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and Santa Barbara, ALL have
multiple sources of fresh water—
except one...

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OUR COASTAL NEIGHBORS

Every other coastal community from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara has secured multiple sources of fresh water. For example:

- San Luis Obispo** 1 groundwater; 2 Nacimiento Lake; 3 Santa Margarita Lake; 4 Whale Rock Reservoir; and 5 recycled water
- Avila Beach** 1 Lopez Lake and 2 State Water Pipeline.
- Pismo Beach** 1 groundwater; 2 Lopez Lake; and 3 State Water Pipeline.
- Grover Beach** 1 groundwater and 2 Lopez Lake.
- Arroyo Grande** 1 groundwater and 2 Lopez Lake.
- Oceano** 1 groundwater; 2 Lopez Lake; and 3 State Water Pipeline.
- Guadalupe** 1 groundwater and 2 State Water Pipeline.
- Santa Maria** 1 groundwater; 2 Twitchell Reservoir; and 3 State Water Pipeline.
- Vandenberg AFB** 1 groundwater and 2 State Water Pipeline.
- Lompoc** 1 groundwater; 2 recycled water; and 3 surface water from Frick Springs.
- Buellton** 1 groundwater and 2 State Water Pipeline.
- Goleta** 1 groundwater and 2 State Water Pipeline.
- Santa Barbara** 1 groundwater; 2 Lake Cachuma; and 3 State Water Pipeline.

ONLY THE NIPOMO MESA

has a single source
of fresh water—
the groundwater
beneath us.

The threat of seawater intrusion is real.

As inland water levels drop below sea level due to local water demand and over-pumping, seawater will intrude into underground aquifers, and contaminate our fresh water supply.

SEAWATER INTRUSION
is a threat to Coastal Communities.



Los Osos

San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Bay

Oceano

Nipomo

Santa Maria



Rural Water Company, Inc.

WOODLANDS MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

Nipomo Community Services District

148 South Wilson Street
Nipomo, CA 93444-5320



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Questions & Answers about NIPOMO's fresh water dilemma

Why does the Nipomo Mesa have only one source of fresh water?

All of our local communities get at least some of their fresh water from an aquifer that lies beneath the ground—but our Nipomo Mesa communities get ALL our fresh water from our underground aquifer—the *Santa Maria Groundwater Basin*. Engineers and water experts studying our water supply continue to agree – due to over-pumping to meet Nipomo's fresh water demand, our single underground aquifer simply doesn't have enough water to meet existing needs. Water levels beneath the Nipomo Mesa have fallen significantly over the past 10 years. Now more than ever we need supplemental water on the Nipomo Mesa.

Some additional history: In 1991 the Nipomo Community Services District residents voted against tapping into the State Water Pipeline to secure a supplemental fresh water source. A year later another vote was taken and again, local residents chose not to tap into the State Water Pipeline. Today, 20 years later, while the State Water Pipeline supplies many communities in the area with fresh water, there is no available allotment from the State Water Pipeline and

no excess capacity in the pipeline to meet our fresh water needs. We still need another source of fresh water on the Nipomo Mesa.

What will happen to our one source of fresh water 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 injection of an enormous amount of fresh water into the ground. The only effective way to avoid seawater intrusion is to reduce groundwater pumping before it actually happens. We can do this by importing a new source of fresh water to ensure we have the water needed to support our local quality of life.

With only one source of water, what now? What is the solution?

Solving Nipomo's fresh water dilemma will require a combination of solutions. Water conservation is part of the solution—but conservation alone will not take care of the problem. Desalination is part of the answer too – but we are still too many years away from realizing the benefits of that option. The simple fact is we need to import another fresh water

source—and soon. This is a Nipomo community problem—we must work together to solve it as our neighboring communities already have. **COME TO THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9TH TO HEAR MORE ABOUT FRESH WATER SOLUTIONS.**

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. In fact, all other communities in this region have already secured supplemental fresh water—ONLY the Nipomo Mesa has a supplemental water problem. We must work together to deal with our water shortage and the threat it poses to our quality of life on the Nipomo Mesa, just as other neighboring communities have.

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

COME TO THE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9TH, visit our website, or contact NCSD General Manager Michael S. LeBrun at **(805) 929-1133** or email: mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov

LEARN MORE. Go to www.NCSD.ca.gov and click on "Water Shortage News"

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Presented as a public service by your local water providers: Nipomo Community Services District, Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, Inc., and Woodlands Mutual Water Company.



Community Forum:

Supplemental Fresh Water **SOLUTIONS**

SAVE THE DATE!

*Join us for an open, candid conversation
about SOLUTIONS. Please attend our next
Community Forum:*

Wednesday, November 9th

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Olympic Hall, Nipomo High School

525 North Thompson Road, Nipomo

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For more information contact:

Nipomo Community Services District

Michael S. LeBrun, *General Manager*

Email: mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov

Phone: (805) 929-1133

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