



Water is vital to life...



Imagine going even one day without fresh water.

We use it to drink, prepare food, bathe, and care for our homes, businesses and property. Fresh water is vital to daily life, but its availability is often taken for granted.

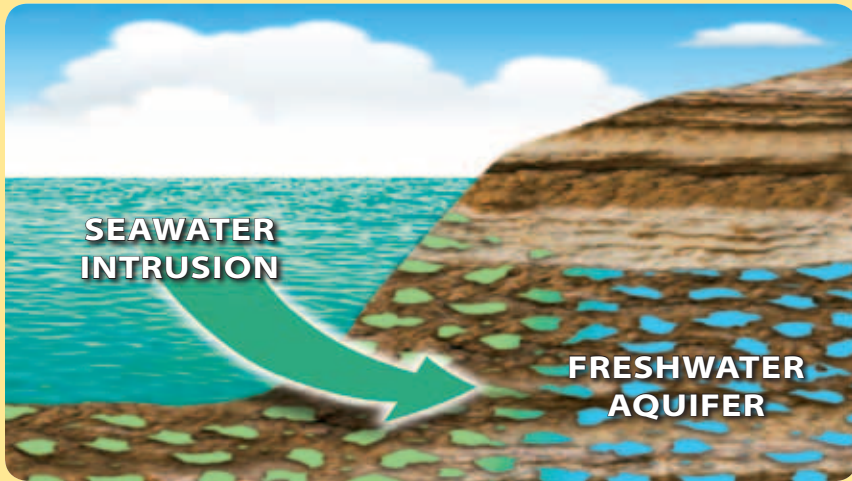
ALL of the fresh water used by our community comes from natural underground “aquifers” located hundreds of feet below the Nipomo Mesa and Santa Maria River Valley. This precious natural water source, known as **the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, is our ONLY water source** and it is replenished ONLY by rainfall.



Our ONLY water source is limited and over-extended.

Over the past decade, engineers and water experts commissioned by the State and County have studied our local water supply and concluded that there is simply not enough water to meet existing needs. In short: **Our community is facing a serious water shortage.**

The evidence is clear: We are using more water than is being replaced in our natural water supply. Over the past decade, water levels beneath the Nipomo Mesa have fallen significantly. In many areas of the Mesa, current **groundwater levels have fallen below sea level.** Since 1970, groundwater levels in the Blacklake area have dropped by more than 58 feet.



A GROWING THREAT: seawater intrusion and contamination.

Our fresh water aquifer under the Nipomo Mesa lies directly next to the Pacific Ocean. As inland water levels drop below sea level due to local water demand, seawater from the Pacific Ocean will intrude into underground aquifers, causing permanent contamination to our fresh water supply.

As a coastal community, seawater intrusion is a serious threat to our local quality of life. Los Osos, Avila Beach, the Ventura/Oxnard area, and the Monterey Bay Area have all been forced to deal with difficult and expensive seawater intrusion issues. Without a supplemental water source, the same thing will happen here.

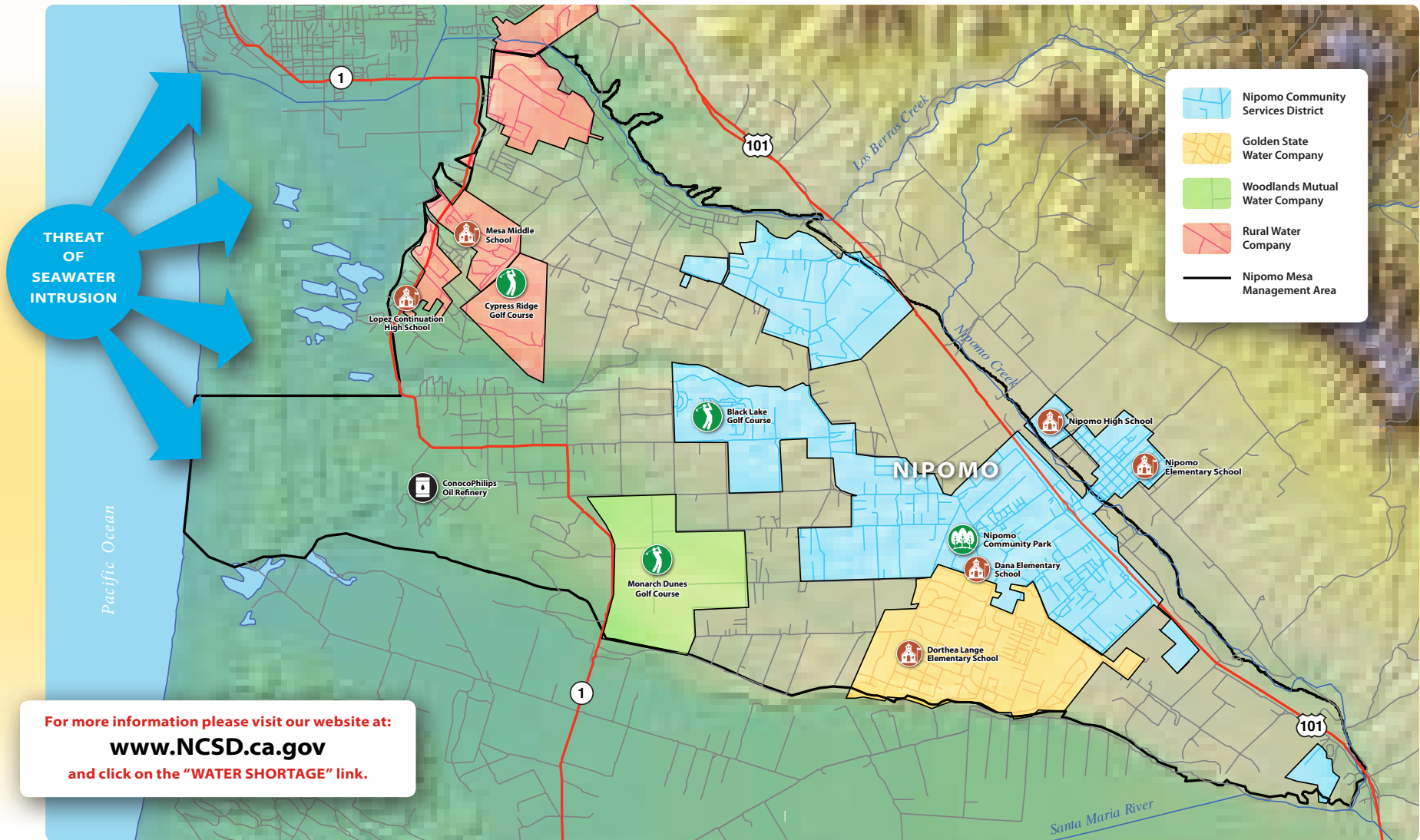


We need an additional (supplemental) water source.

Simply conserving water **cannot** solve this problem. Nipomo area water conservation efforts are important and necessary—but these efforts are **already** exceeding local and State conservation goals and expectations.

Nipomo is the ONLY community in this part of the Central Coast that has not yet secured an additional (supplemental) water source to ensure a reliable, enduring fresh water supply in the event of seawater intrusion, major earthquake damage, or recurring multi-year droughts. Our neighbors in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach, and Santa Maria all have multiple sources of water, such as groundwater, State water and reservoir water.

Our Community is facing a serious water shortage. We must act soon.



Today Nipomo has ONLY ONE fresh water source: our single underground natural aquifer— the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

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