

## MESA COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

A Public Benefit Corporation

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### STOP! PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE VOTING ON THE NCSD PIPELINE

**We have one chance to stop this water pipeline: The tax assessment vote. Ballots will be mailed the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>. Please follow the instructions provided, mark the NO Box and mail before May 1.**

If you make a mistake you can get a replacement ballot from NCSD. Call 929-1133.

#### WHY DO WE NEED TO DEFEAT THIS PROJECT?

- **UNNECESSARY:** There is NO water shortage or seawater intrusion.
- **UNFAIR:** Only 45% of the residents on the Mesa will pay for the pipeline and the water
- It is **NOT supplemental water** – it just moves water from Santa Maria to Nipomo

#### NCSD OMISSIONS AND SPINS:

- **This pipeline is needed for GROWTH as recognized in the project EIR**

Growth is currently restricted by the Level of Severity III designation from SLO County for a potentially severe water shortage. The LOS-III limits growth to 2-3% per year. If this pipeline is approved, NCSD will ask the County to remove the LOS-III designation and rapid growth can begin on the Mesa.

**But:** NCSD omits this information from any discussion/publication and refuses to answer questions when asked. Developers dominate the assessed properties list, accounting for more than \$8 Million of the total.

- **Seawater intrusion:**

**NCSD has been saying:** *"Seawater intrusion in Oceano"*

**But** according to a recent Oceano CSD letter to the Board of Supervisors:

*"The Oceano groundwater supply is not threatened with seawater intrusion... The incident in 2009 exhibited characteristics of saltwater intrusion, but it has since to be repeated and it also should be noted that the well in question was in great disrepair. .... We normally would have accepted this without comment, but the level of exploitation of this anomaly has reached critical mass ..."*

- **There has been no hydrological study of the aquifer or if Santa Maria has any water to export:**

Experts have recommended that a study of the aquifer be conducted before the pipeline is constructed, but none has been undertaken. We therefore do not know what the impact of the pipeline and pumping will be. It might actually CREATE problems. Agriculture uses 90% of the groundwater in SM to irrigate 50,000 acres. If a drought lowers well levels, the owners can sue Santa Maria for threatening their livelihood and the pipeline could be shut down.

*(Over please)*

- NCS D says: "We have a water shortage."

But a January 2012 NCS D Groundwater Report by Wagner & Bonsignore, shows our aquifer levels were:

- Fall 1976        76,000 acre feet above sea level
- Fall 1986        67,000 acre feet above sea level
- Fall 2011        81,000 acre feet above sea level

- The NCS D has divorced the pipeline cost from the increases in water rates that must follow.

There is no reason to build a pipeline without putting water through it. Voters are entitled to know the ultimate financial impacts before they vote! **If approved, water will begin to flow through the pipeline by July 2014 and will cost customers \$1,789 per acre-foot or \$4.09 per unit (ccf) of water. Santa Maria has increased the cost of water at least 5% per year for the past 28 years. If you vote for this project, you will be signing a 30-year contract for a 5% a year water rate increase in addition to an assessment on your property.**

- **If NCS D imports 3,000 acre-feet of water every year, the total cost of the pipeline construction, financing, bonding, and water will exceed \$380 million over 30 years.**

As the Mesa population grows, it is prudent to plan for additional water. MCA is especially interested in two options: *Recycling the 3,000 AF of treated wastewater that S. SLO CO Sanitation District dumps into the ocean at Oceano every year.* Treated to a tertiary level, this water can be safely used on golf courses and for irrigation. The cost to clean and pump the water to the Mesa is much less than the pipeline and could be done within 2 years to save more than 2,000 AF from being pumped from the aquifer. *A desalination plant that uses brackish water was constructed in Sand City in Monterey County for \$12M in 5 years capable of producing 600-700 AF.* We have similar conditions here and could build several small plants in strategic locations as needed. MCA urges the SLO Board of Supervisors to begin a regional plan to provide additional water supplies for the south county area.

**WHO IS MCA?** A dozen mostly retired professionals from all over the Mesa who have been studying the issue for years. Included are three engineers, an attorney, a journalist, several business owners, a management analyst, a Viet Nam vet, a PanAm pilot and two members of the South County Advisory Committee.

**WHAT IS MCA'S OBJECTIVE?** To ensure that Mesa residents who are affected by the project get all the information they need to make an informed decision. NCS D is only providing selected information that serves its purpose.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!**

- **Convince everyone you know who is affected by this project to vote and to vote NO. It is very important that you return your ballot as directed.**
- **Donations are welcomed. Send to MCA 1790 Waterview Pl, Nipomo 93444**