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NCSD seeks volunteers for committee

Citizens panel forming to study supplemental water

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A citizens committee is being formed to evaluate supplemental water alternatives, and community volunteers are needed to serve.

The Supplemental Water Alternatives Evaluation Committee is being formed by Nipomo Community Services District.

But membership on the committee is not limited to NCSD customers, said Michael LeBrun, district general manager.

The evaluation committee will conduct regular meetings that will be announced in advance and open to the public.

Friday, Aug. 3, is the deadline to apply for the committee that will spend several months reviewing technical studies and information on available sources of supplemental water, LeBrun said.

Committee members will use that information to create a prioritized list of methods for providing additional water to the Nipomo Mesa.

Currently, the area's only source of water is the Nipomo Mesa Groundwater Basin, a subbasin of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin.

District officials say an additional source of water is needed to serve the growing demand for water and to reduce the amount being pumped from the groundwater basin.

By reducing the pumping, the potential of an overdraft that could lead to saltwater intrusion also would be reduced, officials say.

The committee will consist of seven voting members — six with specific expertise — under a set of bylaws adopted in June by NCSD directors.

Two will have water resource engineering backgrounds, two will have public works financing backgrounds and two will have public-works-related environmental or regulatory backgrounds.

The seventh member will be chosen "at large" from the community and will not need a specific background.

Within the next month or so, NCSD directors are expected to appoint someone to serve as committee chairman, who will not vote except to break a tie.

The district engineer — currently Peter Sevcik — will serve as the nonvoting vice chairman.

A nine-member nominating committee will review the applications and recommend the final membership to the NCSO board for approval.

At the July 11 meeting, the board appointed LeBrun, Director Mike Winn, Bob McGill and Dan Hall to the nominating committee.

Other nominating committee members are Preston Holdner and Jim Laloggia, appointed by Woodlands Mutual Water Co.; Frank Brommenschenkel, appointed by Rural Water Co.; Ken Peterson, appointed by Golden State Water Co.; and Bob Blair, appointed by 4th District Supervisor Paul Teixeira.

Applications for the Supplemental Water Alternatives Evaluation Committee are available by visiting <http://ncsd.ca.gov> and clicking on the “News & Info” tab. Committee bylaws are also available on the website.

In other water-related matters, the NCSO board recently directed its Water Conservation Committee to review the district’s emergency water shortage regulations.

The committee is expected to decide whether additional mandatory water conservation measures are appropriate and make a recommendation to the board, LeBrun said.

Directors also heard a report on what circumstances would allow the district to sell water to buyers outside NCSO boundaries.

LeBrun said most of the current out-of-district sales are from entitlements granted years ago, mostly in the 1980s.

The district has supplied water to the Dana Adobe since 1972 and an emergency intertie with Golden State Water Co. since 1991.

Any such sales require approval of the Local Agency Formation Commission, LeBrun said.

The district also supplies water to trucks through temporary meters installed on fire hydrants, usually for such construction jobs as the second phase of the Willow Road extension project.