexations and begin providing service to the parched Summit Station area.

Wells in the area, located just south of Los Berros Road near U.S. 101, are going dry at an alarming rate, and residents have been desperately seeking new sources of water.

"Our wells are pumping less and less, and some people are hauling

(Continued on page 9)