

letters to the edit

Water is vital, but state water is not

To the Editor:

I am very concerned about the state water issue here in Nipomo. The divisive effect it is having on our citizens is, to me, alarming.

We are retired senior citizens living on a fixed income and I know there are many more like us in this community who have watched their dollars buying less and less as time goes by. This brings me to my concerns about state water.

Firstly, I agree that water is vital for survival. However, I strongly feel that, like everything else in life, we should get value received for value given.

This does not seem to be the way state water is going to work. We are going to pay for a full allotment, even though the state has been delivering only 20 to 30 percent up to now to those already in the system. (If the drought is over and we can get all we'll be paying for, we won't need it — but we'll still have to pay!).

And what about the five years or so that we will be paying for the pipeline before the water gets here? If we are in such a state of drought and our need is so critical, then we will have to find an alternative to supply our needs until state water arrives. Again, we will have to pay. Where is it going to end? How much can we afford?

We who live on limited incomes and cannot afford to pay for more than one water system have been curtailed momentarily from blanketing the area with an ad campaign. This is not true of the opposition. Do those in favor of state water have unlimited funds? Have all their funds come from within the district? Are there other vested interests at work? Perhaps escalating water bills would not affect them as it would we whose incomes are more limited.

It seems to me that the profit motive is alive and well. There are many in the community who will not be satisfied until we have wall-to-wall concrete planted over our entire area. If developers have their way we will become another Los Angeles or Ventura. We will have "sold out" and lost all that brought us to this area in the first place.

So, for whatever reason, get out and vote. We were ignored once. Don't let that happen again. The water board promised last fall to make our vote binding and then reneged on their word. Was it legal for them to throw our votes away? How, in this great country of ours, can we stand idly by and let this happen?

Vote Yes on Prop. A.

Sincerely,
Charles D. King
Nipomo

Who is Citizens Planning Alliance?

When will state water estimates stop rising?

Dear Editor:

Re: State Water.

Wouldn't our interests be better served if our money was spent on a more dependable source of water, under our own control?

I'm afraid of "ballooning" water rates. My understanding is three months after the election, the average water bill will be \$100 a month. As other communities drop out the slack will be taken up by those still participating in the project. Where will it end?

Vote "yes," on Prop. A.

Sincerely,
Jackie Neary
Nipomo

State Water Project leads to traffic jams

To the Editor:

The Nipomo residents voted against state water. The NCS D did not like the way the vote went and are expecting people to vote on state water again at \$750 per acre foot.

State water is no bargain! County standards require .75 acre-feet per year per parcel in rural areas to get a building permit. This cost, plus an expected increase in monthly water rates, is not acceptable.

It's not a coincidence that people in the district are voting on state water when NCS D is planning an annexation which would more than double the size of the service district. The district should inform the public how many engineering firms are applying for new subdivisions just outside the district, before the vote. The traffic jam this will cause on Tefft overpass and the trouble fire trucks will have getting from the east to the west side of the freeway, especially during the weekend bottleneck, are only two of the problems this could cause.

When NCS D overrides the vote of the people, how can you trust them to manage state water and a 2,000-acre annexation?

Amy Lake
Nipomo

Irrigation-based lands ultimately will fail

Dear Editor:

State water is a difficult question. We all must look at the long-term and the short-term.