

# Mesa Community Alliance

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on the web: <http://www.nipomowaterfacts.com> <http://www.nonewwiptax.com>

**NCS D will not debate with MCA about the merits of this pipeline project. Why? Because NCS D is deliberately misleading about the health of our aquifer and seawater intrusion.**

**1. THE NIPOMO MESA AQUIFER IS HEALTHY.** Our aquifer mirrors the rainfall, regardless of population growth. NCS D has received spring and fall groundwater readings every year since 1975. In *2011, with a population of 17,000, the Fall Groundwater Index was 81,000 acre-feet. The fall index in 1990 -- population 7,100 -- was 49,000 acre-feet.* Read the entire report at <http://ncsd.ca.gov> in "reports by subject". **We are NOT running out of water!**

**2. SEAWATER INTRUSION IN OCEANO HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN.** *Oceano CSD states that high chloride counts were found in only one of its four sentry wells in 2009.* The county previously tested this well in 1995. This well is covered in water when it rains. *In 2009, when the dead grass and dirt were removed from the cover, a hole was observed adjacent to the well. The cover itself was badly corroded and contaminated.* The well was cleaned, hole filled and frequent testing shows NO elevated chloride. **If this incident threatened our aquifer, why were no other wells in the area affected?**

**3. THIS PIPELINE will bring water for future growth. 2,000 acre-feet will provide water for 4,000 – 6,000 new homes. NCS D has already voted to reduce the hook-up fee for new water connections from \$14,600 to \$3,000 as soon as the assessment passes. NCS D's first endorsement for the pipeline project was from the Homebuilders' Association.** *(Please turn card over for more information.)*

**4. COSTS:** NCSD is only telling you about the construction cost of the pipeline. The cost to sell bonds, interest on the bonds and NCSD's expensive brochures will *push capital costs to ~\$80 million*. NCSD will send you a ballot with the amount *for your share*. If passed, these costs will appear on your tax bill for 30 years.

**THE COST FOR THE PIPELINE WATER** *will be in addition to the assessment and will be added to your existing water bills*. MCA estimates the total cost of this water will exceed \$250 million! For the first 10 years, RURAL, WOODLANDS AND GOLDEN STATE CUSTOMERS WILL PAY 20% MORE FOR THIS WATER than NCSD's customers. WHY?? Because NCSD expects to add lots more customers over the next 10 years to help pay for their share. **If you are over 60 or plan to leave the area within the next 20 years, you will not recover your overpayment.**

*MCA estimates the cost of water starting in 2014 will be \$1,731 /acre-foot. If NCSD buys 2,000 AF, the AVERAGE INCREASE in WATER BILLS will be: NCSD: \$35/mo., Woodlands: \$46/mo., Golden State: \$16/mo., Rural Water Company: \$32/mo. Costs are expected to increase a minimum of 4%/yr.*

**5. MCA SUPPORTS REAL SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SOLUTIONS to protect our aquifer for the future.** **Plan 1:** Sand City in Monterey County built a desalination plant in five years for \$12 million. They received Coastal Commission approval and Sierra Club endorsements within one year. **We can do the same thing here!** **Plan 2:** SLO County dumps 3,000 acre-feet of treated sewer effluent into the ocean every year. This water can be reclaimed through purification methods and reused. **Let's save the \$300 million plus cost of NCSD's pipeline project, keep the money in our county to support our projects, and get our supervisors involved in solving our regional water issues.**

You will receive a ballot in March or April. Please vote NO and return as directed.

***ONLY RETURNED BALLOTS WILL BE COUNTED***