

## Arguments against pipe

To the Editor:

There are pros and cons of Nipomo Community Services District's proposal to establish an assessment district to build a water pipeline between Santa Maria and the Nipomo Mesa.

The cost is estimated at \$25 million, plus additional costs to customers for the water purchased. NCSD states the aquifer is in overdraft mode and additional water is needed. Opponents refute this claim and state there are other options and that NCSD is not forthright in their statistical reporting.

Some facts cannot be disputed:

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has deferred to NCSD to represent 9,000 county residents. Only residents within the four water districts are impacted by the proposal. Property owners who acquire water from the same aquifer but are outside the water districts' jurisdictions are excluded from paying for the proposed supplemental water project. NCSD has inaccurately used seawater intrusion of Oceano groundwater wells to support their position. Owners of property will be assessed for potential development of their property, regardless of whether they plan to do or not to do so. Rural Water customers receive no direct benefit from the proposed project but would be assessed fees to pay for it. Rural Water Co. would need to build, at additional cost, a connecting pipeline to the proposed project that has no direct benefit.

I intend to vote "no."

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