

Manriquez said more ads are being planned for the Adobe Press along with other methods of getting the message out.

On the other side of the campaign, the Nipomo Citizens for Democracy mailed fliers to every household in the district late last month.

Charles Gulyash, the main author of the flier, said it cost "a hair over \$500" to copy and distribute, including \$150 for a bulk mail permit.

A second mailing is in the works, but it will be cheaper because the group now has the permit, Gulyash said, estimating that about \$800 will be spent throughout the campaign.

Carol Thorpe at the FPPC said campaign statements need not be filed if less than \$1,000 is raised by an organization.

Gulyash said donations have been received from fewer than 10 people, and only one donation has been over \$100.

"We're well below \$1,000," he said. "We certainly can't fight them dollar for dollar, so it will have to be a well thought-out campaign."

The flier includes a request for donations in the \$5 range, and Paul

cal portion of the residents who don't want state water.

"If we don't have state water, it keeps the downtown from being able to expand in a nice way," she said. Several years ago, a sewer moratorium stopped new development in the area, and residents could only add on to their homes while more modern houses were being built all around the district.

Fairbanks fears that, without state water, the same thing will happen again.

"I don't know if ghetto is the right word" for the area's future, she said, but state water would bring with it "a better grade of development" inside the district borders.

Fairbanks is also convinced that the Nipomo Citizens for Democracy is receiving financial support from several outside groups related to the Citizens Planning Alliance, which had its name on the flier that has since been blamed by district officials for the defeat of state water in November.

"They're getting money from some of these slow-growth, no-growth organizations. They all have the same telephone number" as the planning alliance, she said, appar-

Question on the ballot is complex

NIPOMO — "Shall Ordinance 91-64 be repealed?"

That is the complex and controversial question facing voters in the May 19 election as they make perhaps the single most important decision facing the Nipomo area.

In a nutshell, this is how the vote came about and what the ballot question means:

The Community Services District board adopted Ordinance 91-64 after district voters turned down state water by a slim margin in a binding election on Nov. 5. The ordinance would have retroactively made the election non-binding and allowed the NCS D board to sign up for the State Water Project.

But a referendum petition signed by hundreds of district voters then forced the board to either rescind Ordinance 91-64 or hold an election on the issue.

So, technically, the vote will decide the issue of whether the board should be allowed to overturn the results of a popular election.

But the practical result of the vote

will also be a decision on whether to join the State Water Project because the NCS D directors have indicated they will contract for at least 1,500 acre-feet if the voters allow it.

Simply put, a "yes" vote has two meanings. It would disallow the NCS D board's attempt to overturn the Nov. 5 election and it would bar state water from Nipomo.

A "no" vote means yes to state water. State water supporters say the need for new water sources drowns out the debate over democratic processes. More water is needed to accommodate further development and to assure the district's future rights to draw from the local groundwater basin.

Opponents question the reliability of the Coastal Branch and point out that local water bills would triple with state water.

The question will be settled at two polling places between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Polling will be at the NCS D office or boardroom, 148 S. Wilson St., and at the Lighthouse Christian Center, 726 W. Tefft St.

Absentee ballots must be returned to the NCS D office by 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 12. Today, May 8, at 5 p.m. is the deadline for voters to bring in request forms for absentee ballots because their signatures have to be checked for authenticity with the county Clerk-Recorder's Office, said district General Manager Ryder Ray.

The absentee ballots will be placed in a sealed ballot box to be opened at 8 p.m. on election day. Sequoia Pacific, the private company running the election, will be in charge of counting all the votes, probably in the NCS D office or boardroom. Anyone is welcome to watch the process, according to the NCS D.


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