

Questions you should ask about NCS D's pipeline and MESA water supply

1. **How can NCS D claim this pipeline provides "SUPPLEMENTAL" WATER?** The Nipomo Mesa is part of the same aquifer with Santa Maria who is just selling us a portion of its State Water Project contract along with water from the same aquifer. There is NO new water in this mix. Any State Water Santa Maria receives that they cannot immediately use gets pumped into the aquifer and flows to us naturally so we still have only ONE SOURCE of water, our own aquifer.
2. **What are the total 30-year costs of this project? How much on our taxes and how much on our water bills?** NCS D has just increased water rates nearly 50% over the next five years and stated this increase will NOT pay for any part of the pipeline or its water. The NCS D pipeline construction will cost ~\$25 million: bonding and interest increase the total to ~\$77 million over 30 years. The NCS D general manager has estimated Santa Maria's construction costs at another ~\$20+ million. Santa Maria will charge NCS D a minimum of \$1.7 million each year for operation and maintenance. Where will the money come from for all those costs? How much more will our water cost? What will our water rates be in 10 years? 20 years? 30 years?
3. **Where are these "Undeveloped Properties" that are offering to voluntarily agree to pay the assessment taxes, and who owns them?** NCS D has lowered the Supplemental Water Capacity Fee from \$14,000 to \$3,000 for a one-inch meter connection to a new home if the pipeline assessment passes. So it appears that these owners/developers are planning to build new homes on their properties but current residents will be paying to bring in the water for their projects.

NCS D has "created" a water crisis to "sell" this pipeline at huge marketing expense. Your water bills are paying for these fancy brochures and telephone calls.

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Mesa Community Alliance's analysis of the MESA water supply issues

FACT: Over the past 35 years, the levels of our aquifer mirror rainfall. According to NCS D documents, the water level in 1976 was 82,000 acre-feet. In 2010 the water level was 87,000 acre-feet.

FACT: Only 45% of the people who use water on the Mesa will pay for NCS D's proposed pipeline. Conoco Phillips, farmers and residents with wells, who collectively use 55% of the water, will pay nothing. The customers within NCS D, Woodlands, Golden State and Rural Water Companies who do not have their own wells will pay the entire bill estimated at \$350 – 400 million over 30 years.

FACT: Better alternatives are available to protect our aquifer and provide water for future growth, examples include desalination, cleaning and reusing waste water, more retention basins to hold rainwater, household rainwater saving devices, dredging the Twitchell reservoir, etc.

What can we do to stop this pipeline? You will receive a ballot in the mail in the coming months. **Vote NO on the assessment and return your ballot!**

Share this brochure with your friends and neighbors. Please take extra copies.

Prepared by Mesa Community Alliance

Websites: <http://www.nipomowaterfacts.com> <http://www.nonewwiptax.com>

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