

Nipomo CA 93444



**Survey Instructions:**  
1) Please read the enclosed Fact Sheet.  
2) Fill in the circle for your response to the QUESTION below.  
3) Place this survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and mail

This short SURVEY has been mailed to a random sample of property owners in the Nipomo Mesa area. Your opinions will help local leaders make important decisions about the reliability of your future water supplies as described in the Fact Sheet included with this survey. If you haven't already read the Fact Sheet, please read it now before filling out this questionnaire. This is a survey only and NOT an official notice or ballot.

After completing the survey, please mail it back in the post-paid envelope provided. To ensure the reliability and confidentiality of the survey, an independent research company (True North Research) has been hired to tabulate the results. Please mail the survey by **February 24, 2012**.

If you own multiple properties in the area, each parcel may be assessed. The survey and estimated assessment shown below apply to the property you own with parcel number 091. If you own multiple properties, you may also receive multiple surveys. Please complete and return each survey you receive.

**QUESTION:**

In order to ensure that Nipomo Mesa has safe and reliable sources of high-quality water, reduce the risk of seawater intrusion and contamination of our water supplies caused by overpumping groundwater, and fund the construction costs of the Supplemental Water Project (described in the attached Fact Sheet) that will benefit your property, would you support a proposed assessment amount of approximately \$2,700 for your property?\*

Using a black or blue pen or a pencil, please completely fill in the bubble that most closely matches your opinion. Like this: ● Not like these: ⊗ ⊙ ⊕

<input type="radio"/>	Yes, I would likely support an assessment district and prefer to finance the assessment in installments over 30 years. Currently, the estimated cost of the proposed assessment per year is approximately \$225.
<input type="radio"/>	Yes, I would likely support an assessment district and prefer to pay the entire estimated assessment up-front for a discount. Currently, the estimated one-time cost of the proposed assessment is approximately \$2,215.
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	No, I would likely not support an assessment district for the Supplemental Water Project.

\* Please note that the final proposed assessments and estimated annual amounts for your property will likely not exceed those shown in this survey



## Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project

### Survey of Property Owners

#### WHY DID YOU RECEIVE THIS SURVEY?

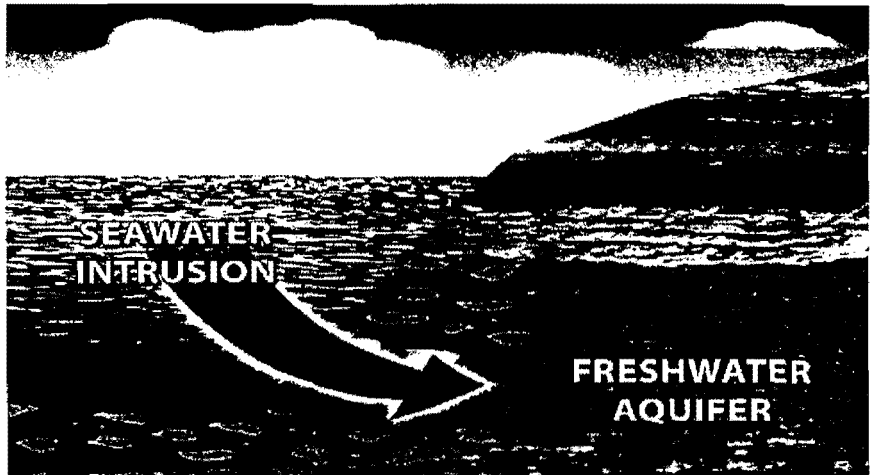
As a property owner on the Nipomo Mesa, you will have the opportunity in the coming months to officially indicate support for or against the proposed formation of Assessment District No. 2012-1 to fund the Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project. Please read the following information and then complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your participation will help your local water provider make important decisions about the reliability of your future water supplies.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WATER SHORTAGE

There is a serious water shortage on the Nipomo Mesa. The Nipomo Mesa communities have just one source of fresh water – a single underground aquifer – to supply all of our fresh water. Over the years, engineers and water experts studying the local water supply have agreed that due to over-pumping our single underground aquifer simply doesn't have enough water to meet our existing needs. Water levels beneath the Nipomo Mesa have fallen significantly over the past 10 years and will continue to fall even if no further development occurs.

#### SEAWATER INTRUSION AND WATER CONTAMINATION

The threat of seawater intrusion is real. We share our single source of fresh water with the Pacific Ocean. When the fresh water table stays above sea level, seawater stays offshore. Too much pumping of the fresh water supply can cause the fresh water table to fall below sea level, creating an invitation for seawater intrusion. Sea water intrusion has already contaminated water sources in coastal communities just north of Nipomo. If seawater intrusion happens here, experts agree that reversing it is nearly impossible.



#### WE NEED A SUPPLEMENTAL SOURCE OF WATER

Importing a new source of fresh water is needed to reduce overpumping, avoid the contamination of our fresh water supplies caused by seawater intrusion, and ensure the continuing supply and quality of fresh water to the Nipomo Mesa. Nipomo Community Services District, in conjunction with Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company, and Woodlands Mutual Water Company, has developed a solution: the *Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project*.

The Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project will construct a pipeline to connect Nipomo Mesa fresh water systems with the City of Santa Maria fresh water system, which is fed by the State Water pipeline and groundwater. This pipeline will provide a second, reliable source of fresh water for the Nipomo Mesa.

## **ASSESSMENT TO FUND THE SUPPLEMENTAL WATER PROJECT**

To fund the design and construction of the Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project, property owners will be asked in the coming months to officially indicate support for or against the formation of an Assessment District. The proposed assessments will be used to directly fund the pipeline's construction or to secure assessment bonds over a thirty (30) year period, the proceeds of which will be used to fund the pipeline's construction. The entire project is projected to take 18 months to complete and cost less than \$26 million. A State grant has already been secured lowering the cost to local property owners by over \$2 million.

If the Assessment District is approved, individual parcels would be assessed a share of the cost to fund the Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project based on the specific benefits of the project to each parcel. The benefits to a parcel are based on service location, zoning, size, use of the property, whether it is currently developed, and its development potential. Property owners will be allowed to choose one of two payment options based on their individual preferences. Property owners may: 1) pay their assessment lien in advance all at one time for a discount; or 2) pay their assessment in smaller annual installments over time on the property tax bill for the parcel, which is payable by the then current owner of the property. Advance payment will allow property owners to avoid interest charges.

The funds raised by the Assessment District can only be used to fund the Nipomo Mesa Supplemental Water Project to benefit your property. The funds can't be taken away by the State or used for any other purpose.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Now that you have read the background information, please complete and return the enclosed survey. No postage or stamp is required. Your opinions will help shape the future of our communities.

**THIS IS A SURVEY, NOT AN OFFICIAL NOTICE OR BALLOT**