

<http://www.theadobepress.com/articles/2012/02/04/opinion/letters/03.txt>

Conserving our water

To the Editor:

Air, food and water — the three essentials of life.

I'm voting for the pipeline. There is much misinformation being disseminated by vocal opponents. I see it like this — we received near-record rainfall last year, and the water table is still below a comfortable level. We appear to be entering a winter of squalid precipitation.

Remember the drought years in the 1970s? That is what our future could hold for us, or worse.

The Woodlands will be building 800 more homes that will further stress the aquifer. Don't stick your head in the sand and pretend the future is rosy.

Why gamble? We have a chance to solve future problems now. The cost to each benefit unit spread over

20 years is minimal.

On the other hand, I don't see the involved water boards doing much to encourage conservation. The San Miguelito Water Co. in Avila Beach prohibits grass lawns. Drought-tolerant landscaping includes the side benefit of no noise pollution from mowers or blowers.

Here in the Woodlands, developers continue to landscape with grass lawns and the Home Owners Association appears to insist that each home include a lawn.

Why?

The local water boards and the developers could do more to mitigate water shortages. However, limiting lawns won't solve the problem. We need to grab this opportunity now. The cost when a crisis hits is always more.

John Anderson

Nipomo