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Harold Snyder
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August 23, 2011

Nipomo Community Services District
148 Wilson Street
P.O. Box 326
Nipomo, CA 93444

(805) 929-1133 Phone
(805) 929-1932 Fax

Dear Michael LeBrun:

I am making a public record request for a copy of the "Letter" that Mr. Harrison disclosed has been received from "Oceano" on the issue of "Sea water intrusion" at the end of the August 23, 2011 board meeting on the Water Intertie project. Please make a paper copy.

Thank You



Harold Snyder

Hand Delivered.

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AUG 23 2011
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SERVICE

NIPOMO COMMUNITY

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JON SEITZ, GENERAL COUNSEL

148 SOUTH WILSON STREET POST OFFICE BOX 326 NIPOMO, CA 93444 - 0326
(805) 929-1133 FAX (805) 929-1932 Website address: ncsd.ca.gov

September 6, 2011

Mr. Harold Snyder
P. O. Box 926
Nipomo, California 93444
kochcal@earthlink.net

Dear Mr. Snyder:

SUBJECT: AUGUST 23, 2011 PUBLIC DOCUMENT REQUEST # 3

In responding to Request #3 the District does not confirm your interpretation of Mr. Harrison's statements referenced in your request for public records. The District has not received from Oceano a letter on the issue of sea water intrusion. However in response to your request please find attached the following:

- 1) A June 2010 letter from the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) Technical Group to the Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical group. This letter was re-sent/reiterated by the NCMA in June 2011.
- 2) An August 2011 letter from the City of Arroyo Grande (Principal Member of NCMA Technical Group).

These letters along with reference to the 2010 NCMA Technical Group Annual Report, Sections 4.2 and 4.3 (pages 15 – 25) specifically address the 2009 seawater intrusion episode in the NCMA. The cost will be \$2.30 for the two letters.

Very truly yours,

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Michael S. LeBrun
General Manager

Enclosure(s):

- 110823 Snyder Request '3'
- June 2010 NCMA/Todd Engineer Letter
- August 2011 City of Arroyo Grande Letter

TODD ENGINEERS

GROUNDWATER · WATER RESOURCES · HYDROGEOLOGY · ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

June 9, 2010

Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group
c/o Mr. Robert Miller, PE
Wallace Group
612 Clarion Court
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Re: Clarification of 2009 NMMA Annual Report

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft report produced by the Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG). On behalf of the Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group, I recognize the substantial effort involved in preparing the report and appreciate the considerable documentation of groundwater conditions and the NMMA water supply and demand situation. In my professional opinion, however, the report fails to present salient findings and provide adequate discussion of key issues of concern to the Northern Cities.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate these major statements of concern. As outlined below, each statement is a basic finding that has not been expressed clearly in the draft NMMA Annual Report, but can be derived readily from technical information presented in the 2009 NMMA Annual Report, with some reference to the 2008 Annual Report.

- 1) Recharge to NMMA is a fraction of total groundwater use and consumption. Groundwater recharge or inflow to the NMMA represents the available supply and has been quantified by DWR, as referenced in the 2009 draft report. The "Dependable Yield" for the NMMA determined by DWR is between 4,800 and 6,000 acre-feet per year (AFY).

In comparison, the current groundwater production is quantified as follows:

- a) The 2009 water demand was 12,200 AF, which is over 200 percent of the maximum Dependable Yield.
- b) The 2008 water demand was 12,600 AF, which is 210 percent of the maximum Dependable Yield.

This substantial and chronic imbalance of groundwater use over supply has resulted in a large groundwater depression in NMMA.

- 2) The expanding groundwater depression in NMMA intercepts subsurface groundwater flow that otherwise would flow to NCMA. This contributes to lowered groundwater levels and increased risk of seawater intrusion in NCMA. The 2002 DWR water balance for the NMMA area indicated a subsurface outflow from NMMA to NCMA of 1,300 AFY for the ten-year period from 1986 through 1995; the 2008 NMMA Annual Report confirmed the historical inflow from NMMA to NCMA. In

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both the 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports, NMMA has indicated that there is currently *no* subsurface flow to NCMA.

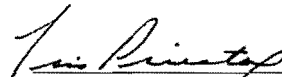
- 3) Urban/industrial groundwater production increased by 140 AF from 2008 to 2009.
- 4) Future planned NMMA groundwater production is triple the Dependable Yield estimate:
 - a) NCS D production is projected to increase from 2,700 AF in 2008 to a future rate of 6,300 to 7,900 AFY; this is a 245 to 310 percent increase from current production.
 - b) Golden State production is projected to increase from 2009 use of 1,290 AFY to 1,940 AFY, an increase of 150 percent.
 - c) Woodlands production is projected to increase from the current 810 AFY to 1,600 AFY, an increase of 198 percent.
 - d) ConocoPhillips is planning to potentially increase production from 2009 use of 1,200 AFY to 1,400 AFY, an increase of 117 percent.

No projection has been presented for Rural Water Company. If Rural Water Company production remains the same, then groundwater production for the water purveyors and ConocoPhillips is estimated to increase to between 12,120 and 13,720 AFY, as compared to their 2009 demand of 6,740 AFY. Assuming that water demand from rural landowners and agriculture remain at 2009 levels, the total projected water demand for NMMA will be between 17,620 and 19,220 AFY, three to four times the Dependable Yield. The potential growth will increase the NMMA demand by 144 to 157 percent above the current level, which is already producing chronic groundwater level declines.

- 5) Increased NMMA pumping to satisfy this potential future demand would likely result in seawater intrusion into NCMA, a matter of great concern to NCMA.
 - a) The cause of the pumping depression under the NMMA is NMMA pumping.
 - b) The report implies that the depression could expand to the west as easily to the north. In fact, the available NMMA groundwater elevation maps indicate that expansion to the northwest (into our Arroyo Grande Plain) is more likely.
 - c) The report appropriately addresses the risk of seawater intrusion to NMMA. For example, the report considers the potential for a *breach in the divide* that would allow seawater to flood into NMMA. Before this point, the NCMA groundwater supply already would be destroyed. The response of NMMA to such a scenario, i.e., to “carefully research it,” is inadequate.
- 6) NMMA management must restore subsurface inflow to NCMA and maintain a well-documented groundwater ridge between the NMMA pumping depression and NCMA.
- 7) Rural Water Company (RWC), which is situated along the NCMA boundary, apparently is not participating fully in NMMA water management actions, including provision of required data to the NMMA TG for preparation of the annual report. RWC must participate actively in NMMA monitoring, data sharing, water conservation, development of supplemental supply, and management of groundwater levels.
- 8) Even if you succeed in acquiring about 3,000 AFY from the City of Santa Maria, that would not be sufficient to reverse the current (6,200 to 7,400 AFY) or future groundwater imbalance (projected to be 11,620 to 14,420 AFY). The NMMA needs to immediately decrease pumping, increase water conservation, and plan for other sources of supplemental supply, such as water recycling.

The intent of the NCMA Technical Group is to establish a straightforward and mutual understanding of water supply and demand conditions in NMMA and NCMA that will serve as the foundation for effective and timely management. We request a prompt written response followed by a teleconference or meeting to discuss resolution of this serious threat to our water supply.

Sincerely yours,



TODD ENGINEERS
Iris Priestaf, PhD
President



CITY OF
ARROYO GRANDE
CALIFORNIA

August 26, 2011

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Room D-430, County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Nipomo Supplemental Water Supply Project

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

This letter communicates the City of Arroyo Grande's support for the Nipomo Supplemental Water Supply Project, outlining why this project is so critically important to the residents of San Luis Obispo County, and urges your board to publicly support full implementation of the project.

More than one-third of the City's freshwater supply comes from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, a vast underground reservoir, covering nearly 300 square miles from Pismo Beach south to Santa Maria. For nearly 30 years, the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach and the Oceano Community Services District have limited their pumping from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin so as to not exceed the basin's safe yield. However, excessive pumping associated with continued growth on the Nipomo Mesa, which depends entirely on groundwater from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, has contributed significantly to a deepening groundwater depression underlying the Nipomo area that threatens the entire region.

Under the terms of the 2008 Judgment in the adjudication of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, the Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) must purchase and deliver a minimum of 2,500 acre-feet of supplemental water each year to the Nipomo Mesa. According to the 2010 annual report prepared by the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA), "there are a number of direct measurements that indicate that demand exceeds the ability of the supply to replace the water pumped from the aquifers" underlying the Nipomo Mesa. Therefore, not only is the Nipomo Supplemental Water Supply Project required under the terms of the adjudication, it is urgently needed to help correct the imbalance of water supply and demand in southern San Luis Obispo County.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • 300 East Branch Street • Arroyo Grande, California 93420
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In closing, the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin is a critical water resource that provides water supplies to more than 53,000 residents and thousands of acres of irrigated cropland in southern San Luis Obispo County. The long-term reliability of this important regional resource is being threatened by the deepening groundwater depression underlying Nipomo. The Nipomo Supplemental Water Supply Project is a necessary and urgent first step to begin to manage the regional water resources sustainably, and protect the economy and quality of life of the South County area. Please join our City in providing your full support for this critically important regional project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Ferrara", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Ferrara,
Mayor, On behalf of the City Council
City of Arroyo Grande