

Analyze the rhetoric

OK, let's analyze the rhetoric

To the Editor:

In the Aug. 30 edition of the *Adobe Press*, Nipomo Community Services District Director Bob Blair stated in a letter to the editor, "To date I have never lied to you."

Ratepayers are now learning that there are dates and shades attached to Mr. Blair's supposed truths.

Mr. Blair goes on, "In the end, NCSD rates will skyrocket because \$11 million will still be needed for current capital improvements for fire flow and existing capacity."

Director Blair, did you forget that in your letter some four months ago you told this community the NCSD system was in great shape because of your stewardship? Now, we find out that the system is in such bad shape that there is \$11 million in capital improvements needed to fix the NCSD's problems and our "rates will skyrocket."

Director Blair, if there are existing deficiencies that have not been fixed and "\$11 million will still be needed" from the 3,500 ratepayers of the NCSD, doesn't this mean that during your term each ratepayer has built up a deficiency of \$3,142? Yet in the debate that is televised, Doug Jones says there is a 100-percent replacement plan and there are no problems or past costs due or owing.

I ask Director Blair, who says, "I have never lied to you," what are the "true facts" behind your statements to the press? Methinks that the statements smell of an agenda.

Here is why:

If one were to believe that the reason to raise the rates was Save the Mesa (instead of NCSD spending on other lawsuits of \$1,200,000 and paying its attorney, James Markman, \$600 per hour), then STM is to blame for raising rates. If one is to believe from Mr. Blair's statements that only development keeps water rates down and the system functioning, then the logical conclusion could be more development to keep my rates down.

I read in the paper that Richard Mobraaten is running to give the voters a choice and keep the majority in place. Since the block of votes appears to be Winn, Mobraaten and Blair vs.

Wirsing and Trotter, the agenda becomes clear. Mr. Blair wants to focus attention on items other than the election of Larry Vierheilig, who could then move the majority to Trotter, Vierheilig and Wirsing.

The strategy of focusing on non-issues and red herrings may serve Mr. Blair's agenda well, unless NCSD customers wake up, smell the costs and make a change. Even with a change, there is a difficult road ahead.

The important thing is to keep focused on the election and not questionable rhetoric.

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