

NCS D passes 'energetic' budget

By Cindy Blankenburg

NIPOMO — Staff members of the Nipomo Community Services District were given a 4 percent pay increase as a result of the budget which was passed by the board of directors recently.

The budget takes into account the proposed retirement of office manager Joyce Chudoba in December and general manager Ryder Ray in February.

No increase is proposed for the directors. They receive \$100 per meeting.

It also is based on an increase in water rates which was given the first approval at the same meeting. (See related story in this issue.)

The more than \$3 million budget is "very energetic," said general manager Ryder Ray.

It calls for several capital improvements to be made including

construction of a 1 million gallon standpipe water reservoir which was recently approved.

Additionally, the budget provides for another maintenance man if the Black Lake area is annexed to the district. The current maintenance man at the development will be added on as a district employee.

The annexation request is set to be reviewed on Aug. 20 by the Local Agency Formation Commission.

If the annexation is not approved, no new position will be added, Ray said.

The budget also calls for paying off the more than \$1.3 million sewer bond. The bond will be paid off between September and March. Assessments will then be taken off people's taxes.

Expansion of the waste water treatment plant is another item which is included in the budget. Grading has been completed and

lining will probably be added this year.

The district will also be looking a telemetering, which means putting all controls for the water and sewer at one central location. Currently, controls are spread throughout the district.

Revenue includes \$2.7 million carry-over from the 1991-92 fiscal year, \$30,000 cash carry-over, \$45,000 in sewer maintenance fund carry-over, and \$1.37 million in other revenue.

"The reservoir," president David Manriquez said, "will save us pumping costs in the long run. And, as far as the waste water plant expansion, I would like to see it done in today's dollars, not the dollars 20 years from now."

The budget was unanimously passed with little discussion. Director Kathleen Fairbanks was absent.

'Invisible' people are losing fight

(Continued from page 4)
has not addressed itself to these people."

Among the greatest needs in the South County is a convalescent center for elderly MediCal patients, he said. When the clinic tried to place one recently, it had to be in Ventura County.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kenneth Schmitt about ways the county could help with zoning and land-use decisions, Castle appeared to lay the groundwork for a future convalescent care facility.

The clinic was built on a 5-acre parcel way out in the country, he

property, "We're going to have our neighbors who weren't there talking about traffic and noise and all the NIMBY (not in my back yard) things."

Goldberg told the commission that General Hospital probably sees 70 percent of all MediCal patients and the bulk of the county's uninsured, with a third of all patients from the South County.

All the pieces are in place now for "vertically integrated primary, secondary and tertiary care in a managed health care system," he said, adding that the state is beginning to require that MediCal patients be treated in a managed care system.

About 55,000 people came in for

creasing by more than 14 percent annually.

General Hospital also provides secondary or acute care, while French Hospital and Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center provide tertiary care, such as operations for brain tumors or other complicated surgeries.

General Hospital is trying to improve its patient mix — adding more insured patients — in an effort to help the financial outlook.

But that effort could depend on what the voters decide in November. A \$50 million bond issue to replace the aging facility would require a two-thirds vote.

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