

Pismo

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He also differed with worries about state water being unreliable.

The State Water Project has delivered for all but the past few years, he

noted. This drought is unprecedented, Wagner said, because it has lasted so long and hit both halves of California simultaneously.

John Nichols, a longtime developer in Pismo Beach, also dismissed con-

cerns about the cost of state water and how much Pismo Beach needs it.

If Lopez is drained, he said, it could take 10 to 15 years to refill the lake that supplies nearly 40 percent of Pismo Beach's 2,100 acre-feet of

water.

The council's job is to meet the needs of the community, Nichols said, so it would be prudent to have water available for the people here now.

"Water is worth whatever you are willing to pay for it," he added.

Ride

Water pullout sought

New Pismo Council members say state project unreliable

By Jerry Bunin
Telegram-Tribune

The two newly installed Pismo Beach City Council members want the city to pull out of the State Water Project.

The council voted 3-2 in May to sign up for 1,240 acre-feet, which, as it turned out, was one of the largest purchases in the county.

Councilwoman Marian Mellow said Tuesday state water was too unreliable

■ Cayucos water hopes dim, A-3

considering its cost of \$700 to \$800 per acre-foot. The council should consider using the money to develop more dependable water sources, she said.

She pointed to a news story indicating the State Water Project may only deliver 10 percent of its water this year, the seventh year of a continuing statewide drought.

John Brown, who was installed on the council with Mellow earlier Tuesday, agreed with her.

Both had made their opposition to state water a campaign issue in November when they defeated six other candidates.

Returning Councilman Jim Maroney was one of the two votes against state water in May, but said this morning he is not ready to join with Mello and Brown to overturn the council's decision.

"When I voted against it, I thought we had an ample supply, but now we've lost our lake and I'd probably vote for it," he said.

He was referring to Lopez Lake, which may be drained for 10 months to fix a potential earthquake problem. The lake is a major source of drinking water for the

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