

Supply problem

In its June 9 editorial, The Tribune correctly observed that the Nacimiento Pipeline was an “insurance policy” to guarantee a reliable water supply for San Luis Obispo. While the city has prudently developed five different sources of water to assure uninterrupted service, the Nipomo Mesa only has a single supply, groundwater. All our water is pumped from the aquifer beneath us. We have no pipelines, reservoirs, rivers or lakes as additional water sources. Our neighbors in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Grover Beach and Santa Maria all have multiple sources of water.

Wells on the Mesa annually remove twice the amount of water from our aquifer than is replaced by rainfall. Residential growth has lowered our water table, and we increasingly face the threat of seawater intrusion that has been experienced in Los Osos, Avila Beach, the Ventura/Oxnard area and the Monterey Bay area. A supplemental water source is needed for the Nipomo Mesa before our aquifer is permanently contaminated with salt water.

Supplemental water will cost more, but what would be the cost of dealing with water from a contaminated aquifer? We need to acknowledge that we have a water supply problem on the Nipomo Mesa and deal with it efficiently.

Ed Eby

Nipomo

Read more: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/06/12/1639872/letters-to-the-editor-613.html#ixzz1RDDf8G4g>