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County board drops the ball

To the Editor:

We recently attended yet another NCSD-sponsored town hall meeting on the water pipeline from Santa Maria, and we are compelled to comment.

The county supervisors' vote to hand the wheel to the NCSD on this issue may have been easier for the county, but it was a great disservice to constituents.

This agency, with its expensive PR-firm-driven campaign, is tightly controlled, rife with misuse of information and is subjecting Nipomo Mesa residents to voting without full knowledge.

It seems NCSD will say and do anything to convince residents this is a mandate by the court — not entirely true — needed because of existing water shortage — definitely untrue — and because of impending saltwater intrusion — equally untrue.

We were told by board members that putting NCSD, with its deeply vested interest, in charge of the assessment district would free up the county to hold the NCSD's feet to the fire. The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, in abrogating its rights, has left customers of Rural Water, Golden State Water and Woodlands Mutual Water companies to be taxed and to face increased water rates without legal representation on the NCSD. Furthermore, Rural Water customers will be paying for water and pipeline operations and maintenance without being connected to it. We feel abandoned.

We continue to believe water supply is a regional issue that should be addressed with regional solutions. We know we have the time to do this right. We are deeply disappointed in the supervisors' silence and lack of involvement. In essence, they have thrown Mesa residents to the wolves.

Larry and Arlene Versaw

Nipomo