

NCSD Half Truth #12: “water levels beneath the Nipomo Mesa have fallen significantly”

The NCSD's makes the false claim that over pumping has caused a 10 year decline in water levels and current customers need to pay for the majority of the planed Water Intertie Pipe line and water.

NCSD presented what they claim is the pumping on the Nipomo Mesa which was based on the Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG) report, 2009 Page 39:

Then on 11/09/11 NCSD showed a slide with a partial image that has only the last 10 years of an "average water levels in Key Wells".

Then NCSD then incorrectly implies that the falling water table is caused by the increased pumping.

The NCSD mistakes:

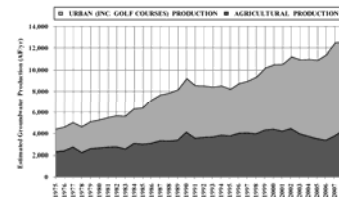
Here is NCSD's chart with the only the 10 years of data in blue behind the actual chart.

First NCSD has misrepresented the "average water levels in Key wells" by only showing the last 10 years. The period that starts with the highest amount accumulated above average rainfall and ends in a accumulated rainfall that is about average.

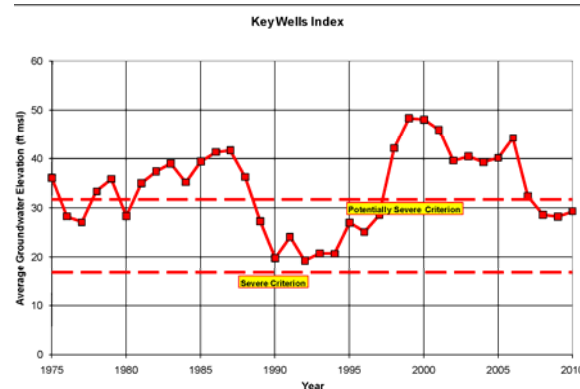
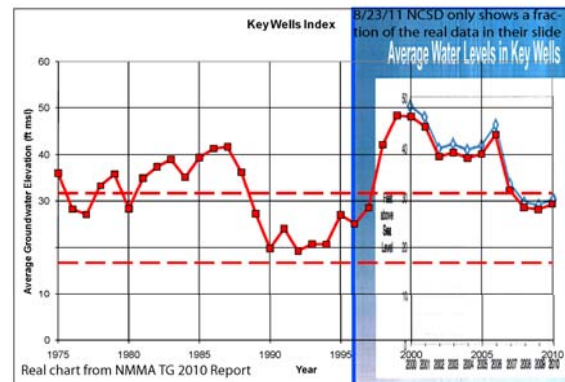
The real source of the data is the Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG) report, 2010 Page 56 and it shows the last 35 years of data with the normal rise and fall of the water table with rain fall.

Note how NCSD only shows the declining portion to conceal the true nature of the groundwater as it changes with rainfall.

If correct study was done they would have to look at the relationship between the water table level and the accumulated amount of rainfall over the long term.



The Key Well Index dropped 40% between 2000 and 2008. . . and it is still dropping after two years of above average rain.



The proper rainfall data to compare the water level and rainfall relationship is measured as the cumulative departure from mean rainfall. Such as the 2010 NMMA TG report page 26, chart of Cumulative Departure from the Mean Rainfall Nipomo CDF (151.1). This is the California Fire Department (CDF) rain gage (151) located just north of the McDonalds at Tefft and 101.

The chart on the right is the 2010 NMMA TG report chart from page 56 with the key well index for the last 35 years and the 2010 NMMA TG report chart from page 26 of the California Fire Department (CDF) rain gage (151) blue line of the Cumulative Departure from Mean rainfall on top with the years lined up.

The water table is proportional to rain fall that has accumulated over the past 35 years. It does not show a decline because of over pumping. Given the nature of the measurements it is almost an exact match.

It's clear that the water table is exactly where it should be for the amount of rain we have had over the last 35 years.

The NCSD's claim of a 10 year fall in the water table is all a a result of the below average rainfall for the same 10 years.

