

Protecting water future

To the Editor:

Some years ago, Nipomo had a chance to hook up to the line bringing in state water. Only customers of the NCSD had a chance to vote.

The naysayers threatened that more water meant more growth, and the people voted “no.”

But the growth happened anyway, and the water level in the aquifers — our only source — has been going down. As the level of the water goes down, the closer we get to saltwater intrusion in our wells.

Now that we have a plan to buy water from Santa Maria at the same price they charge their regular customers, the naysayers are back. This time they are pushing desalination while they deny there’s a problem.

Santa Barbara built a desal plant at great expense, and it’s been mothballed ever since. It’s expensive to build and to run and could take a decade to complete.

What if the naysayers are right? If the situation is not so dire, then at worst we have spent a few dollars a month on the assessment and a backup water supply would be available for the future.

But what if they are wrong? Nipomo could become another Detroit, where they can’t give the houses away.

Think of this plan as another homeowner’s policy, a few dollars a month to ensure that your house will retain its value into the future.

Marsha Epstein

Nipomo