

## Viewpoint: Nipomo ballot facts

By Michael LeBrun

Michael LeBrun The Tribune

More than 3,400 of the more than 8,000 ballots mailed out for the Nipomo Supplemental Water Project had been returned as of April 20.

The ballot will decide if an assessment district will be formed to fund the \$28.3 million pipeline project. Ballots were mailed March 23 to all property owners who would be included in the proposed assessment district. An owner's ballot is weighted equal to the value of the proposed assessment on their property.

The Nipomo Community Services District is leading the project and funding effort. The district's number one goal for the ballot process is participation. The district would like to see 80 percent — 6,500 — or more of the ballots returned so the community's voice is heard on this important water resources project.

Some ballot facts:

- Ballots were mailed with a stamped return envelope to simplify participation. Ballots may also be hand delivered to the district office at 148 S. Wilson St., Nipomo, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- Ballots will remain sealed until the close of the public hearing scheduled for 1 p.m. on May 9, at the district office.
- Voters can retract and recast their ballots up until the close of the May 9 hearing.
- New ballots for owners wishing to retract/revote will be made available at the hearing and can be obtained prior to the hearing by contacting the district.
- Ballot counting will be done by independent consultant, Special District Finance Administration of Escondido.
- Ballot counting will be done in public view following the hearing on May 9 as time allows and continuing at 8 a.m. on May 10 at the district office.
- The ballot counting will be observed by the SLO County Chapter of League of Women voters.
- Ballot results will be announced at a public meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. on May 10.

This is the most important water resources vote the community has considered since the State Water Project vote conducted 20 ago. Please let your voice be heard.

If you have questions, please call the NCSD at 805-929-1133.

Michael S. LeBrun is general manager of the Nipomo Community Services District.

Read more here: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2012/04/25/2042481/viewpoint-nipomo-ballot-facts.html#storylink=cpy>