



**“With all the talk lately about our WATER SHORTAGE in Nipomo,  
it makes you wonder—can one person make a difference?  
What can I do?...”**

— Becky Sommerfield, *Nipomo Resident*

# GET INFORMED—STAY INFORMED.



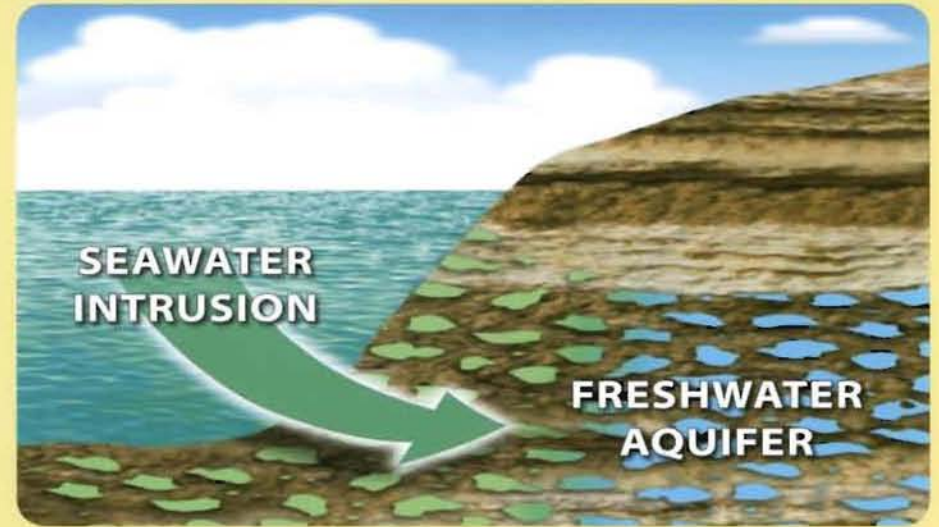
## KEEP CONSERVING WATER!



Conserving helps. Nipomo residents are already using 27% less water than our established baseline. We are on track to reach the State's 2020 goal of reducing water consumption by 20%.

But conservation alone won't solve our water problem. **Nipomo's fresh water supply is finite and limited.** We need an additional (supplemental) water source. It's important for local residents to understand what's at stake. Nipomo's water shortage is REAL.

— Michael S. LeBrun, *General Manager,*  
*Nipomo Community Services District*



As a coastal community, **SEAWATER INTRUSION is a serious threat to our community.**



Our community's **ONLY** source of fresh water lies directly next to the Pacific Ocean. As inland water levels drop below sea level due to local water demand, seawater will intrude into underground aquifers, and contaminate our fresh water supply. As a coastal community without a supplemental water source, we risk devastating consequences in the event seawater intrusion occurs here.

**LEARN MORE. Go to [www.NCSD.ca.gov](http://www.NCSD.ca.gov) and click on "Water Shortage News"**

# The threat of seawater intrusion is real.



## Los Osos:

In 1985 seawater intrusion was identified at least 1 mile inland from the ocean. Between 2005 and 2009, seawater had advanced to nearly 2 miles inland. **Los Osos has no supplemental water source to resist continuing seawater intrusion.** Actions under consideration to slow seawater intrusion include residential water restriction to about 20% the daily water used by Nipomo customers.

## Oceano:

In August 2009 seawater intrusion was found ½ mile inland—just 1 mile away from municipal freshwater wells. To reduce the threat of further intrusion, the Northern Cities (Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, and Oceano) reduced coastal groundwater pumping, and moved to secure additional supplemental water. **Multiple sources of supplemental water** allowed for reduced groundwater pumping—and helped reduce the threat of seawater intrusion.



## Nipomo Community Services District

148 South Wilson Street  
Nipomo, CA 93444-5320



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# Questions & Answers about NIPOMO's serious water shortage

## Where does our fresh water come from on the Nipomo Mesa?

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

## Why is relying solely on the Groundwater Basin for our fresh water a concern?

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 in our underground aquifer to meet existing needs. **In short: Our community is facing a serious water shortage.** We are using more water than is being replaced in our natural water supply. In fact, over the past decade water levels beneath the Nipomo Mesa have fallen significantly.

## What will happen if we continue to use water at current levels?

The most likely result will be seawater intrusion from the Pacific Ocean moving progressively inland into the aquifer under the Nipomo Mesa. If seawater intrusion occurs in our community (as it has in other nearby coastal communities) it could ultimately contaminate our ONLY water supply, making it unsafe and unusable for drinking and agriculture—this could trigger a drastic reduction in property values and impact the local economy.

## Isn't the threat of seawater intrusion something that is years away?

The threat is here and now. While it is not possible to predict exactly when seawater intrusion will occur, the recent experience of our neighbors to the north is a good indication (see more inside this brochure about Los Osos and Oceano). We must begin the process of importing supplemental water now, for the simple reason that no matter which solution is chosen for Nipomo, it will take years to complete.

## What will happen if seawater intrusion occurs?

If it happens, experts agree that reversing seawater intrusion into our aquifer is nearly impossible. It would require elimination of pumping in the affected area(s) and infusion of an enormous amount of fresh water into the ground. The only viable way to avoid seawater intrusion is to reduce groundwater pumping before it actually happens and import a new source of fresh water to ensure we have the water needed to support our local quality of life.

## Isn't the answer simply more/ improved WATER CONSERVATION?

No. Simply conserving water is not enough to solve our problem. Nipomo residents are already exceeding local and State conservation goals. Even so, we are still using twice as much water as is being replaced by rainfall. To adequately protect against water depletion in the aquifer and avoid seawater intrusion, ALL Nipomo residents

would have to completely stop using water. That's not realistic. WE need to import another water source to support our existing population. This is true even if no new development occurs in the future and no one new moves into our community.

## Isn't this a regional problem that is better dealt with by the State or the County?

No. This is a local problem that must be dealt with locally. It is specific to people that live on the Nipomo Mesa. We must work together to deal with our water shortage and the threat it poses to our quality of life, just as other neighboring communities have.

## How can I stay informed about Nipomo's water shortage and related issues?

To learn more, visit [www.NCSD.ca.gov](http://www.NCSD.ca.gov) or contact NCSD General Manager Michael S. LeBrun at (805) 929-1133 or email him at: [mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov)

**LEARN MORE.** Go to [www.NCSD.ca.gov](http://www.NCSD.ca.gov) and click on "Water Shortage News"

Copy of document found at [www.NoNewWipTax.com](http://www.NoNewWipTax.com)  
Paid for by Nipomo Community Services District as a public service to the Nipomo community.

# Your opinions are important!

"Send us your comments, suggestions and questions.  
We'll keep you informed on this important issue."

— Michael S. LeBrun, *General Manager*  
*Nipomo Community Services District*  
Email: [mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov)

- I want to know more. Please send me information.
- I will host a house meeting to help educate my neighbors.
- Show me how to save money on my water bill.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Here are my ideas/suggestions/questions:

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