

## NCSD director addresses critics, recent letters

### To the Editor:

From what one reads in the local letters to the editor column, one would think that I was running for re-election. A couple of the candidates feel that it is safer to attack me than to attack the issues. Do I use Nipomo Community Services District water? Yes, I have four hookups in the Summit Station area. Three currently are taking water; the fourth is not. My house is still on our well because I like the taste of my own water.

One hookup in the Summit Station (because of the 1993 assessment district) is about five times the cost of a water hookup anywhere else in the district; \$16,400 for Summit Station vs. \$3,500-plus downtown. That means I have invested about the cost of 20 regular hookup fees. That should make me part of the rate base.

As to the figures I quoted with regard to Judge Cahill, the number given to all the directors by our water attorney was 6,000 acre-feet for the entire Mesa. An acceptable figure. My article was sent to the *Santa Maria Times* before the judge reduced those numbers by 60 percent and sent the revised amount to the Conservation District. The 3,600-acre-foot number is not acceptable and it will change if there is to be any sort of broad-based settlement.

The recent candidates forum is on cable television. Watch and you will see what the candidates' positions are. The main issue is growth, not water. My critics want to stay where we are, step back, take a look, have a study and wait until the lawsuit is settled. We have a source of supplemental water.

If you are an older person wanting to build that dream house, there is a very good chance that you and your dream will die before this happens. If you are a young homebuyer — only people in the low 20 percent of the population can now afford a home in San Luis Obispo County — the prices for housing will continue to rise, as will the rents you pay while waiting to buy. More of you will be forced out of the housing market.

If you do not live in the district, but use Cal Cities Water, you are not immune either. If the role of NCSD is diminished, Cal Cities will then step in to fill the void and provide the same water. Your rates will then rise, as Cal Cities will use the current rate base to cover the cost of new services. The Bluffs project will go forward with or without NCSD water. Cal Cities currently has a water main that deadends part way down Orchard Road. The Orchard Road residents have asked to have their zoning changed from 20- to 5- and 1-acre parcels. Water from Cal Cities would make this go much faster and with less governmental interference.

The county, which is always strapped for cash, will allow this to happen because it desperately needs the fees and development money.

Again, let me state what I write is my own opinion; the facts as I see them, how I view the future, and how coming events and policies will affect that future.

Twenty years ago I sold my residence in Nipomo and purchased one with its own water supply because I did not trust the people currently running things.

I ran for election in 1994 because I believed I could do it better. I believe I have. If you disagree, then return my critics to office and in two years vote me out.

**Bob Blair**  
**Rural Arroyo Grande**