

Grover opposes tax to pay for state water

GROVER CITY — The city doesn't want its residents to pay extra taxes for state water when they're not going to get any.

The City Council decided several months ago not to participate in the project, which has 25,000 acre feet allocated for San Luis Obispo County.

Grover City is not alone in rejecting state water, and now the county is talking about buying up those unused shares and saving them for a not-so-rainy day.

If that happens, all property owners in the county will see their taxes go up.

Grover City officials say the county should find that money some place other than Grover City.

They will write to county supervisors saying they oppose any additional taxes. Mayor Chuck Comstock said

he'll also attend a May 27 meeting of the county Board of Supervisors to explain how Grover City feels.

At that meeting, the board is expected to approve contracts with each of the communities that has asked for state water. Once those contracts are approved, said City Manager Penny Culbreth, county staff plans to go ahead and implement the tax increase.

She said all county residents currently pay \$6 per \$100,000 of assessed value for state water availability. County engineers want to increase that tax to pay for unallocated water, she said. "They claim they don't need county supervisors approval because the tax was put in place several years ago."

The engineers don't know yet what the additional tax will be.

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