

8/22/02

Blair's comments are nothing but scare tactics

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Bob Blair's comments in the Aug. 16 issue of the *Adobe Press*, "NCSD eyes water, sewer rate hikes."

"If we could just get Save The Mesa to stop suing us, we wouldn't have to raise the rates," Director Bob Blair said.

Bob, Bob, your attempt at rattling the cages of "we rural folk" in Nipomo has finally dropped to the level of inept child psychology. Give us a little credit, we're a "mite bit" smarter than that.

Save the Mesa filed one lawsuit against the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) and it was initiated because of a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. It's a matter of public record.

The NCSD presently has no idea on God's green earth from where this additional water they're so generously promising will be obtained. There's only so much water down there, Bob.

Your emotional comment quoted above was a shameful attempt at a political tactic. Elections are coming. Time to encourage votes for directors of the NCSD with "like" minds as yours. To do so, let's start a public frenzy by saying rate hikes might not be necessary were it not for Save The Mesa. Hit people in a vulnerable spot, their wallets. Guess you do deserve a little credit for this pitiful strategy.

Luckily, you underestimate the residents of Nipomo. We know those same wallets you're trying to scare while making your inaccurate statement, the wallets of the voters within the NCSD district, will be drained to a far greater extent when our own groundwater supply is depleted. This is what Save The Mesa is trying to prevent from happening.

In this same article it is stated a study will take place on the district possibly acquiring 2,000 acre feet of supplemental water a year as the district continues to grow. When water is purchased from another source, be it from another water district, state water or ocean reclaimed water, that is the day for panic in regard to our thinning wallets. Talk about rate increases.

Borrowing water from Peter to pay Paul inevitably gets everyone in trouble, even the initially bountiful Peter. Someday, and the day is drawing near, Peter will no longer have an overabundance of water to lend. At that time Peter, being loyal to his own, will keep his remaining water in his own household. What does the negotiating Paul do now? Bob Blair won't have to worry about Paul's dilemma, he'll have moved to Perfect, Nev., by then.

People in this community have tried in every way possible to have the majority of directors of the NCSD understand this concern; to have them stop promising water we don't know we have.

It seems only Cliff Trotter and Judi Wirsing have the courage to vote on the conservative side, stating they'd like to be sure the water is there before blindly awarding new will-serves and annexations to the NCSD. Both will undoubtedly receive votes from the residents who understand this is the only way CSD decisions should be made. The NCSD would do well to have like-minded individuals who look (investigate) before they leap. Now, there's a thought when pondering the upcoming elections.

When all other attempts failed to have the NCSD grasp this simple concept lawsuits from concerned residents were the last and only recourse.

Go back to the drawing board attempting to influence elections, Bob. And while doing so, remember, we Nipomoans are aware of some simple truths when discussing our water supply.

Interesting experiment: Type "water shortages" into your home or library's computer search engine. That opened my eyes as to whether the Peter/Paul/Bob method is one to which we should adhere.

Nancy Shipley
Nipomo