

NCSD:

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bring the water to Nipomo.

A draft environmental impact report on the proposed pipeline project is scheduled to be available for public review Jan. 10.

Vierheilig said without finding more water, the community must reduce demand.

"Without supplemental water, we need to pull the train into the station

and stop," Vierheilig said. "We do have an overdraft, and every year it keeps getting worse."

The district's Urban Water Management Plan will be used as a planning tool for the directors, its general manager and county planning staff, Vierheilig said.

He said the document will allow each party, developers included, to understand Nipomo's situation with respect to water and its limitations. Vierheilig said he also believes NCSD's general manager, who wasn't

available for comment, will use the document almost on a daily basis.

Although the state only requires that special districts update water plans every five years, Vierheilig said he would like to see Nipomo's examined by NCSD directors annually. That decision would have to be made by the board as a whole.

"This is a document that you want to look at on a yearly basis," he said. "You want to use it as a dynamic document ... and always be planning."

The district is soliciting public

comment on the 162-page draft document, which is due to the NCSD directors by Jan. 12. The board tentatively plans to adopt the revised version Jan. 25.

A counter copy of the draft document is available for public review at the NCSD office, 148 S. Wilson St. Copies on CD are also available by calling the district office at 929-1133.

April Charlton can be reached at 489-4206, Ext. 5016, or acharlton@santamariatimes.com.

Nipomo water plan open for scrutiny

BY APRIL CHARLTON
STAFF WRITER

When revisions to Nipomo's 2004 Urban Water Management Plan are adopted in the new year, the document will help guide future planning and development in the community — and the plan is now available for public review until Jan. 12.

"The purpose of the Urban Water Management Plan is to give us a road map on water demands," said NCSD President Larry Vierheilig. "It will let us identify times when more water is needed here."

The NCSD adopted its first-ever Urban Water Management Plan, which is mandated by the state and must be updated every five years, in January 2004.

The district hired a consulting firm this past year to revise the 2004 plan — a revision presently in draft form — to update information on projected water supply and demand, Vierheilig said.

The updated supply and demand projections for water were based, in part, on data collected by Santa Barbara-based SAIC Engineering, which developed the 2005 draft Urban Water Management Plan and also has done work on the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin litigation.

"They have lots of data on what the resource is, and use that as a baseline (for the projections)," Vierheilig said, adding the document will also identify other sources of water for Nipomo.

NCSD has signed a memorandum of understanding with the city of Santa Maria to buy the municipality's excess state water. The water could be available for use in Nipomo by 2008 at the earliest.

Vierheilig said the district is contracting with Cannon Associates to produce a document that looks at three ways of traversing the Santa Maria River to

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