

Water Crisis on the Nipomo Mesa **Fact or Fiction??**

Prepared by the Mesa Community Alliance
September 2011

NCS D average costs 2011-2012

	Bimonthly	Annual
Fixed water costs & litigation	\$ 35.72	\$ 214
40 units water usage	79.20	475
Fixed sewer costs	<u>88.32</u>	<u>530</u>
Total	\$ 203.24	\$1,219

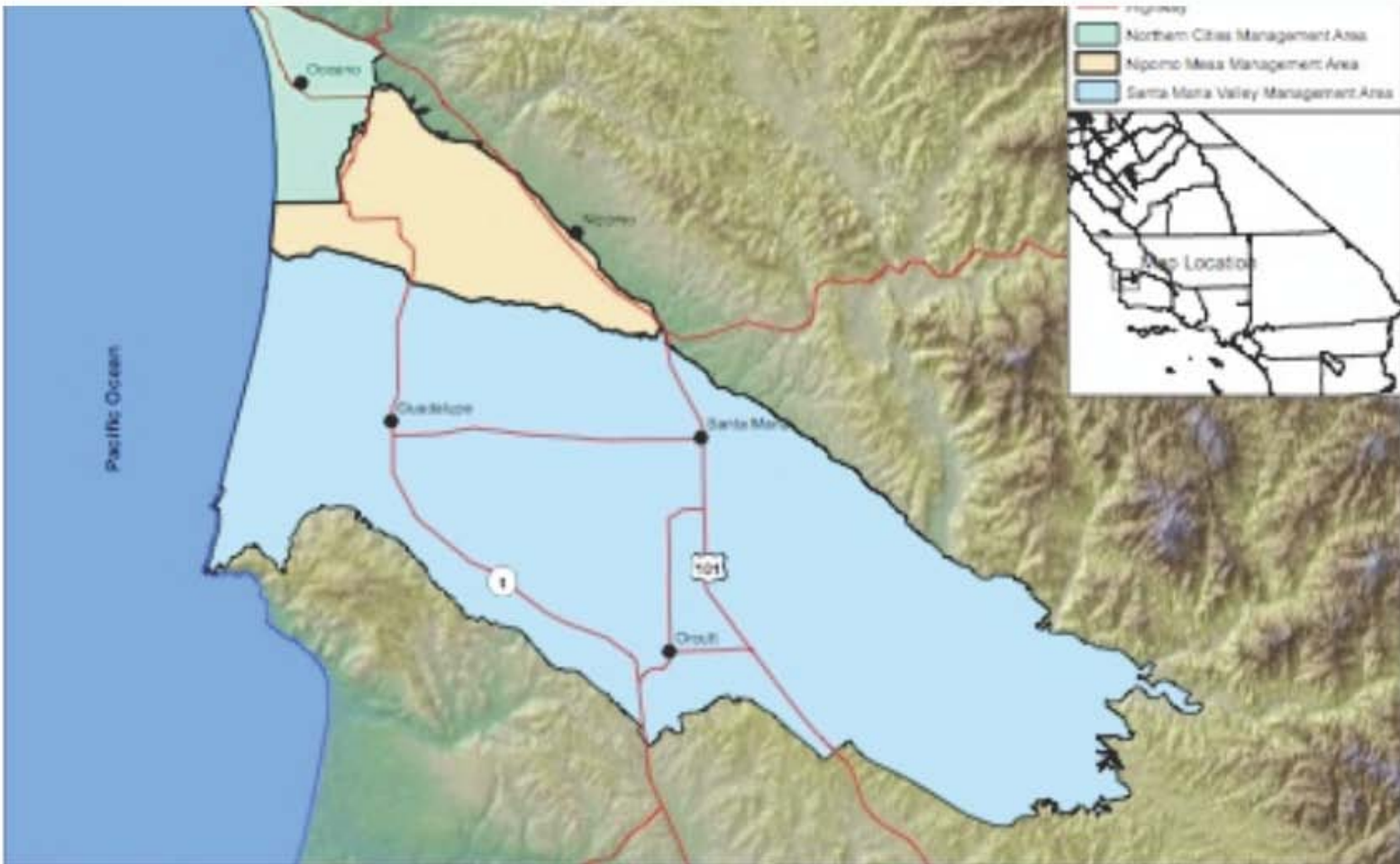
NCS D WIP estimated costs 2012 - 2013

	Bimonthly	Annual
WIP bond property tax	\$ 74.29	\$ 446
WIP fixed water costs	82.52	495
NCS D Fixed water + litigation	35.72	214
40 Units of water consumption	79.20	475
Fixed sewer costs	88.32	530
Proposed sewer bond prop tax	<u>44.31</u>	266
Total	\$404.36	\$2,426

Estimated 99% increase over 2011 - 12

FICTION

Are we running out of water? NO
Is seawater intrusion imminent? NO



NOTES:
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10N
 Horizontal Datum: NAD 83



Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin and Management Areas



**NMMA
 Technical
 Group**

DATE: 11-02-09 BY: J. Deppa

FACT: 35 years of data— aquifer mirrors rainfall



WATER FACTS

- Over 35 years the level of water in the key wells on the Mesa correlates closely with rainfall
- Water usage has increased from 4,000 acre/feet/year in 1975 to 12,000 acre feet/year in 2010, but the increased usage has **not** affected overall well levels

Mesa water users

Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) 21%

Woodlands Mutual Water Company 7%

Golden State Water Company 10%

Rural Water Company 7%

Conoco Phillips 10%

Private wells – both agriculture and households 45%

Total water used annually ~**12,000 Acre feet/year**

NCSD's proposal Waterline Intertie Project

- Construction of a pipeline to connect the City of Santa Maria water system to NCSD water system
- Plan is to import 2,000 - 3,000 acre feet/year
- Nipomo Community Services District pushed the plan in aquifer water litigation that began in 1997
- Plan is binding on signers to the 2005 Stipulation Agreement and commits signers to support the WIP
- **Stipulation provides for cancellation if not feasible**

What is the 30-year cost?

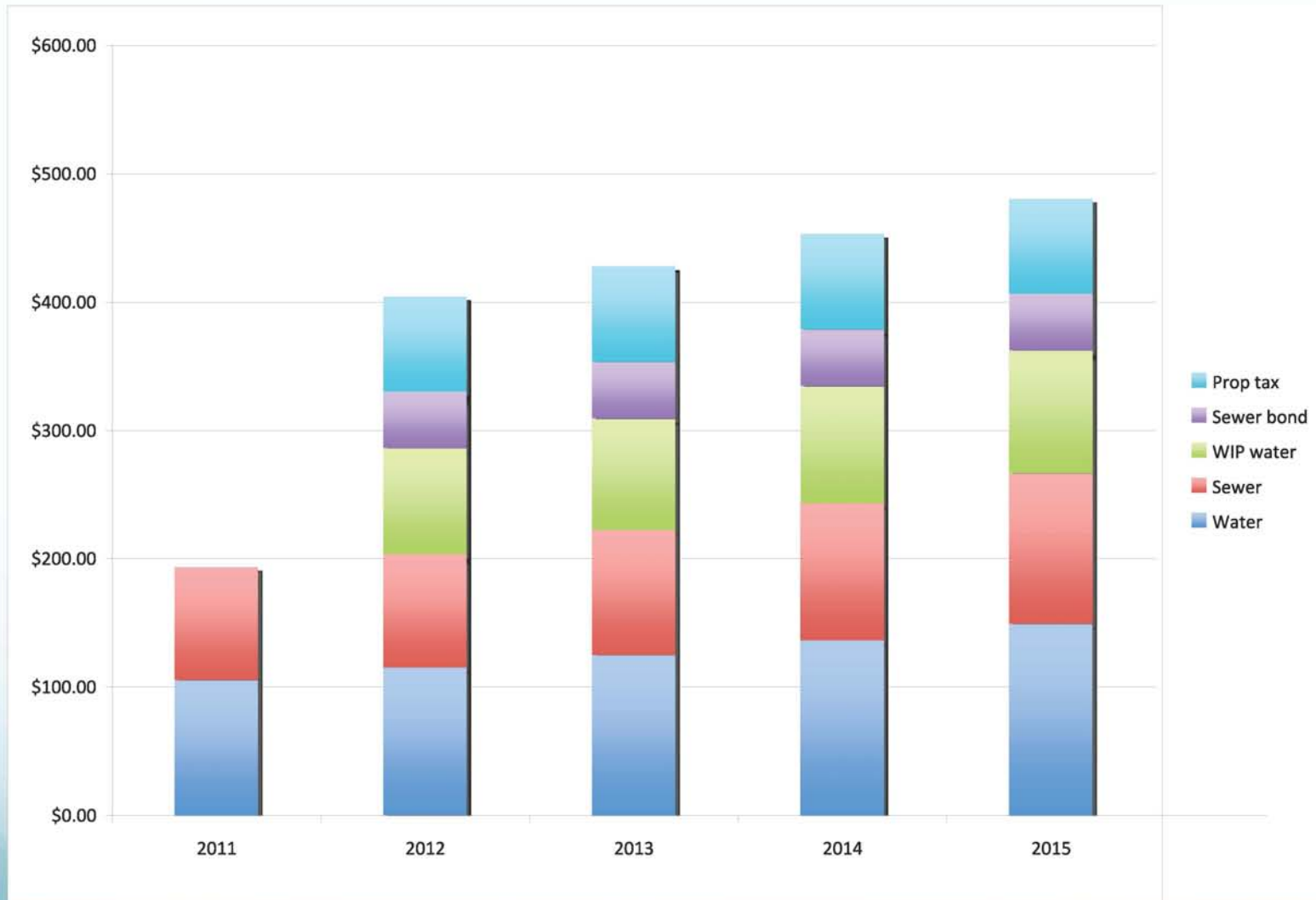
Total \$350 Million

- \$ 80 M Capital Costs (pipeline, bond costs, interest)
- \$270 M Water costs per Santa Maria MOU

Capital costs and a portion of the water cost may be funded through a bond that will add an assessment on your property tax for 30 years

Only 45% of the Mesa water users will pay

NCSD projected bimonthly customer costs 2011 - 2015



Can we stop this? YES

Homeowners will be mailed a weighted ballot to approve or disapprove the project this fall or in 2012

If 50% plus 1 of the **returned** ballots approve the bond, the proposal will pass

To STOP these increases **VOTE NO** and return your ballot as directed

FICTION: The WIP will “save” our water supply

- The Waterline Intertie Project will NOT guarantee a good reliable source of supplemental water to the Mesa in times of drought
- Extended drought will also affect Santa Maria and reduce State Water Project water supply
- Pumping and transporting water that will flow north anyway may deplete the Mesa’s normal flow, especially in times of drought

Final FACTS

NCSD's plan to bring 75,000 acre feet of water from Santa Maria over the 30 years of this project at a cost of \$350 million = \$4,666 per acre foot.

In 2007, Boyle engineering provided a study and costs for a desalination plant capable of producing 6,300 acre feet/year = 189,000 over 30 years.

Cost: \$98 M to build amortized over 20 years @ 6% + maintenance @ 16M/year = \$2,500 per acre foot

Future plans

The MCA committee suggests the following:

The County needs to initiate regional planning to develop cost-effective solutions to protect our water supply that are fair to all present and future Mesa residents

PLEASE SIGN our petition

- Asks SLO County to file a brief with the Santa Clara Court to remove Section VI A from the Stipulation because the cost of the WIP is unreasonable, does not improve the health of the Basin, and will not provide protection from inadequate water supplies or seawater intrusion
- Petitions will be presented to the SLO Board of Supervisors