

## A 'no' vote on pipeline

To the Editor:

This month, landowners in Nipomo will get a ballot in the mail asking us to vote on taxing ourselves to pay over \$25 million to build a water pipe between Nipomo and Santa Maria.

It's very important to mark the ballot and send it back. I still don't have answers to some questions.

The average Nipomo Community Services District customer will be assessed \$1,800 for this project. That does not include the cost of the water flowing through the pipe. NCSD raised water rates 10 percent last November. Just how high will water rates go after the Santa Maria pipe is installed?

My husband and I live on an acre. We have one house, no lawn and we landscape with drought-tolerant plants. NCSD requires we pay double the average fee for this pipe project, just in case we someday build on our land. This means NCSD wants us assessed \$3,600 for construction costs. How is this fair? What other agency charges, in advance, just in case you someday might build a second residence?

Nipomo draws water from underground sources. Santa Maria draws water from these same sources, plus buys state water. What guarantees will we have that, in a severe drought, Santa Maria will send adequate water supplies to Nipomo?

And if this project does get approved and all current NCSD customers are charged all these exorbitant fees, won't this simply be seen as a reason to build even more homes and use up this additional water supply? When do we say enough is enough?

We all better vote "no."

Nancy Miller

Nipomo