



NCSD denies requests to sell water

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Two requests to buy water from Nipomo Community Services District for use outside district boundaries were denied last week by the board of directors.

The denials were based on NCSD ordinances that limit when and how much water the district can provide outside its boundaries.

“Additionally, these requests were made during a time where the board is asking all customers to reduce water usage by 20 percent due to a Stage 2 drought situation,” said NCSD General Manager Michael LeBrun.

Viola Construction and Steve Soares Trucking both had requested water service using a metered fire hydrant.

Viola Construction wanted to purchase up to 8,000 gallons of water for a construction project in an area not served by NCSD or any other water purveyor.

Steve Soares Trucking requested an unspecified amount of water for a herd of cattle on Hetrick Road north of Willow Road and adjacent to Highway 101.

In its request, the company said it is currently hauling water to the site from Santa Maria and needed the water from NCSD to improve efficiency.

The company planned to deliver water from an NCSD hydrant using a 4,500-gallon water truck.

Had either request been approved, the buyers would have paid a \$500 meter deposit unless the trucks were filled at a hydrant meter on West Dana Street, according to LeBrun’s report to the board.

Additional charges would be \$25 for the account set-up, \$78 a month for meter rental or access and eight-tenths of a cent per gallon, or about \$64 for 8,000 gallons, LeBrun’s report said.

While board members said they recognized both company’s needs, they denied the requests based on a district ordinance that says “water service is limited to parcels within the district boundaries.”

The ordinance says directors may only authorize water service outside district boundaries if they find “an extreme hardship” exists and the district has “excess capacity” in its water system.

In addition, the ordinance requires service outside district boundaries to provide a benefit to the district or community, which could include access to water resources.

A resolution approved by the board in 1990 also says district water can only be provided outside its boundaries for “single-family domestic purposes” and can’t be used “for irrigation or commercial husbandry or crop growing purposes.”

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