



Incorporate Nipomo

To the Editor:

San Luis Obispo County has imposed a growth cap on two communities at opposite ends of the county. First was Cambria at one percent, they have little water and some of that water now has MTBE in it. Not solving their water problems has been their own method to control growth. A water meter in Cambria can cost more than \$100,000 as you have to purchase an existing lot to get one.

Nipomo, too, has been handed a growth cap of 2.3 percent. Unlike Cambria, Nipomo has water. Under the current SLO County General Plan, the part of Nipomo served by the NCSD has sewer and water capacity to go to build out. Water inside Nipomo Community Service District is administered by the NCSD. It is not controlled by the NCAC, the water committee formed by the NCAC, or the group formed under Katcho. If you need a will-serve letter it will only come from the NCSD. There is no reason you cannot receive one at this time. To apply, you need only to live in the district, request service from the board and pay the necessary fees.

Yes, there is a lawsuit pending with the city of Santa Maria and some local farmers. This suit will be settled only in a court of law by a presiding judge and the attorneys rep-

resenting the parties concerned. Representing NCSD is one of the best water attorneys in the country. He has hired his own engineers and expert witnesses. What part of this don't many of you out there understand? Let me sum up water in Nipomo NCSD is administered by NCSD. The five board members are elected by people who reside in the district and answer to and serve the needs of the people in the district.

Under the 2001 growth cap only 119 homes are allowed in Nipomo. Many of these new owners in Nipomo are older, retired, empty nesters. They are about the only ones who can afford the \$400,000 plus/minus price tags on many of these new homes. In spite of this restrictive growth cap we are about to receive 120 units of low-cost housing. A member of LAFCO on Jan. 18, stated "that all the low-cost housing belongs in Nipomo." Isn't that special. The bottom line is those of us who live here, and own land and pay property taxes, are prohibited from building and living here. Of course we are allowed to get on the list to build and live here. The list consists of a wait of two or more years. This is at the current rate of 119 allowed units per year.

The non-resident builders of low-cost housing can place 120 units of high density housing in our community with no wait. No property taxes are paid after completion. These builders from out of the county, go to the front of the line and can build whatever and whenever they want. Our county planning staff also puts these projects on the fast track. It seems that for the locals, they just can't put road blocks

in our path fast enough. The cities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach have no growth caps and can impact the local school districts to their hearts' content.

So what is the solution. We need to incorporate Nipomo. Take charge of our own destiny. Have our own planning department. Spend Nipomo's road money in Nipomo, not in Halcyon or Arroyo Grande. We will need to provide a fair share of low-cost, or self-help housing, but make our own general plan that states that once constructed, it will pay property taxes and be of a density that we all can live with.

Bob Blair
Arroyo Grande

Some ideas

To the Editor:

A few suggestions:

1) If there is surplus in our federal government, this money should be used to pay off our national debt.

2) Tax cigarettes \$5 per pack. This will discourage teenagers from becoming addicted and increase the number that quit and improve health.

3) Legalize marijuana and then tax the sale of it to the max. The "war on drugs" has failed.

4) Tax gasoline so that its price equals that of Europe (\$5 gallon). People will drive less, pollute less, and global warming will be reduced.

5) Our government to provide free vasectomies to anyone on request to reduce the number of abortions.

Henry David
Nipomo