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## Voters speak on pipeline

9 HOURS AGO

The state pipeline is under Thompson Avenue in the center of Nipomo, a few blocks from the NCSD. Where is the common sense of running a pipeline all the way to Santa Maria to tap into this line for water that may not even be available, and at a higher price?

In 1991, Nipomo voters voted against state water, twice. The first vote was over-ruled by the NCSD. The second referendum was also defeated by Nipomo voters, because they hoped for slower growth and maybe a phased build-out moratorium program. No such action by the NCSD.

So, the pipeline came through the center of Nipomo without a local hookup. Nipomo property owners still have to pay their share of the cost of the pipeline with every tax bill, even though we haven't received any state water.

Then the Woodlands 900-acre resort/housing was approved for a 15 year build-out by NCSD. Even before it was built, a hydrologist stated the aquifer would be in negative water balance by 2000 without the Woodlands project — but it was built anyway.

Now, according to NCSD, comes a grim horror story of saltwater intrusion, failed wells, etc. Yet all those years, NCSD has given will-serve water permissions for most large projects.

Today, voters again have defeated a connection to the pipeline. I believe many voters were close to the line on their yes/no vote, but voted "no" partly because of the stupidity of running the pipeline to Santa Maria, at a cost of \$25 million-plus, instead of finding a solution for a local Nipomo hookup.

Maybe that \$4 million spent for an anticipated hookup could have been better spent for the latter solution.

Lloyd and Dolores Wetherbee

Nipomo



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