



## Desalination as an option

**Posted: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:00 am**

Regarding the proposed NCS D pipeline, will it be a quick fix to halt the intrusion of sea water into the Nipomo Mesa aquifer?

The earlier report of an impending crisis was in error, so there's time to reconsider.

The design of the pipeline is complicated. A pipeline carrying surplus water from the north comes to Santa Maria, where the new pipe would turn around and head back to Nipomo. Why not simply tap into the old pipe at Nipomo in the first place? It would save a lot of time and expense.

In these hard times, many customers might be unable to pay property assessments of thousands of dollars a unit, and a doubling or tripling of monthly water bills, just to pay the interest on the debt. The project would become obsolete long before it's paid for.

And what is really incredible is that after all this burdensome expense, only Nipomo customers would actually receive the extra water. That's OK, they say, because the water table won't be dropping as fast as before — perhaps.

A huge flaw in the plan is too much dependency on other communities to provide for us. If they were to experience drought, population growth or reallocation of resources, they would have no water to sell.

It makes good sense to look into alternative solutions, such as a desalination plant, which would distribute water evenly over the Mesa and secure our future water source once and for all.

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