

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: MICHAEL S. LEBRUN *MSL*
GENERAL MANAGER
DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM
F
NOVEMBER 12, 2015**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ITEM

Standing report to your Honorable Board -- *Period covered by this report is October 23, 2015 through November 6, 2015.*

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Administrative

- On July 2, 2015, supplemental water deliveries from the City of Santa Maria commenced via the Nipomo-Santa Maria Intertie pipeline. Since deliveries began, approximately 226 acre-feet (74 million gallons) of supplemental water has been delivered into the District's water system directly offsetting groundwater pumping.
- On May 20th, the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA) Technical Group reported the Spring 2015 Key Wells Index is in Severe Shortage conditions. As a result, NMMA public water purveyors (NCSD, Golden State WC, and Woodlands Mutual WC) are required to reduce groundwater production by 30%.
- On May 21st, the District enacted Stage III Shortage conditions and ceased accepting application for new water service.
- Water production in September 2015 was **28% lower** than in September 2013, meeting the State mandated conservation goal of 28%. Groundwater production in September 2015 was **42% lower** than the average for September 2009-2013. See production summary attached to this report.
- The District encourages residents to provide reports of any observed water waste. Staff follows up each report with phone calls and written notice to customers when warranted. During October 2015, staff responded to five (5) reports of water waste.
- In October, staff proactively hung 22 door hangers on accounts where the billing meter read showed irregularly high water usage.
- San Luis Obispo County maintains two rain gauges in the area. One is located at the District's Southland Wastewater Plant (Nipomo South) and one at the District's Tefft Street water storage site (Nipomo East). In the past two weeks, each gauge recorded less than ½ inch of rain. The seasonal rain total for Nipomo South is 0.8 inches. Average for this gauge is 16-inches per year. The seasonal total for Nipomo East is 1.1 inch. Average for Nipomo East is 18-inches per year.
- During October the District issued seven leak adjustments totaling \$4,860 in discounts.
- On October 15, staff participated in a rating review with Standard & Poor's rating service. The financial health of the District's water and Town Sewer division were reviewed. Standard and Poor's subsequently issued a rating report for both funds and a rating letter for the Town Sewer fund. These reports and letter are provided as attachments to relative to this report. Standard and Poor's kept the water fund rating at "A", however they downgraded Town Sewer from "AA" to "AA-" due to concerns on diminishing cash reserves/coverage.

- On November 5, the District received notice from SLO County Public Works department regarding a collaborative effort to develop a groundwater model in South County. The letter is addressed to members of both the Nipomo Mesa Management Area and the Northern Cities Management Area, and is attached to this report.
- On October 29, the District received notice of tentative action/public hearing regarding issuance of a Minor Use Permit for Jim Miller Community Park – Attached.

Safety Program

- No incidents or accidents to report.

Public Outreach

- The following Public Outreach Program materials are attached:
 - Certificate of Completion, Special District Board Secretary/Clerk Program – Ms. Jessica Matson
 - A summary of recent outreach and education activities
 - District related outreach, advertising and news coverage
 - Press release log
 - Social media traffic summary and Website Statistics

Other Items and News of Interest

The following are included as attachments to this Report:

- None

Supplemental Water Capacity Accounting

The District is not currently accepting applications for new water service. No change from the previous report.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Supplemental Water Available for Allocation | 500 AFY |
| Supplemental Water Reserved (Will Serve Letter Issued) | -5.8 AFY |
| Subtotal Net Supplemental Water Available for Allocation | 494.2 AFY |
| Supplemental Water Assigned (Intent-to-Serve Issued) | -206.3 AFY |
| Total Remaining Supplemental Water Available for Allocation | 287.9 AFY |

NOTE: 206.3 AFY of water reservations represents approximately \$3.2 million in potential Supplemental Water Capacity Charges.

Fire Hydrant Metered Use

Fire Hydrant Sales were suspended at the end of May with the exception of construction water for the supplemental water project and limited street sweeping.

In September, 7 units of water were sold from the common hydrant for street sweeping.

Connection Report

Nipomo Community Services District
 Water and Sewer Connections

END OF MONTH REPORT

| | JAN-15 | FEB-15 | MAR-15 | APR-15 | MAY-15 | JUN-15 | JUL-15 | AUG-15 | SEP-15 | OCT-15 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Water Connections (Total) | 4325 | 4325 | 4325 | 4325 | 4326 | 4329 | 4332 | 4332 | 4333 | 4334 |
| Sewer Connections (Total) | 3112 | 3112 | 3112 | 3112 | 3114 | 3118 | 3119 | 3119 | 3120 | 3120 |
| Meters turned off (Non-payment) | 13 | 34 | 13 | 21 | 15 | 17 | 11 | 24 | 18 | 14 |
| Meters off (Vacant) | 44 | 39 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 43 | 40 | 42 | 39 |
| Sewer Connections off (Vacant) | 15 | 11 | 14 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| New Water Connections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| New Sewer Connection | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Galaxy & PSHH at Orchard and Division Sewer Connections billed to the County | 468 | 468 | 468 | 468 | 468 | 468 | 469 | 469 | 469 | 469 |

Meetings

Meetings Attended (telephonically or in person):

- October 26 and November 5, Public Information Director
- October 26, Rate Consultant
- October 27, SLO County Board of Supervisors
- October 27, Water Rights Special Counsel
- October 28, Regular Board Meeting
- November 2, Board Officers
- November 3, OCSD General Manager
- November 4, Ad Hoc GM Hiring Committee
- November 5, Management Coordination
- November 6, Staff Annual Performance Review

Meetings Scheduled:

- November 9, Ad Hoc GM Hiring Committee
- November 10, Director of Engineering Operations
- November 10, Blacklake Management Association
- November 12, Special Board Meeting
- November 12, Utilities Director City of Santa Maria
- November 12, Outside Counsel
- November 13, Deposition Re: Maria Vista Estates
- November 16, Nipomo Mesa Management Area TG
- November 17, Management Coordination
- November 18, Public Information Director
- November 19, SLO County IRWM Workshop
- November 20, NMMA Managers

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction and input from your Honorable Board

ATTACHMENTS

- A. September Water Production
- B. Standard & Poor's Rating Letter and Report, Town Sewer
- C. Standard & Poor's Rating Report, Water
- D. SLO County Groundwater Modelling
- E. SLO County Notice
- F. Certificate of Completion, Jessica Matson
- G. Summary of Outreach and Education Program

November 12, 2015

ITEM F

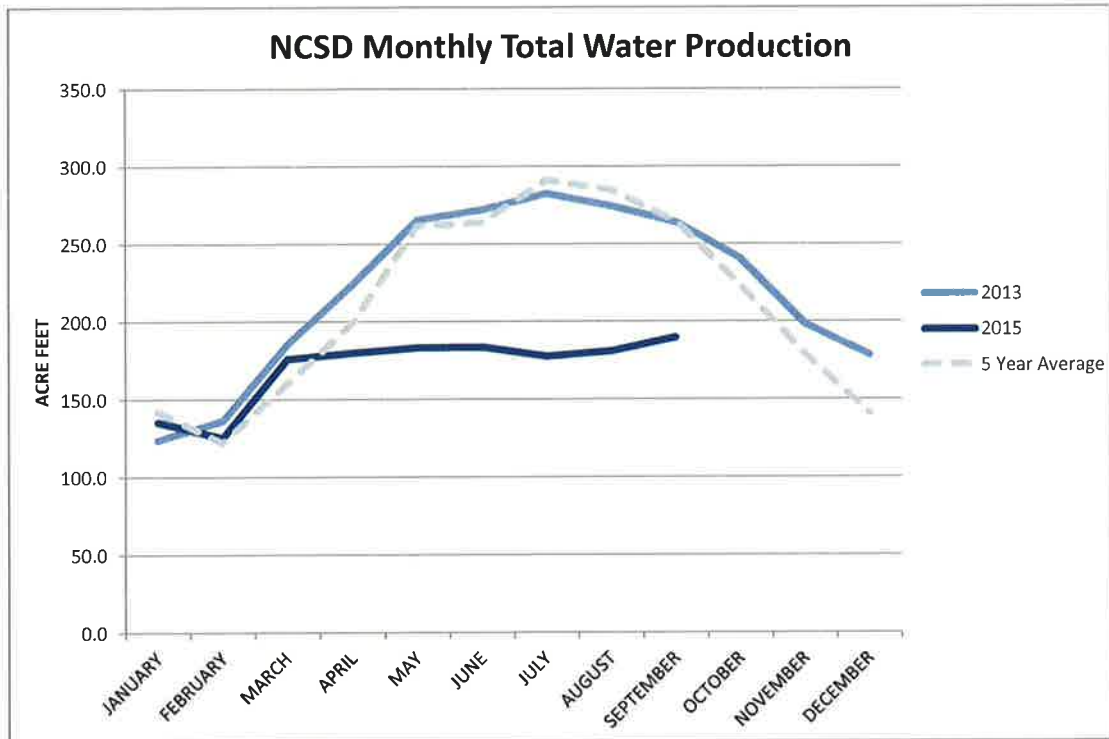
ATTACHMENT A

**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WATER PRODUCTION SUMMARY**

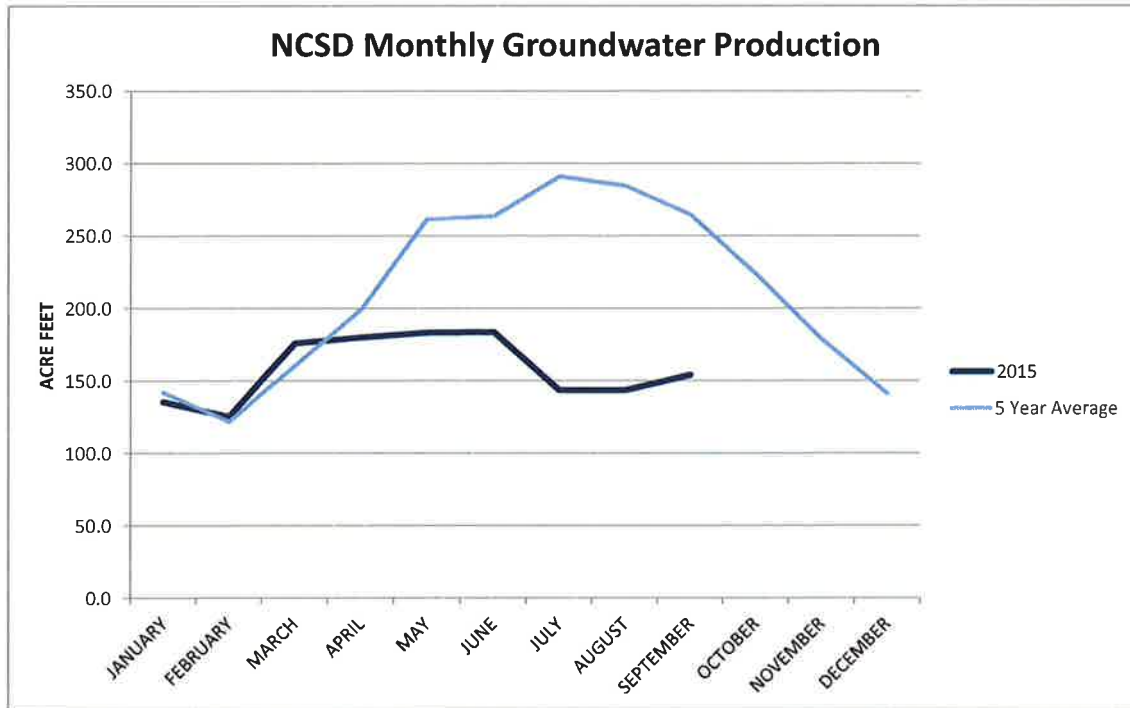
| | All | | | | | | GW | 09-'13 | All | Jun-Feb CUM | GW |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 5 Year | | | |
| | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | Avg. | | | |
| JANUARY | 158.6 | 124.8 | 136.5 | 166.6 | 124.0 | 194.8 | 135.5 | 142.1 | 9.3% | | -4.6% |
| FEBRUARY | 105.5 | 82.9 | 132.5 | 152.7 | 136.3 | 126.1 | 125.5 | 122.0 | -8.0% | | 2.8% |
| MARCH | 167.0 | 153.6 | 130.2 | 165.6 | 185.5 | 148.6 | 176.1 | 160.4 | -5.1% | | 9.8% |
| APRIL | 236.3 | 168.8 | 211.4 | 154.5 | 224.0 | 176.8 | 180.0 | 199.0 | -19.6% | | -9.5% |
| MAY | 279.4 | 250.8 | 266.2 | 246.4 | 265.4 | 247.8 | 183.2 | 183.2 | -31.0% | | -30.0% |
| JUNE | 268.2 | 286.1 | 248.5 | 243.2 | 272.1 | 239.5 | 183.6 | 263.6 | -32.5% | -32.5% | -30.3% |
| JULY | 308.3 | 285.0 | 294.4 | 285.6 | 282.4 | 251.2 | 177.6 | 291.2 | -37.1% | -34.9% | -50.7% |
| AUGUST | 302.4 | 286.6 | 281.2 | 279.2 | 274.4 | 234.3 | 180.9 | 284.7 | -34.1% | -34.6% | -49.6% |
| SEPTEMBER | 280.6 | 274.5 | 253.7 | 250.8 | 264.0 | 220.0 | 189.9 | 264.7 | -28.1% | -33.0% | -41.8% |
| OCTOBER | 228.1 | 191.5 | 223.2 | 234.5 | 240.5 | 213.4 | 0.0 | 223.6 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| NOVEMBER | 220.8 | 147.1 | 149.1 | 180.0 | 198.4 | 151.7 | 0.0 | 179.1 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| DECEMBER | 142.0 | 114.0 | 159.9 | 112.4 | 178.5 | 105.7 | 0.0 | 141.4 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| TOTALS | 2697.2 | 2366 | 2487 | 2472 | 2645 | 2310 | 1532 | 2533 | | | |

Notes:

- Five year average is 2009-2013
- State reduction goal applies to all production - groundwater and supplemental
- NMMA reduction goal applies to groundwater production
- Beginning in July 2015, GW Production equals actual pumped GW + 32% of the water imported, reflecting a credit of imported water to GSWC and WMWC.



**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WATER PRODUCTION SUMMARY**



| | Groundwater Only | | | | | | | 5 Year Avg. | 5 yr CUM | 2015 CUM | 2015 % |
|-----------|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|--------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | | | | |
| | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | AF | | | | |
| JANUARY | 158.6 | 124.8 | 136.5 | 166.6 | 124.0 | 194.8 | 135.5 | 142.1 | 142.1 | -4.6% | |
| FEBRUARY | 105.5 | 82.9 | 132.5 | 152.7 | 136.3 | 126.1 | 125.5 | 122.0 | 264.1 | -1.2% | |
| MARCH | 167.0 | 153.6 | 130.2 | 165.6 | 185.5 | 148.6 | 176.1 | 160.4 | 424.5 | 3.0% | |
| APRIL | 236.3 | 168.8 | 211.4 | 154.5 | 224.0 | 176.8 | 180.0 | 199.0 | 623.5 | -1.0% | |
| MAY | 279.4 | 250.8 | 266.2 | 246.4 | 265.4 | 247.8 | 183.2 | 261.6 | 885.1 | -9.6% | |
| JUNE | 268.2 | 286.1 | 248.5 | 243.2 | 272.1 | 239.5 | 183.6 | 263.6 | 1148.7 | -14.3% | |
| JULY | 308.3 | 285.0 | 294.4 | 285.6 | 282.4 | 251.2 | 143.5 | 291.2 | 1439.9 | -21.7% | |
| AUGUST | 302.4 | 286.6 | 281.2 | 279.2 | 274.4 | 234.3 | 143.5 | 284.7 | 1724.6 | -26.3% | |
| SEPTEMBER | 280.6 | 274.5 | 253.7 | 250.8 | 264.0 | 220.0 | 154.0 | 264.7 | 1989.4 | -28.4% | |
| OCTOBER | 228.1 | 191.5 | 223.2 | 234.5 | 240.5 | 213.4 | 0.0 | 223.6 | 2212.9 | 0.0% | |
| NOVEMBER | 220.8 | 147.1 | 149.1 | 180.0 | 198.4 | 151.7 | 0.0 | 179.1 | 2392.0 | 0.0% | |
| DECEMBER | 142.0 | 114.0 | 159.9 | 112.4 | 178.5 | 105.7 | 0.0 | 141.4 | 2533.4 | 0.0% | |
| TOTALS | 2697.2 | 2366 | 2487 | 2472 | 2645 | 2310 | 1532 | 2533 | | | |

Notes:

- Five year average is 2009-2013
- State reduction goal applies to all production - groundwater and supplemental
- NMMA reduction goal applies to groundwater production
- Beginning in July 2015, GW Production equals actual pumped GW + 32% of the water imported, reflecting a credit of imported water to GSWC and WMWC.

November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT B



One California Street, 31st Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-5432
tel 415 371-5000
reference no.: 40380722

October 30, 2015

Nipomo Community Services District
P.O. Box 326
Nipomo, CA 93444
Attention: Ms. Lisa Bognuda, Assisstant General Manager

Re: *Nipomo Community Services District, California, Wastewater Certificate of Participation, Series 2012*

Dear Ms. Bognuda:

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Ratings Services") has reviewed the rating on the above-listed obligations. Based on our review, we have lowered our credit rating from "AA" to "AA-" while affirming the stable outlook. A copy of the rationale supporting the rating and outlook is enclosed.

This letter constitutes Ratings Services' permission for you to disseminate the above rating to interested parties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. However, permission for such dissemination (other than to professional advisors bound by appropriate confidentiality arrangements) will become effective only after we have released the rating on standardandpoors.com. Any dissemination on any Website by you or your agents shall include the full analysis for the rating, including any updates, where applicable.

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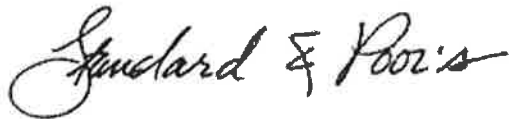
Please send hard copies to:
Standard & Poor's Ratings Services
Public Finance Department

55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041-0003

The rating is subject to the Terms and Conditions, if any, attached to the Engagement Letter applicable to the rating. In the absence of such Engagement Letter and Terms and Conditions, the rating is subject to the attached Terms and Conditions. The applicable Terms and Conditions are incorporated herein by reference.

Ratings Services is pleased to have the opportunity to provide its rating opinion. For more information please visit our website at www.standardandpoors.com. If you have any questions, please contact us. Thank you for choosing Ratings Services.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Standard & Poor's". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services

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enclosure



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McGRAW HILL FINANCIAL

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Summary:

Nipomo Community Services District, California; Water/Sewer

Primary Credit Analyst:

Aaron Lee, San Francisco (1) 415-371-5066; aaron.lee@standardandpoors.com

Secondary Contact:

Tim Tung, San Francisco (415) 371-5041; tim.tung@standardandpoors.com

Table Of Contents

Rationale

Outlook

Related Criteria And Research

Summary:

Nipomo Community Services District, California; Water/Sewer

Credit Profile

Nipomo Comnty Svcs Dist wastewater COPs ser 2012

Long Term Rating

AA-/Stable

Downgraded

Rationale

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services lowered its long-term rating on Nipomo Community Services District, Calif.'s series 2012 revenue certificates of participation (COPs) to 'AA-' from 'AA'. The outlook is stable.

The downgrade reflects the decline in coverage, to level that is materially below forecasts, due to the increase in debt burden from the 2012 COPs, as well as our expectation of increasing operational costs related to the rebuilt wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).

The rating is based on our view of the wastewater system's:

- Stable and primarily residential customer base;
- Historically strong total debt service coverage (DSC) that has declined due to additional debt burden from the 2012 COPs; and
- Very strong liquidity position, with the district expecting to have more than six years of operating expenses at the end of fiscal 2015.

These strengths are partly offset, in our view, by the system's projected decline in DSC due to increasing operational expenses related to the WWTP upgrade and susceptibility to volatility in financial metrics due to the system's size.

The COPs are backed by installment payments, which are secured by a pledge of net revenues of the district's Town Division wastewater system. The COPs are on parity with \$420,000 outstanding in state loans. The district also owns a separate wastewater system, the Blacklake Division, the revenues of which are not pledged. We view the bond provisions as adequate, with a rate covenant of 1.25x annual DSC and an additional bonds test requiring historical and projected revenues to provide 1.25x maximum annual debt service (MADS) coverage. The rate covenant is permissive, however, in that it allows the district to draw from the rate stabilization fund to meet it. A debt service reserve is funded at the least of 10% of par, 125% of average annual debt service or MADS.

The roughly seven-square-mile district currently serves about 12,000 residents of the Nipomo area in rural San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. The county is located approximately midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and district residents benefit from participation in the broader San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles-Arroyo Grande metropolitan statistical area. Major employers in San Luis Obispo county include California Polytechnic State University, SLO, the county, and Atascadero State Hospital. Income indicators for the Nipomo census designated place are, in our opinion,

good, at 108% of the national median. Unemployment rates in the county have historically been lower than the state and national rates and last stood at 4.7%, according to August 2015 data.

The district owns and operates two wastewater systems: the Town Division and the Blacklake Division. The Town Division WWTP has treatment capacity for 0.9 million gallons per day (mgd), with average flows over the past five years about 0.6 mgd. The COPs were issued to rebuild the existing plant in response to discharge violations, which management indicates no longer occur. There are currently no plans to expand the plant's treatment capacity; however, management reports that the rebuilt plant is able to be ultimately expanded to 1.8 mgd of treatment capacity.

The customer base is stable, having grown about 5% over the past five years, and primarily residential. Residential customers represent about 97% of total accounts. We view the customer base as diverse, with the 10 leading customers representing about 23% of operating revenues. The top customer, SLO County, accounts for approximately 14% of operating revenues. Management reports that it is considering expanding the Town Division system. Residential customers currently pay a bimonthly rate of \$88.32, which has not changed for the past five years. When annualized, rates represent about 1.2% of 2014 median household effective buying income, which we view as affordable. Management indicated that the district is currently undergoing a comprehensive rate study for the next five-year period. Management also stated that there are no major delinquency issues.

Total DSC has been strong during the past three years as the district began debt service payments on the 2012 COPs. Coverage was 2.1x in fiscal 2013 and 1.8x in fiscal 2014, and is estimated to be 1.7x based on unaudited fiscal 2015 data. However, these coverage levels are lower than what was originally forecast. Based on management's forecast, which assumes annual rate increases of 3.5% through fiscal 2020, and substantial increases in operating expenses due to sludge removal and personnel expenses related to the new plant, we may see coverage levels decline to adequate to good levels through the outlook period.

System liquidity has been historically strong, with unrestricted cash representing over 2,000 days' operating expenses since 2010. Unrestricted cash in fiscal 2014 was \$5.1 million, equivalent to 2,513 days' operating cash, and cash levels remained strong, at \$5.2 million (2,175 days' operating expenses), according to unaudited fiscal 2015 data. Due to current limited capital improvement plan (CIP) needs, we do not expect cash to materially change throughout the two-year outlook horizon.

The current CIP has identified about \$740,000 in projects through fiscal 2018 as the district had just recently completed the upgrade to the WWTP. Management indicated that it is currently working on a new master plan for the system through which it may identify additional projects. Management also reports that there are currently no additional debt plans.

Outlook

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the district will continue to raise rates to maintain stable financial performance. The district's limited capital needs and stable customer base provides additional stability to the credit.

Upside scenario

Although not anticipated during the two-year outlook horizon, we could raise the rating if rate increases are implemented such that coverage levels are improved to be commensurate with those of peers at the higher rating level.

Downside scenario

We may lower the rating if projected increases in operating expenses are realized and rate increases are not implemented so that coverage metrics deteriorate, or if the master plan identifies additional capital needs that cause deterioration of the cash position.

Related Criteria And Research

Related Criteria

- USPF Criteria: Water And Sewer Ratings, June 25, 2007
- USPF Criteria: Key Water And Sewer Utility Credit Ratio Ranges, Sept. 15, 2008
- USPF Criteria: Standard & Poor's Revises Criteria For Rating Water, Sewer, And Drainage Utility Revenue Bonds, Sept. 15, 2008
- USPF Criteria: Methodology: Definitions And Related Analytic Practices For Covenant And Payment Provisions In U.S. Public Finance Revenue Obligations, Nov. 29, 2011
- USPF Criteria: Assigning Issue Credit Ratings Of Operating Entities, May 20, 2015
- Criteria: Use of CreditWatch And Outlooks, Sept. 14, 2009

Related Research

- U.S. State And Local Government Credit Conditions Forecast, Oct. 20, 2015
- U.S. Municipal Water And Sewer Utilities 2014 Sector Outlook: Learning To Do More With Less, Jan. 9, 2014
- 2014 Review Of U.S. Municipal Water And Sewer Ratings: How They Correlate With Key Economic And Financial Ratios, May 12, 2014

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November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT C

RatingsDirect®

Summary:

Nipomo Community Services District, California; Water/Sewer

Primary Credit Analyst:

Aaron Lee, San Francisco (1) 415-371-5066; aaron.lee@standardandpoors.com

Secondary Contact:

Tim Tung, San Francisco (415) 371-5041; tim.tung@standardandpoors.com

Table Of Contents

Rationale

Outlook

Related Criteria And Research

Summary:

Nipomo Community Services District, California; Water/Sewer

Credit Profile

Nipomo Comnty Svcs Dist (Supplemental Water & Rfdg Proj) (BAM)

Unenhanced Rating

A(SPUR)/Stable

Affirmed

Many issues are enhanced by bond insurance.

Rationale

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed its 'A' underlying rating (SPUR) on Nipomo Community Services District, Calif.'s series 2013 revenue certificates of participation (COPs) and existing water revenue bonds. The outlook is stable.

The rating is based on our view of the district's:

- Diverse, primarily residential customer base;
- History of strong total debt service coverage (DSC); and
- Strong liquidity position in the water fund, with unrestricted cash representing more than 1,500 days of operating expenses on hand at the end of fiscal 2015.

These strengths are partly offset by our view of the district's:

- Expected increase in operating expenses related to the supplemental water project, and
- Fixed costs to the city of Santa Maria for supplemental water.

The 2013 COPs and 2013A water revenue bonds are parity obligations and secured by a pledge of property tax received by the district and net revenues of the district's water system. Legal provisions are, in our view, adequate, with a rate covenant equal to 1.25x annual debt service and an additional bonds test that allows the district to issue additional debt if historical net revenues, plus certain projected revenues from rate increases and system improvements, provide maximum annual debt service coverage of at least 1.25x. A surety policy satisfies the debt service reserve fund.

The roughly seven-square-mile district currently serves about 12,000 residents of the Nipomo area in rural San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. The county is located approximately midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and district residents benefit from participation in the broader San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles-Arroyo Grande metropolitan statistical area. Major employers in SLO County include California Polytechnic State University, SLO, the county, and Atascadero State Hospital. Income indicators for the Nipomo census designated place are, in our opinion, good, at 108% of the national median. Unemployment rates in the county have historically been lower than the state and national rates and last stood at 4.7%, according to August 2015 data. The customer base is primarily residential, as 96% of the 4,268 customers are residential. The number of water connections has seen little growth (3%) during the

past five years, although management indicated that there has been some revival of development. We view the customer base as very diverse, with the 10 leading customers representing about 9.2% of 2014 operating revenues.

The district's primary water supply is the Santa Maria Valley groundwater basin, which the district accesses with five wells. In fiscal 2014, the district pumped 2,541 acre feet (AF) of water, which was about the same amount from the previous year. Pursuant to state mandates, the district is required to reach 28% conservation compared to 2013. As of August, the district has conserved a cumulative 34.6%, and management does not expect any issues reaching its target by February 2016. The district has been party to litigation related to adjudication of ground water rights in the basin due to overpumped conditions and declining groundwater elevations. Under a court-approved settlement stipulation, the district is required to deliver 2,500 AF of surface water to the basin to reduce groundwater pumping. The district has recently completed Phase 1 of the supplemental water supply project, which will bring purchased water from the city of Santa Maria to the district. There is an escalating water requirement pursuant to the agreement with Santa Maria whereby the district must take 645 AF of water during the first year (fiscal 2016), 800 AF of water during years two through five, and 1,000 AF of water in years six through 10. By year 11, the district will be taking the 2,500 AF of water to supplement its water supply. The district recently entered into an agreement with the following water companies for their respective allocations of the required water:

- Nipomo Community Services District: 66.68%,
- Golden State Water Company: 8.33%,
- Rural Water Company: 8.33%, and
- Woodlands Mutual Water Company: 16.66%.

The California Public Utilities Commission has approved the acquisition of Rural Water Co. by Golden State Water Co., and after the acquisition, the combined entity will be responsible for 16.66% of the water purchases. Management indicated that the district will be reimbursed by the water companies on a quarterly basis for the water purchases. At completion, the full supplemental water project will have capacity to deliver 3,000 AF of surface water.

Residential customers pay a bimonthly water availability charge based on meter size and a commodity rate for every hundred cubic feet (cf) of water use. Based on our monthly baseline of 1,000 cf, we calculate a bimonthly bill in 2014 of \$77.91, which, when annualized, represents about 1% of 2014 median household effective buying income. We view these water rates as affordable. Residential water rates have risen about 9% annually since fiscal 2012, and management reports that there will be one additional, 10% increase this November. Due to the supplemental water project, management has recently implemented a supplemental water surcharge on the rates, which will increase the base rate effectively by 30% for fiscal 2016. Management reports that rates will be revisited in fiscal 2017 and that there are no major delinquency issues.

The district's total DSC has been strong during the past five years, ranging from 3.6x to a peak of 8.6x in fiscal 2013. With the issuance of the 2013 COPs and bonds, debt service increased in fiscal 2014, to 3.9x. Unaudited fiscal 2015 numbers show DSC at 2.1x, and based on management's forecast, we expect total DSC to be maintained at strong levels throughout the two-year outlook horizon. When treating the required water purchases from Santa Maria as fixed costs, we estimate a fixed-cost coverage of 1.5x for fiscal 2016 and 1.1x for fiscal 2017, which we consider good to strong. However, management's current forecast does not include the supplemental rate increases and does not take

into account the current conservation levels. We anticipate that the district will continue to raise rates accordingly to maintain strong coverage metrics going forward.

The district's liquidity is strong, with almost 2,500 days' operating expenses (\$16.8 million) at the end of fiscal 2014; however, this appears overstated as it includes unspent bond proceeds. Unaudited fiscal 2015 numbers show cash to be \$10.7 million (1,595 days' operating expenses), which reflects the expenditure of all bond proceeds for the supplemental water project. We consider this level of liquidity strong. As the district continues to expand the supplemental project and if the drought continues, we may see some additional decrease in cash; however, management does not expect the decrease to be significant.

The district has identified about \$8.6 million in capital improvement plan (CIP) projects during the next five years, \$6.0 million of which is for subsequent phases of the supplemental water project. The district does not anticipate issuing additional debt during the next five years, and management reports that it may defer discretionary CIP projects if capacity fees are insufficient to fund them.

Outlook

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the district will maintain good financial metrics with appropriate rate increases that will adequately address the expected increase in costs related to the supplemental water project. Further adding to the stability of the credit are the stable and diverse customer base and strong liquidity.

Upside scenario

We could raise the rating if financial metrics are maintained at strong levels even with the anticipated fixed payments to Santa Maria for supplemental water.

Downside scenario

If increases in costs related to the supplemental project or other unforeseen circumstances cause financial metrics to decline or if additional capital spending creates a material spend down in cash, we could lower the rating.

Related Criteria And Research

Related Criteria

- USPF Criteria: Water And Sewer Ratings, June 25, 2007
- USPF Criteria: Key Water And Sewer Utility Credit Ratio Ranges, Sept. 15, 2008
- USPF Criteria: Standard & Poor's Revises Criteria For Rating Water, Sewer, And Drainage Utility Revenue Bonds, Sept. 15, 2008
- USPF Criteria: Methodology: Definitions And Related Analytic Practices For Covenant And Payment Provisions In U.S. Public Finance Revenue Obligations, Nov. 29, 2011
- USPF Criteria: Assigning Issue Credit Ratings Of Operating Entities, May 20, 2015
- Criteria: Use of CreditWatch And Outlooks, Sept. 14, 2009

Related Research

- U.S. State And Local Government Credit Conditions Forecast, Oct. 20, 2015
- U.S. Municipal Water And Sewer Utilities 2014 Sector Outlook: Learning To Do More With Less, Jan. 9, 2014
- 2014 Review Of U.S. Municipal Water And Sewer Ratings: How They Correlate With Key Economic And Financial Ratios, May 12, 2014

Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at www.globalcreditportal.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on Standard & Poor's public Web site at www.standardandpoors.com. Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.

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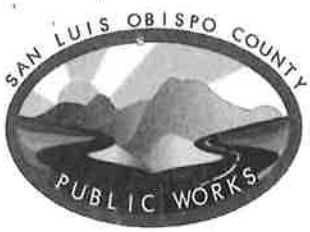
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November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT D



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Wade Horton, Director

County Government Center, Room 206 • San Luis Obispo CA 93408 • (805) 781-5252

Fax (805) 781-1229

email address: pwd@co.slo.ca.us



November 3, 2015

Norman N. Brown, Ph.D.
Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group Chairman
Post Office Box 6143
Santa Barbara, California 93160
water@normbrown.com

Dan Heimerl
Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group Liaison
3765 S. Higuera St #102
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
dheimerl@wsc-inc.com

Subject: Collaboration Principles for Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Model Development

Dear Mr. Heimerl and Mr. Brown,

This letter is in response to the Nipomo Mesa Management Area (NMMA) and Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) Technical Groups' (TG) requests for the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) to develop a computer model of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (Basin model). The letters are attached for reference. Developing a successful, defensible Basin model will require collaboration amongst the stakeholders and a focus on technically sound information. Outlined below is a set of principles and processes under which District staff would conduct Basin model development efforts and seek to formalize via recommendation to the Board of Supervisors and agreements with applicable partners.

Collaboration Principles and Processes. In order to proceed with leading the development of a Basin model, District staff would seek agreement by all parties to the following:

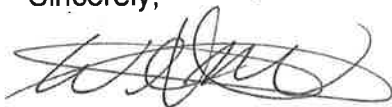
- Successful concurrence amongst the NCMA, NMMA and Santa Maria Valley Management Area (SMVMA) on the scope of work, including the implications of existing data gaps on the ability to develop a scientifically defensible, calibrated Basin model.
- An equal cost sharing of the consultant cost amongst the District, NCMA, and NMMA (estimated \$150K - \$250K each). This reflects a cost sharing based on roles and responsibilities for both the adjudicated area and the areas between the State's Bulletin 118 Basin boundary and adjudicated area boundary subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements.
- Consistent in-kind participation by people designated by the NCMA and NMMA, under the leadership of a County Project Manager.

- Development of the model consistent with SGMA requirements, including, but not limited to:
 - Collaboration with SMVMA and Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District;
 - Consensus on a Basin-wide approach to baseline data and annual data compilation to facilitate periodic updates to the model;
 - Understanding that the Basin model development will include scientific analyses to estimate recharge and discharge quantities that may refine previous water balance and sustainable yield information; and
 - Involvement of the public in each key milestone of the process.

If the NCMA and NMMA partners are accepting of these collaboration principles and processes, please notify District Staff in writing. District Staff would then engage NCMA, NMMA and SMVMA in the basin model scope of work negotiations and development of a joint funding agreement outlining the collaboration principles and scope of work. Pending successful completion of these steps, District Staff would seek the District Board of Supervisors' approval to proceed.

We look forward to your response on this possible path forward with Basin model development. Should you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Berg, Water Resources Engineer, at (805) 781-5536.

Sincerely,



WADE HORTON
Director of Public Works

Attachments: Nipomo Mesa Management Area Correspondence dated June 30, 2015
Northern Cities Management Area Correspondence dated August 17, 2015

- c: Teresa McClish, City of Arroyo Grande (via email only)
- Gregory Ray, City of Grover Beach (via email only)
- Ben Fine, City of Pismo Beach (via email only)
- Michael LeBrun, Nipomo Community Services District (via email only)
- Paavo Ogren, Oceano Community Services District (via email only)
- Mark Hutchinson, County Public Works Department (via email only)
- Courtney Howard, County Public Works Department (via email only)
- Carolyn Berg, County Public Works Department (via email only)

File: CF900.100.01 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

NMMA Tech Group

June 30, 2015

via email: mhutchinson@co.slo.ca.us

Mr. Mark Hutchinson, Deputy Director
San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works
San Luis Obispo County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG) thanks SLO County FC&WCD and the Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group (NCMA TG) for hosting the April 17 discussion concerning basin characterization, potential groundwater modeling, response to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act for "remnant" areas adjacent to the adjudicated basin, and related topics. We provide these initial comments, concerning both purpose and process of potential groundwater modeling.

With regard to potential future numerical groundwater flow modeling for the southern SLO County portion of the Santa Maria groundwater basin, we believe it makes most sense to have such an effort be principally coordinated and funded by the County. We assume the NMMA TG would play a central role in the project guidance and analysis, and we have a significant technical background in the area to contribute to corresponding project goals.

We recognize the administrative convenience of limiting the area of study to the SLO County portion of the groundwater basin but strongly encourage addressing the possibility of a joint Santa Barbara - San Luis Obispo County project that would include the complete basin. Basin-wide coverage and cooperation among the broader group of agencies and groundwater users might also allow greater grant funding capability for the project. For a model extent that is restricted to southern San Luis Obispo County, we assume the model would include the portion of the Santa Maria Valley Management Area (SMVMA) in SLO County, between the NMMA and the County line at the Santa Maria River.

The NMMA Technical Group has discussed several technical topics that could be associated with utilization of a completed groundwater model for the NMMA and surrounding areas of the basin.

- ◆ *Potential Project Evaluation.* A variety of groundwater conservation, reuse and importation projects are in progress or consideration for the SLO County portion of the Santa Maria groundwater basin. We concur with general statements that a groundwater model could be useful for some site selection, project comparison and project optimization related to such project possibilities. At present, specific modeling questions have not yet been developed by the NMMA TG; we anticipate that development of these essential questions will be best accomplished at the stakeholder level.

- ◆ *Resource Management.* It is also possible that basin-scale resource management could benefit from the ability to test hypothetical basin conditions and management options and the NMMA TG endorses this purpose as a general goal for groundwater modeling.

We encourage a rigorous technical approach for model development, initiated by the development of model questions and followed by the identification and resolution of data gaps, development of a conceptual model, parameter estimation and analysis, focused technical studies to quantify processes necessary for model input, model calibration, model documentation and related work. For example:

- ◆ *Data gap identification.* There are topics and subareas where data are sparse and will likely be problematic for conceptual model development and/or model calibration. We feel a critical, initial purpose of any modeling project should be identification and resolution of such topics and areas.
- ◆ *Focused Technical Studies.* Groundwater models typically require input data that are either collected from instruments or developed from technical studies. Such technical studies are critical for model performance and constraining the model to realistic calibration parameters.
- ◆ *Conceptual Model Development, Calibration and Historical Accuracy.* The geology of the SLO portion of the Santa Maria basin has discontinuous sedimentary features, faults with significant offset, and varying degrees of aquifer confinement throughout the area. The SLO County portion of the basin includes the NCMA, the NMMA and a portion of the SMVMA. Such conditions make conceptual model development and model calibration especially difficult and critical. The NMMA TG believes a high initial priority for any model development is the accurate model depiction of historical groundwater behavior.

We look forward to discussion about possible paths forward for numerical groundwater modeling of the NMMA and surrounding portions of the Santa Maria groundwater basin.

Sincerely,

Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group

corresponding address:

Norm Brown, TG Chairman
water@normbrown.com

cc: Mr. Daniel Heimel, WSC
NCMA TG Liaison

NCMA Technical Group

8/17/2015

Mark Hutchinson
San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408



SUBJECT: Development of a Groundwater Flow Model for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

This Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group (NCMA TG) would like to thank you for your participation in the April 17, 2015 meeting amongst the Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG) and NCMA TG representatives to discuss potential collaborative opportunities to develop a groundwater flow model for the San Luis Obispo County portions of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (SMGB), potential Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation scenarios, and related topics. Consistent with the June 30, 2015 letter from the NMMA TG to the San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works (County), the NCMA TG also believes that the County's leadership and funding support are necessary for the development of a groundwater model that covers, at a minimum, the San Luis Obispo County portion of the SMGB.

The NCMA TG appreciates the efforts of County staff and its consultants for the preparation of the Santa Maria Basin Characterization Study. The NCMA TG is excited about the pending completion of the study and is ready to take the next steps toward utilizing the newly developed data and findings to create a groundwater model. Consistent with the direction given by the SLOCF&WCD BOS in Resolution No. 2014-220 approved at the BOS' August 19th Meeting, the NCMA TG would like to continue regional partnership and funding discussions with the County and the NMMA TG.

In recent years, the NCMA agencies have invested significant efforts to identify and analyze alternative water supplies to allow them to improve the resilience of their water supply portfolios. However, full evaluation of these alternative water supply sources, many of which would be used for recharge and conjunctive use projects, requires an improved understanding of the groundwater flow within the SMGB. Similar to the efforts being completed for the Paso Basin, the NCMA agencies believe that the identification of supplemental supplies, coupled with analysis of potential implementation scenarios using a groundwater model is the best approach for identifying the most effective water supply reliability solutions for the south San Luis Obispo County region.

In closing, the SMGB is a critical water resource that provides water supplies to more than 53,000 residents and thousands of acres of irrigated cropland in southern San Luis Obispo County. To help protect the SMGB from seawater intrusion, which was observed in 2009, the NCMA agencies have reduced their SMGB pumping by over 65%. However, even with minimal municipal pumping, recent drought conditions have contributed to declining groundwater levels, similar to levels seen in 2009,

NCMA Technical Group

placing the basin at risk for seawater intrusion once again. These re-occurring drought cycles highlight the need for an improved understanding of groundwater flow within the SMGB. A groundwater model is needed to assist the County, NCMA agencies and NMMA agencies in planning and implementing alternative water supply projects and managing their groundwater pumping. We look forward to working with the County to develop a funding program for this critical water supply management initiative.

Sincerely,

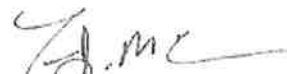
Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group



Ben Fine
Public Works
Director/City Engineer
City of Pismo Beach



Gregory Ray
Public Works
Director/City Engineer
City of Grover Beach



Teresa McClish
Director of Community
Development
City of Arroyo Grande



Paavo Ogren
General Manager
Oceano Community
Services District

November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT E

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2015
NIPOMO COMMUNITY
SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE ACTION/PUBLIC HEARING

- WHO:** San Luis Obispo County Planning Department Hearings
- WHEN:** **Friday, November 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.** (All items are advertised for 9:00 a.m. To find out the agenda placement call the Planning Department at 781-5600.)
- WHAT:** A request by **SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (JIM MILLER PARK)** for a Minor Use Permit for the Jim Miller Community Park in Olde Towne Nipomo. The new park includes a gazebo, a war veteran's memorial, a Dorothea Lange-era memorial, Pacific Coast Railroad memorial, and walking paths. The proposed 1.05 acre park is within the Public Facilities land use category and is located at the southeast corner of West Tefft Street and Carrillo Street, in the community of Nipomo. The site is in the South County Inland sub-area of the South County planning area.

County File Number: DRC2014-00156
Supervisorial District: 4

Assessor Parcel Number: 090-142-007
Date Accepted: September 29, 2015

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: A copy of the staff report will be available on the Planning Department website, www.sloplanning.org. You may contact **Brian Pedrotti, Project Manager**, bpedrotti@co.slo.ca.us in the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, California 93408 (805) 781-5600.

TO REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING:

An applicant or an interested party may request a public hearing on this matter. **To do so, send a letter or email to this office by Friday, November 6, 2015. The letter/email MUST include the language "I would like to request a hearing on this matter."**

WHERE: The hearing will be held in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey St., Room #D170, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA. The Board of Supervisors Chambers are located on the corner of Santa Rosa and Monterey Streets. At the hearing all interested persons may express their views for or against, or to change the proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: This project is exempt under CEQA.

****If you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this public notice or in written correspondence delivered to the appropriate authority at or before the public hearing.****

DATED: October 28, 2015

NICOLE RETANA, SECRETARY
COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT HEARINGS



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO NOTICE OF TENTATIVE ACTION

PLEASE READ REVERSE SIDE

The Planning Department will hold a Planning Department Hearing at San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1055 Monterey St., Room #D170, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA. The Board of Supervisors Chambers is located on the corner of Santa Rosa and Monterey Streets. All items are advertised for 9:00 a.m. A copy of the staff report and the Environmental Document will be available on the Planning Department website, www.sloplanning.org or at the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building,

All Minor Use Permits will be placed on the Consent agenda (as Non Public Hearing items) unless a Public Hearing is formally requested at least one week prior to the Planning Department Hearing date. To request a Public Hearing send a letter, or email to the Project Manager by 4:30 p.m., the Friday before the hearing. The letter/email MUST include the language "I would like to request a Public Hearing on this matter."

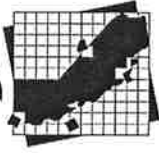
Persons who have requested a Public Hearing are to appear at the Board of Supervisors Chambers on the date of the Public Hearing and express their views, orally or in writing, for or against or in modification of the proposed project(s). Comments will be accepted up until completion of the Public Hearing(s). If you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the appropriate authority at or prior to the public hearing.

November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT F

Certificate of Completion



CSDA

Special District Board Secretary / Clerk Program

South Lake Tahoe, CA - October 18 - 20, 2015

Ms. Jessica Matson

Nipomo Community Services District

Neil C. McCormick

Neil C. McCormick, CSDA Chief Executive

Steve A. Perez

Steve A. Perez, CSDA Board President



Co-Sponsored By:

Special District Risk Management

November 12, 2015

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT G

**NCS D Outreach Summary
November 2015**

| Date Started | Outreach | Description | Status | Date Completed |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/1/2015 | 218 Notice | Notice in Legal Section of newspapers for 11/12 Public Hearing | Complete | 10/12/2015 |
| 10/9/2015 | Brown is the New Green | Campaign Effectiveness Summary, May - September | Complete | 10/13/2015 |
| 10/15/2015 | District E-Newsletter | October E-Newsletter regarding District news | Complete | 10/19/2015 |
| 10/22/2015 | Manager's Column | Article for Manager's Column in Adobe Press, pub date 10/30 | Complete | 10/26/2015 |
| 10/26/2015 | Ad | Conservation ad in 10/30 Adobe | Complete | 10/26/2015 |
| 10/26/2015 | Chamber Email Blast | Conservation Tip for Chamber of Commerce weekly email update | Complete | 10/26/2015 |
| 11/2/2015 | Chamber Newsletter | Conservation ad for Chamber of Commerce November newsletter | Complete | 11/2/2015 |
| 11/2/2015 | Chamber Email Blast | Conservation Tip for Chamber of Commerce weekly email update | Complete | 11/2/2015 |
| 10/23/2015 | Social Media | Content posting | Complete; Ongoing | 11/5/2015 |
| 10/23/2015 | Website Updates | Home page; minutes; packets; community news; reports; etc | Complete; Ongoing | 11/5/2015 |
| 11/2/2015 | Social Media | Annual policy review and account summary | Complete | 11/5/2015 |
| 11/5/2015 | Social Media | Webinar on Best Practices for Social Media Management | Complete | 11/5/2015 |
| 11/4/2015 | District Newsletter | 2015 4th quarter newsletter for November distribution | In Progress | |

Customers earn gold with 'summer of brown'

Nipomo Community Services District customers are commended for ending the summer strong.

The state assigned the district a conservation goal of 28 percent.

Then, in May of this year, the district's board of directors declared a Stage 3 water shortage in accordance with its Water Shortage Response and Management Plan, urging all customers to reduce their water use with the goal of lowering districtwide demand by 30 percent.

NCS D customers exceeded that goal. For the period of June to September, districtwide pumping was down an average of 32.9 percent. Great job.

Since the NCS D began importing water July 2, district groundwater pumping is down nearly 50 percent over previous years.

You may recall seeing banners around town and information items in your mail as the district actively promoted water conservation through our "Brown Is the New Green" campaign, and it has shown to be effective.

Thank you to the many



**Inside NCS D -
Michael LeBrun**

As we approach winter months — and, hopefully, they're wet ones — remember to turn down that irrigation.

district customers who took a conservation leap and "browned out" their lawns this summer.

Water conservation continues to be vital to our area, and there are several ways to reduce your use indoors and outdoors. As many know, the largest water consumption is outside, where landscaping is being

excessively watered.

As we approach winter months — and, hopefully, they're wet ones — remember to turn down that irrigation. You can see some significant water savings by simply turning it down or off altogether.

The district's website and social media sites also provide helpful tips and resources. We encourage you to visit our website at www.ncsd.ca.gov.

The District will remain in Stage 3 of its drought response until at least late spring or early summer of next year when area key wells are measured.

Keep up the good work, and remember: Saving water also saves money.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or feedback, we want to hear from you. Feel free to contact us at info@ncsd.ca.gov.

Michael LeBrun is the general manager of the Nipomo Community Services District. He can be reached by calling 929-1133 or by email at info@ncsd.ca.gov. Follow NCS D on Facebook or on Twitter at NipomoCSD.

OPINION

Dia de los Muertos festivities set Sunday in Nipomo, SLO

This weekend is a big weekend for Halloween and Dia de los Muertos celebrations.

Every year, millions of Mexicans, Central Americans and devoted followers celebrate el Dia de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead.

The Hispanic holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to remember friends and family members who have passed on by building private altars or "ofrendas" to honor the deceased and visiting and decorating gravesites.

The Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos will present a special tribute to el Dia de los Muertos from 11 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Dana Adobe with entertainment by the Santa Maria and Pioneer Valley high schools' Ballet Folklorico and the Artec Dancers.

For more information, contact the Dana Adobe at 929-5679 or marina@danaadobe.org.

On the same day at Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo, Wiltshire Hospice and the Latino Outreach Council of SLO



Bits and Pieces of Nipomo
Jacqueline Vitti
Frederick

County will host a celebration with altars and a costume contest from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The costumes for Dia de los Muertos are always colorful and gorgeous, and contestants just need to show up anytime after 11 a.m. and register at the Latino Outreach Council booth before 2:45 p.m.

The competition will be held at 3 p.m. on the steps of Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa.

The fun, family event will include large altar displays, vendor booths, music and crafts.

including decorating sugar skulls, making paper flowers, coloring and face painting, entertainment by folklorico and Artec dancers and mariachi music, and, of course, there will be plenty of food.

Also at 11 a.m., a ceremony to mark the designation of Father Junipero Serra as a saint will be held in the mission.

Festival Mozak's WinterMezzo Chamber Music Series is Nov. 5, 6 and 7. Led by Music Director Scott Yoo, internationally renowned visiting artists will present concerts in spectacular Central Coast venues.

The weekend focusing on great works of chamber music offers three ways to connect to the music and the musicians.

In the Notable Encounter Insight, the artists take you on a one-hour tour behind the music, giving you insights into the composer's history and sharing their perspectives on the works.

In the Notable Encounter Dinner, join the artists in a musical and culinary adventure featuring award-winning Central Coast wines paired with local, fresh cuisine in intimate settings, followed by a concert of program highlights.

And finally, on Sunday, at the WinterMezzo Concert, you will hear all the works come together in a traditional concert setting perfect for chamber music.

For tickets and information, go to www.festivalmozak.com or call 781-3009.

The Nipomo Chamber of Commerce will hold the first Holiday Street Faire from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, on West Tefft Street in Old Towne Nipomo.

There will be many food, gift and craft vendors as well as music and a visit from Santa. If you would like to reserve a booth space, contact Amber at 929-1583.

Jacqueline Frederick is a lawyer and former in Nipomo and can be reached at jrfre@cool.com or 620-3120.

KRANKY



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KRANKY



"So, let me get this straight. If I cross your path, it's bad luck, and if you cross my path, it's bad luck ... but if we cross each other's path, does the bad luck double, or is it automatically canceled out?"

Enjoy this beautiful 55+ community in a 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with 2 car garage. Charming open floor plan, 1341 sq. ft. dual pane windows, plantation shutters, combination indoor/outdoor kitchen, double ovens, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, and private backyard. Washer & dryer included plus all kitchen appliances. For more information please call Diane at 805-570-9099 or email Diane.Adams@Carly.com - \$80,000

Attractive remodeled home, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, plus additional room & attached 2 car garage. New dual pane windows, new flooring, new interior & exterior paint, roof is approx 7 years old, new granite counter in kitchen, new dishwasher, lights, smooth ceilings, new window blinds, new landscaping \$197,000

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2422 YELLYNN - Beautiful Home Ideally located, this home offers 4 bedrooms 2 baths approx. 2212 sq ft of living space. Home has a functional open floor plan, fireplace in family room, formal living room, cathedral ceilings, soccer room and covered patio. There is plenty of space for extra vehicles /RV or boat with the additional drive space. Just minutes from the freeway, shopping, schools and parks jogging & walking trails. Please call me for private tour.

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Our water supply is threatened.

www.ncsd.ca.gov

f /NipomoCSD

50th Anniversary
NIPOMO
Nipomo Community Services District

FINALLY, Some Rain!

Turn your irrigation down or off.

Most landscapes require little or no water during cooler temps.

SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY!

For tips go to our website: www.ncsd.ca.gov or social media   /NipomoCSD



Nipomo Community Services District



Nipomo
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

November Edition 2015



The mission of the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce is to promote the civic, economic, agricultural, educational, & social welfare of Nipomo.



Nipomo Chamber President
Richard Malvarose
Richard@nipomoproperties.com

Nipomo Chamber of
Commerce

Email:

info@nipomochamber.org

239 W. Tefft St.
Nipomo, CA 93444
805/929-1583
Fax: 805/929-5835

Amber Wilson
Executive Director

INSIDE THE CHAT

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Meet Our Ambassadors
- 3 New and Renewing Members
- 4 2015 Mixer Schedule
- 5 Business Spotlight
- 7 Community Events
- 8 Advertisers
- 10 Flyers
- 16 Advertising / Networking



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you are community minded then the month of November is definitely going to be one of your favorites. This month alone we have a Veterans Awareness Rucksack March, Veteran's Day Celebration, the first ever Holiday Street Faire, the Nipomo Community Thanksgiving celebration and many other things to get involved in. We're always on the lookout for some of the fine people who help make up our little slice of Unincorporated Heaven so if you feel the need to volunteer please give the Chamber a call.

Respectfully,
Richard Malvarose

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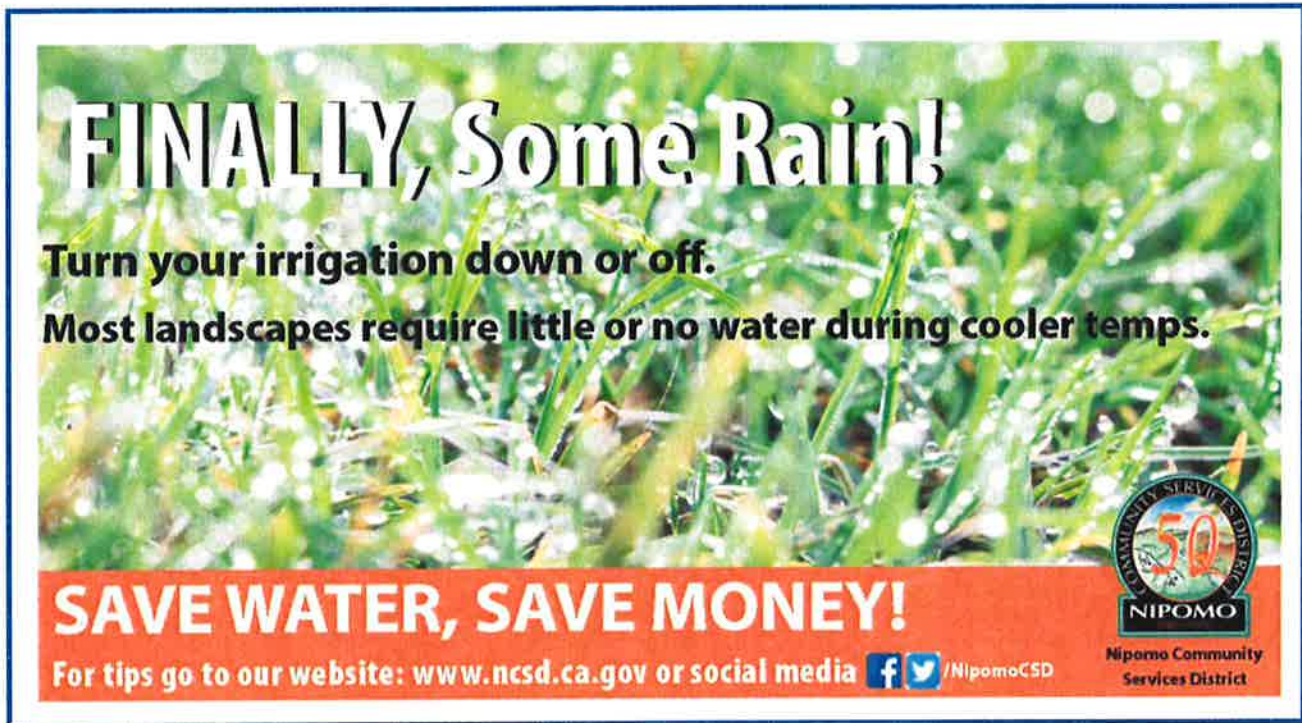
Rotary Club
of Nipomo



CoastHills
Another great day.



NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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Press Release Log 2015

| Date of PR | Title | Date Sent to Media | Date Placed On Website | Media Pub | Date PR Published | Media Published | Date PR Published | Media Published | Date PR Published | Media Published | Date PR Published |
|------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 5/20/2015 | Court Appointed Technical Group Releases Spring 2015 Index; Area Groundwater in Severe Shortage Condition; Nipomo CSD Calls Special Meeting | 5/20/2015 | 5/20/2015 | Adobe | 5/29/2015 | | | | | | |
| 5/21/2015 | Board Declares Stage III Water Shortage Conditions and Moves Forward with Response Plan | 5/22/2015 | 5/22/2015 | SM Times | 5/23/2015 | Sun | 5/27/2015 | KSBY | 5/28/2015 | Adobe | 5/29/2015 |
| 6/4/2015 | Transparency Certificate of Excellence Awarded a Second Time to Nipomo Community Services District | 6/4/2015 | 6/4/2015 | Adobe | 6/8/2015 | Tribune | 6/4/2015 | | | | |
| 6/8/2015 | Brown is the New Green: 30% Reduction is a Must | 6/8/2015 | 6/8/2015 | Adobe | 6/9/2015 | SM Times | 7/5/2015 | | | | |
| 7/9/2015 | Nipomo Community Services District Achieves 32.5% Conservation! | 7/9/2015 | 7/9/2015 | Lompoc Record | 7/12/2015 | Tribune | 7/13/2015 7/31/2015 | SM Times | 7/14/2015 | Adobe | 7/17/2015 |
| 7/10/2015 | Supplemental Water Has Arrived in Nipomo | 7/10/2015 | 7/10/2015 | SM Times | 7/10/2015 | BC Water News | 7/13/2015 | KSBY | 7/13/2015 | | |

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| 7/20/2015 | Nipomo CSD Receives Recognition from Engineering Group | 7/20/2015 | 7/20/2015 | BC Water News | 7/21/2015 | Adobe | 7/24/2015 | | | | |
| 8/21/2015 | New Water is Even Better – Change in Disinfection to Begin in September | 8/21/2015 | 8/21/2015 | Adobe | 8/27/2015 | KCOY | 8/22/2015 | KSBY | 8/27/2015 8/28/2015 8/31/2015 | BC Water News | 8/28/2015 9/1/2015 |
| 8/31/2015 | Additional Information about the District Change in its Treatment Process to Use Chloramines Instead of Chlorine | 8/31/2015 | 8/31/2015 | KSBY | 8/31/2015 | Tribune | 8/31/2015 | KCOY | 9/1/2015 | SM Times | 9/2/2015 |
| 9/21/2015 | Nipomo CSD's General Manager Announces Retirement in 2016 | 9/21/2015 | 9/21/2015 | BC Water News | 9/1/2015 9/3/2015 | Sun/Canary | 9/3/2015 | | | | |
| 9/21/2015 | Nipomo CSD's General Manager Announces Retirement in 2016 | 9/21/2015 | 9/21/2015 | Tribune | 9/21/2015 | SM Times | 9/22/2015 | | | | |
| 10/2/2015 | NCS D Customers Are Receiving a 50% Discount on Solid Waste Bill – Again! | 10/2/2015 | 10/2/2015 | Tribune | 10/3/2015 10/5/2015 | Adobe | 10/5/2015 | | | | |
| 10/5/2015 | NCS D Director of Engineering & Operations Receives Prestigious Award | 10/5/2015 | 10/5/2015 | Adobe | 10/5/2015 | BC Water News | 10/6/2015 | | | | |

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OCTOBER 21, 2015

SLO County's one-size-fits-all water plan is wrong for Nipomo Mesa

HIGHLIGHTS

Countywide water conservation plan will be considered Oct. 27

Nipomo Community Services District says there's no proof county 'offset' program will work

District calls on county to tap into its allocation of state water

BY MICHAEL S. LEBRUN

With well levels on the Nipomo Mesa at all-time lows, the Nipomo Community Services District has stopped accepting applications for new water service within the district.

At the same time, the county is looking for ways to allow new development to move forward in areas of the Mesa outside district boundaries.

On Oct. 27, the county Board of Supervisors will consider a Countywide Water Conservation Plan. Among other provisions, the plan includes a proposal that would allow new development and new water demand on the Nipomo Mesa via 1-for-1 "offsets" obtained by changing water fixtures in existing homes to more efficient fixtures and removing lawn/turf areas.

Since 2005, the county has categorized Nipomo Mesa water resources to be in a Level III severity condition, the most severe.

In 2005, the county adopted an ordinance to address the water shortage condition. That ordinance (2005-3090) requires all new urban water demand to be met by new imported water. Although the Nipomo CSD adopted this policy model and successfully implemented it within its services boundary, the county has not.

Water savings from offset programs are theoretical — there is no absolute way to determine actual water savings from such programs, nor is there a way to ensure those savings are permanent. Offsets should not be used as a means for allowing new development at a time when the goal should be to achieve permanent long-term reductions in the amount of water being pumped on the Nipomo Mesa.

There is an option: The county has 19,000 acre-feet of state water allocation that county taxpayers are paying for but not using.

The county should negotiate with other members of the Central Coast Water Authority — owners of the state water treatment plant and pipeline serving the Central Coast — to deliver some of this water.

This is a "political will" project — only minimal construction would be required.

Groundwater basins throughout the county are imperiled. Paper promises in the form of ordinances that are never fully implemented or water accounting schemes that guarantee new water demand but do not guarantee new water supply have not worked and will not work. It is time to put some of the 19,000 acre-feet of state water to work. It is time to get serious about long-term regional water supply planning.

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



MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The Motley Fool

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You Won't Believe What We Found Inside The New 2015 Range

New Times / News

The following articles were printed from New Times [newtimeslo.com] - Volume 30, Issue 13

Share:   

Nipomo CSD accused of violating Brown Act

BY CHRIS MCGUINNESS

If plans for development at Nipomo's Blacklake Golf Resort weren't already controversial enough, one local man is taking the small South County town's Community Services District to court over it.

Nipomo resident Noel Heal filed a petition in SLO County Superior Court claiming that the CSD violated the state's public meeting laws during a discussion about Blacklake at its Aug. 12 [regular meeting](#).

At the crux of Heal's petition is a question over whether the CSD's manager and board of directors veered from the meeting's published agenda during a discussion about the CSD's intent-to-serve letter process, which the Blacklake development is currently in the midst of.

Intent-to-serve letters are sent by the CSD when a new development is proposed. The letters promise that the CSD will provide water, sewer, and solid waste disposal services, but only if the developer meets a laundry list of conditions. If the applicant meets those conditions, they receive a will-serve letter, which solidifies the promise of service for the project.

Seeking services from the CSD occurs parallel with seeking permits and an approval for development with San Luis Obispo County. According to a report attached to the CSD's Aug. 12 meeting agenda item on the issue, both the district and county usually attempt to "mesh" a series of application steps and conditions. But one section of the CSD's intent-to-serve policy can hamper larger development projects like Blacklake.

That policy states that once the applicant has the intent-to-serve letter, they have 240 calendar days to provide the CSD with written verification stating that the county deems the project application complete. If the time limit expires, and the applicant doesn't provide the CSD with that verification from the county, the intent-to-serve letter is terminated.

"For larger and more complex projects, the process of development review and approval can take years," the report noted.

The report stated that the CSD staff currently applies that 240-day termination as a "soft" deadline, as they recognize the length of time it actually takes to get such projects through the process at the county level.

The Blacklake Golf Resort development project is currently sitting square in the middle of that issue. The Nipomo CSD issued five such letters to Blacklake LLC on Oct. 22, 2014. Tentative plans for the project, headed by Blacklake owner and developer Rob Rossi, call for a 120-room hotel and as many as 100 new homes at Blacklake, while shrinking the golf course's size from 58 to 35 acres.

But roughly one year later, the county has yet to sign off on the project, and the 240-day window has lapsed. The project last went before the county in March, when the Board of Supervisors considered authorizing the initial processing of a proposed specific plan, general plan, and land use ordinance amendments for the Blacklake project. The supervisors ultimately [punted](#) the issue to January of 2016, after hearing concerns from some Blacklake residents against the project, as well as a request from Rossi to delay the decision—allowing him to further discuss his development plans with homeowners and resolve other issues identified by supervisors at the meeting.

Such was the state of the Blacklake project when the CSD board took up a discussion of the intent-to-serve letters at the

recent August meeting. The discussion of those issues was described on the district's meeting agenda as "intent-to-serve letter policy discussion," but didn't mention Blacklake specifically.

Heal's petition not only claims that the CSD board went beyond general discussion of the policy—including action that impacted Blacklake directly in a subsequent direction to staff—the petition alleges that this violated California's public meeting laws, known as the Brown Act, which in part states that "no action" can be undertaken taken by a governing body like the CSD board on any item not appearing on the agenda.

The board ended up passing a motion directing staff to review the current intent-to-serve letter policy and develop a proposal for review at a future staff meeting. However, the motion also included direction to the district staff to schedule a "discussion" of Blacklake intent-to-serve letters for January.

"There wasn't anything on the agenda about [the specific] letters," Heal said. "If you are going to talk about something and take action, it needs to be on the agenda."

Heal also claimed that the board's direction to staff on the Blacklake letters in effect extended the intent-to-serve past the expiration date, constituting an "action" by the board that wasn't on the agenda. Not properly agendizing such an item is problematic, Heal said.

"Because the board didn't describe this issue in the agenda of their [Aug 12] meeting, the topic was discussed and decided with very little public input," he wrote in a letter to Nipomo CSD board president on Sept. 9.

Michael LeBrun, Nipomo CSD's general manager, said he wasn't able to comment on the issue because of the ongoing litigation. The district's legal counsel, Michael Seitz, didn't respond to request for comment. In a Sept. 18 letter sent in response to Heal, Seitz argued that the board's motion to direct staff didn't constitute taking action, and therefore didn't violate the Brown Act. While Heal demanded the board take steps to correct the alleged violation, Seitz said he couldn't recommend such action to his clients "simply because there was no Brown Act violation, and the board took no action."

In his court petition, Heal asked the judge to order the CSD to essentially void any actions the board made on the item at the Aug. 12 meeting, and rule that the intent-to-serve letters discussed at the meeting which include the five from the Blacklake project and five others not associated with the project, be declared expired under the CSD's current policies. Neal said he wants the CSD to hold a new meeting with the item properly agendized.

"Holding a new meeting in full compliance with the Brown Act is still my No. 1 goal," Heal said. "But so long as the board continues to deny that their was any violation of the Brown Act, I plan to stay the course and let the judge decide who is right."

Staff Writer Chris McGuinness can be reached at cmcguinness@newtimeslo.com, or on Twitter at @CWMcGuinness.

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LOCAL VIEWPOINT

Water wars: Can South County collaborate?

BY PAAVO OGREN



Collaboration is one of the favorite buzzwords in government. In one word, it says we solved a problem by working together. It signifies success.

It's no surprise, however, that collaboration is a difficult undertaking in solving water resource problems. Water wars in the arid West are frequent. Groundwater litigation — trying to get the judge to take sides — is commonplace. Establishing alliances in political circles to seek favorable legislative decisions is only half the battle. Lawsuits, appeals and the California Environmental Quality Act are examples of tools often used that create twists and turns in how government decisions affect water resource management. Even proponents of private property rights that allow property owners to pump groundwater recognize they need government to achieve the results that they desire — i.e. the courts and a groundwater judge.

Take South County. The cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Pismo Beach recently decided further litigation is needed to protect their right to pump groundwater because overpumping is occurring on the Nipomo Mesa. The Mesa itself includes both public and private purveyors who pump and sell water to property owners and residents. Understandably frustrated, the cities simply want enforcement of prior court decisions. For help, they are asking the judge to prohibit new development on the Mesa and are seeking other water resource restrictions. They argue that the Mesa has failed to fulfill promises, overpumping is not just continuing but increasing, and the groundwater basin is in worse shape than ever.

Then there is county government. On Tuesday, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will consider updates to several water and land-use plans and ordinances. The proposed actions include continuing to allow new development

on the Mesa, provided that water usage is offset. In other words, don't allow the situation to get worse. Presumably, the county figures that South County cities, the Mesa and the judge will figure out how to make the situation better; the county just can't let it get worse.

This uncoordinated effort of governmental agencies taking different directions trying to solve the same problem is the opposite of collaboration. It is costly and counterproductive. County leadership will be important in developing water-supply options. Honest and realistic evaluation of problems and solutions by everyone is equally needed.

The Diablo Canyon Power Plant desalination project is one example of a supply alternative. Kudos to our 4th District supervisor, Lynn Compton, and the entire Board of Supervisors for unanimously pursuing this option. Likewise, waterreclamation projects are on the table. Both Pismo Beach and the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District, which treats wastewater from Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach and Oceano, are evaluating reclaimed water. The sense of urgency in South County for collaborating on multiple supply alternatives, and not just one, should be higher.

Ultimately, the solutions to water resource problems are achieved by individuals and organizations when they meet, confer and truly collaborate. Perhaps 2016 will take a turn and earnest efforts will prevail in South County.

Hopefully, pointing fingers and denial will subside, and sleeves will roll up and real solutions will be pursued. Yes, there will be a cost. Still, the cost and consequences of not collaborating will be far greater.

Paavo Ogren is general manager of the Oceano Community Services District. He formerly served as San Luis Obispo County public works director.

EDITORIAL

Board of Supervisors must act now to protect county's water supplies

SLO County supervisors should adopt groundwater protection measures Tuesday Agricultural offset requirement could be a model for other California counties Conservation program will put reasonable limits on development in Paso Robles groundwater basin, Nipomo Mesa

THE TRIBUNE EDITORIAL BOARD

Finally, a comprehensive water conservation plan for the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County comes to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday — an ordinance that, among other goals, is intended to stabilize the Paso Robles groundwater basin until a long-term management plan is in place.

We strongly urge the board to adopt it.

Not everyone will walk away satisfied — not by a long shot. Some will claim the plan infringes on property rights; others will say it doesn't go far enough.

But this package of measures — the result of literally years of work and many compromises — will at least provide some measure of protection to drought-stricken groundwater supplies.

That's especially critical in the Paso Robles basin, where many landowners have been forced to spend thousands of dollars to replace dried-up wells.

Parts of the proposal affect all unincorporated areas; for example, a waste prevention ordinance prohibits excessive irrigation of landscaping; washing down hard surfaces; and excessive runoff — measures that many communities have

already adopted.

The bulk of the program is primarily aimed at the Paso Robles basin and, to a lesser extent, the Nipomo Mesa, where groundwater supplies also are declining.

One of the most controversial measures would restrict new plantings of grapes and other crops in the Paso Robles basin. Farmers seeking to irrigate new crops would be required to offset the demand for water by conserving an equal amount of water elsewhere. They could, for example, take out a crop of thirsty alfalfa in order to plant grapes.

Farmers seeking offset clearances also would be required to meter new wells.

The offset requirement isn't new; it was the cornerstone of a two-year emergency ordinance that expired in August. During that period, however, several exemptions were granted to growers who had already invested in new plantings and for that reason, the offset requirement wasn't as effective as it might have been.

That won't be as much of a factor if the new program is adopted (some exemptions are still on the books, but those will eventually expire), which means it should be far more successful.

Keep in mind, it isn't just agriculture that would be affected. Developers of new housing in the affected areas would be required to conserve water as well, through plumbing retrofits and "cash for grass" programs.

But it's the ag offset component that stands out, and could serve as a model for other counties grappling with similar and even worse problems.

In some portions of the Central Valley, for example, overpumping has caused soil to subside to such an alarming degree that bridges and levees are being threatened. That's beginning to trigger calls for a ban on new wells.

San Luis Obispo County's proposed solution is far less drastic — it allows growth, but in those areas where groundwater basins are severely stressed, it requires meaningful conversation measures.

It's imperative that the Board of Supervisors approve the plan Tuesday — or we, too, could be looking at solutions that are far more severe.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Board set to consider new water conservation rules

County supervisors will weigh a controversial groundwater plan at Tuesday's meeting Paso Robles, Nipomo Mesa areas may face mandatory offsets for new water uses Proposal would replace a defunct emergency ordinance for the Paso basin

BY DAVID SNEED

dsneed@thetribunenews.com

How groundwater in the Paso Robles and Nipomo Mesa areas is managed could fundamentally change Tuesday.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will hold what is expected to be a daylong hearing to consider whether to establish a countywide water conservation program. The program's main feature: New uses of groundwater in the Paso Robles and Nipomo Mesa areas must be offset by an equal amount of conservation.

Conservation offsets can be attained in several ways, such as plumbing retrofits, turf removal and crop replacements.

The offset requirements for the Paso Robles groundwater basin would stay in effect until 2020, when a new state law requires a comprehensive sustainable groundwater management plan be adopted for the basin.

The deadline for a sustainable water plan for the Nipomo Mesa is not clear because it is part of the Santa Maria groundwater basin, which is in adjudication, said Cheryl Cochran, a county planner. Adjudication is a legal process in which water rights are determined by the courts.

The water conservation program replaces and expands a two-year emergency ordinance for the Paso Robles basin that expired Aug. 27. In addition to expanding the offset requirement to the Nipomo Mesa, the program adds provisions for collecting fees and requires meters on new wells in the two basins so groundwater use can be measured.

The water conservation program comes in the form of a series of county land-use amendments. It includes provisions to restrict wasteful water use, such as watering landscaping during the hottest times of the day in rural parts of the county.

"The amendments being considered were developed at the direction of the Board of Supervisors and have been recommended by the Planning Commission," said Jim Bergman, county planning director.

Supervisors have scheduled 3 1/2 hours for the hearing, which will include a staff presentation and public comment as well as time for deliberations. Past hearings about the water conservation program have drawn dozens of public speakers on both sides. County staff is expecting another big turnout Tuesday.

"We had five study sessions with the Planning Commission, so the public has been involved a lot with the planning process," Cochran said. "But because this is with the Board of Supervisors, we are expecting a lot of public interest."

Supporters of the water conservation program say it is needed because of four years of drought and more than a decade of dropping aquifer levels in many parts of the county. Critics say the program is unnecessary, ineffective and amounts to little more than government overreach.

If supervisors adopt the water conservation program, it would take effect 30 days later.

WATER & DROUGHT OCTOBER 27, 2015

Water conservation program adopted by SLO County supervisors

HIGHLIGHTS

Supervisors vote 3-2 to approve a plan for the Paso Robles, Nipomo Mesa areas

New groundwater uses must be offset by an equal amount of conservation

The county will investigate the effects of deep well drilling on aquifers



BY DAVID SNEED
dsneed@thetribunenews.com

How groundwater in the Paso Robles and Nipomo Mesa areas will be managed was fundamentally changed Tuesday.

Following a daylong hearing, a divided San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors adopted a countywide water conservation program. The main feature of the program is the requirement that new uses of groundwater in the Paso Robles and Nipomo Mesa areas must be offset by an equal amount of conservation.

The vote to adopt the program was 3-2 with supervisors Debbie Arnold and Lynn Compton voting no. Compton said she would rather pursue bladder dams in rivers and other measures to increase water supplies rather than relying solely on conservation.

The other supervisors said the water conservation program is not perfect but the Paso Robles basin is in crisis and something must be done to stop the damage.

“None of us up here want to deal with this, but here we are,” Supervisor Frank Mecham said. “I just can’t see the sense in doing nothing.”

In a news release issued after the meeting, Arnold said, “My concerns ... included the lack of any economic analysis being done, the added cost of regulation to small agricultural producers and rural landowners, and the use of deed restrictions on private property.”

Conservation offsets can be attained by several methods. These include plumbing retrofits, turf removal incentives and crop replacements.

NONE OF US UP HERE WANT TO DEAL WITH THIS, BUT HERE WE ARE. I JUST CAN'T SEE THE SENSE IN DOING NOTHING.

Supervisor nk Mecham

The offset requirements for the Paso Robles basin would stay in effect until 2020 when a new state law requires that a comprehensive sustainable groundwater management plan is adopted for the basin.

The water conservation program replaces and expands a two-year emergency ordinance for the Paso Robles basin, which expired Aug. 27. In addition to expanding the offset requirement to the Nipomo Mesa, the program adds provisions for collecting fees and requires that new wells in the two basins be metered to measure groundwater use.

The water conservation program comes in the form of a series of county land-use amendments. It includes provisions to restrict wasteful water use, such as watering landscaping during the hottest times of the day in rural parts of the county.

The supervisors also passed a motion directing staff to investigate the practice of deep drilling, in which wells can be drilled thousands of feet deep. Supervisors said the practice is a concern because deep aquifers take many years to replenish.

The hearing attracted about 30 people who gave public comment. They were split between those who supported the program and those who opposed it.

Supporters like Jan Seals of Paso Robles told of wells going dry and other problems in the basin. "The decline of the Paso basin is real and scary," she said.

Opponents like Bill Pelfrey of Templeton said the program will do nothing to solve the water crisis. "All of this is an end run around our property rights," he said.

The new program will go into effect in 30 days.

David Sneed: 805-781-7930, @davidsneedSLO



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SLO County needs equitable distribution of water

October 28, 2015

Opinion by SLO County Supervisor Debbie Arnold



Supervisor Debbie Arnold

Editors Note: The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 Tuesday to approve a County Water Conservation Program with supervisors Debbie Arnold and Lynn Compton voting no.

On Tuesday, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors took under consideration a proposed Countywide Water Conservation Program (CWWCP). The CWWCP was being offered as a tool to manage water basins countywide.

I am concerned that using this county planning document is not the most efficient way to manage the basins, in part because it does not

include all water users and primarily restricts the rural land owners.

Currently, we have three tools available to manage our water basins:

- (1) County Land Use (CWWCP)
- (2) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- (3) Adjudication

The CWWCP proposes regulatory solutions, creating an inequitable situation amongst property owners by mandating any new development pay offset fees. CWWCP only applies to some water users in the basin. Both SGMA and adjudication are more inclusive tools to manage the basins because they take into consideration all the water users, creating a more fair distribution of water.

It should be noted that after a two year moratorium via the Urgency Ordinance for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, it has been reported that only 5 acre-feet of water was saved through the offset program. Those who can afford the cost of this added regulation have the ability to improve their property, while those who cannot afford the added costs find themselves restricted.

My concerns with the CWWCP included the lack of any economic analysis being done, the added cost of regulation to small agricultural producers and rural landowners, and the use of deed restrictions on private property.

Instead of creating more regulation for property owners and asking county staff to spend more time and money on enforcement of the CWWCP, it was my hope that we would use our resources to work on our state mandated groundwater management plan.

I believe a SGMA compliant groundwater plan is the best means to create a fair distribution of water for all users while ensuring that our basin is balanced.

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4 Comments

just4fun 10/28/2015 at 11:18 am
 says: Well said Debbie! This is exactly why the BOS, acting as the Flood Control District is the WRONG choice to manage the Paso Basin. The BOS has time and again failed the residents of the Paso Basin and continues to do so. Why did Debbie and Lynn wait until yesterday to ask what the County has been doing for two years? Debbie, thank you for seeing the light and stating that this job is beyond the County's ability and pushing for a water district of affected and interested locals. I look forward to seeing you promote your new position.

(1) 1 Total Votes - 1 up - 0 down

Log in to Reply

Myself 10/28/2015 at 7:18 am
 says: Does anyone on the outside know what this entails.

(0) 0 Total Votes - 0 up - 0 down

Log in to Reply

fullsail 10/28/2015 at 12:41 am
 says: As County Staff pointed out several times, it wasn't 5 acre feet that was saved, it was 5 acre feet of water used for offsets at 1:1. Most likely, according to staff, there was a greater water savings as people didn't want to try to find an offset for proposed new development or expansion of plantings. Seems like the Urgency Ordinance worked in at least some ways to give the Basin a bit of a time out. It's just a shame that the vested rights exemptions resulted in so much planting which might have taken place over a longer timeframe anyway.

(2) 18 Total Votes - 10 up - 8 down

Log in to Reply

analyticone 10/28/2015 at 8:06 am
 says: How much planting is "so much"? Apples with apples. Your comment cannot be validated without figures.

(3) 9 Total Votes - 6 up - 3 down

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Leave a Comment

SLO County supes adopt new groundwater regulations

April Charlton acharlton@leecentralcoastnews.com ([https://santamariatimes-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/April Charlton](https://santamariatimes-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/April%20Charlton))

Oct 28, 2015

A split San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday to alter the way groundwater is managed on the Nipomo Mesa and in the Paso Robles area.

With a 3-2 vote, the board adopted a contentious conservation program requiring all new uses of groundwater in the two areas be offset by a 1-to-1 amount of conservation.

Fourth District Supervisor Lynn Compton, who represents Nipomo, and North County Supervisor Debbie Arnold voted against the new program.

Compton wanted the board utilize county money to pursue the possibility of using bladder dams during the upcoming winter, among other measures, to capture rainwater.

That water would then be added to the groundwater basins to increase supplies, rather than relying solely on conservation to address dwindling resources.

"I don't believe you can conserve your way to saving the basin," Compton said during the board's heated debate over whether to adopt the proposed conservation program for the two basins, which came after a nearly daylong hearing on the issue.

She also said the groundwater basin in Nipomo has been adjudicated through the courts — with offsets in place as a result — and if the users didn't like the way the basin is being managed, they could go back to court and let a judge work it out, which she said is presently happening.

"Who are we to say that we don't like that?" Compton said.

The Nipomo Community Services District also has requested to not be included in the new program, and Compton supported that request. However, her fellow supervisors did not.

"I don't think we should exempt Nipomo as a matter of equity," 2nd District Supervisor Bruce Gibson said.

Other key components of the program, which comes in the form of amendments to the county's land use ordinance and goes into effect in 30 days, includes metering new wells to measure their use and restricting outdoor watering during the hottest times of the day to prevent water waste.

April Charlton covers South San Luis Obispo County for Lee Central Coast Newspapers. Follow her on *Twitter@WordsDawn* (<https://twitter.com/WordsDawn>).

April Charlton ([https://santamariatimes-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/April Charlton](https://santamariatimes-dot-com.bloxcms.com/users/profile/AprilCharlton))

2015 Website Traffic Summary

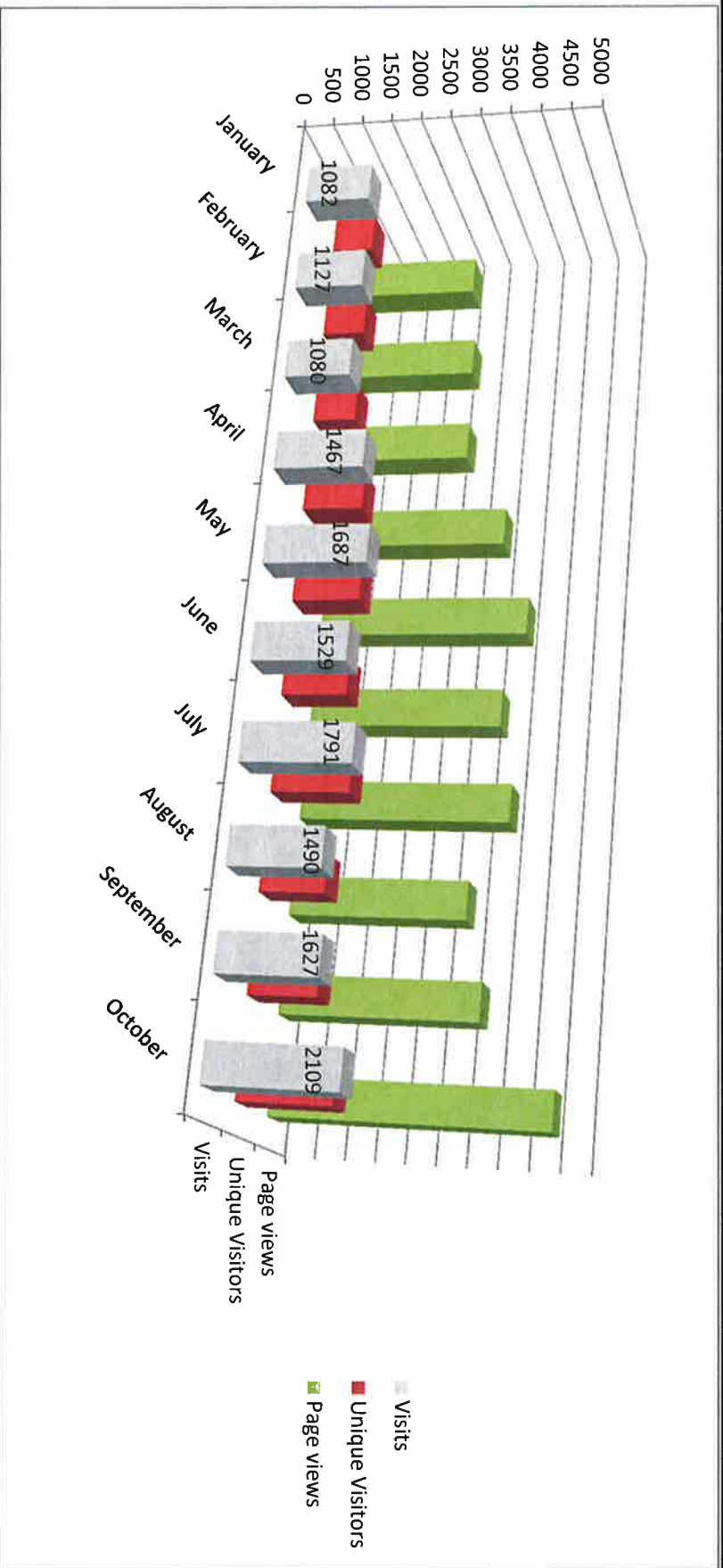
| Week | Visits | Unique Visitors | Pageviews | Pages/Visit | Avg. Visit Duration | Bounce Rate | % New Visits | Highest Traffic Day | Significant Actions During the Week Possibly Contributing to Traffic |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| 12/29/14 - 1/4/15 | 163 | 116 | 324 | 1.99 | 0:01:37 | 58.28% | 52.15% | Wed 12/31 | Low due to holiday |
| 1/5/15 - 1/11/15 | 303 | 211 | 604 | 1.99 | 0:01:31 | 56.77% | 50.17% | Mon 1/5 | |
| 1/12/15 - 1/18/15 | 234 | 165 | 458 | 1.96 | 0:01:32 | 51.28% | 50.85% | Tue 1/13 | |
| 1/19/15 - 1/25/15 | 249 | 190 | 450 | 1.81 | 0:01:40 | 58.23% | 53.82% | Fri 1/23 | |
| 1/26/15 - 2/1/15 | 253 | 190 | 518 | 2.05 | 0:01:42 | 51.78% | 56.92% | Wed 1/28 | |
| 2/2/15 - 2/8/15 | 296 | 213 | 599 | 2.02 | 0:01:36 | 59.46% | 46.96% | Mon 2/2 | |
| 2/9/15 - 2/15/15 | 255 | 184 | 493 | 1.93 | 0:01:12 | 54.51% | 52.55% | Mon 2/9 | |
| 2/16/15 - 2/22/15 | 316 | 225 | 595 | 1.88 | 0:01:34 | 57.28% | 49.05% | Tue 2/17 | |
| 2/23/15 - 3/1/15 | 251 | 182 | 525 | 2.09 | 0:01:53 | 48.61% | 49.80% | Tue 2/24 | |
| 3/2/15 - 3/8/15 | 250 | 180 | 469 | 1.88 | 0:01:08 | 53.60% | 46.40% | Tue 3/3 | |
| 3/9/15 - 3/15/15 | 245 | 184 | 496 | 2.02 | 0:01:11 | 51.02% | 53.47% | Mon 3/9 | |
| 3/16/15 - 3/22/15 | 236 | 185 | 455 | 1.93 | 0:01:39 | 60.59% | 58.90% | Mon 3/16 | |
| 3/23/15 - 3/29/15 | 250 | 190 | 666 | 2.66 | 0:02:31 | 53.20% | 58.40% | Mon 3/23 | |
| 3/30/15 - 4/5/15 | 318 | 245 | 642 | 2.02 | 0:01:20 | 53.77% | 58.49% | Fri 4/3 | Governor's drought regulation |
| 4/6/15 - 4/12/15 | 358 | 266 | 780 | 2.18 | 0:01:38 | 52.79% | 53.63% | Mon 4/6 | Governor's drought regulation, press release |
| 4/13/15 - 4/19/15 | 366 | 294 | 762 | 2.08 | 0:01:34 | 61.20% | 58.47% | Tue 4/14 | |
| 4/20/15 - 4/26/15 | 335 | 271 | 708 | 2.11 | 0:02:01 | 55.82% | 62.39% | Mon 4/20 | |
| 4/27/15 - 5/3/15 | 287 | 224 | 536 | 1.87 | 0:01:45 | 54.01% | 57.84% | Fri 5/1 | |
| 5/4/15 - 5/10/15 | 374 | 283 | 798 | 2.13 | 0:01:56 | 50.27% | 56.68% | Wed 5/6 | |
| 5/11/15 - 5/17/15 | 362 | 282 | 839 | 2.32 | 0:02:21 | 49.72% | 57.73% | Th 5/14 | |
| 5/18/15 - 5/24/15 | 460 | 325 | 955 | 2.08 | 0:02:20 | 58.48% | 49.35% | Wed 5/20 | Special Meeting announcement |
| 5/25/15 - 5/31/15 | 384 | 299 | 776 | 2.02 | 0:02:00 | 52.08% | 57.29% | Tue 5/26 | |
| 6/1/15 - 6/7/15 | 435 | 337 | 900 | 2.07 | 0:02:00 | 55.86% | 57.01% | Mon 6/1 | |
| 6/8/15 - 6/14/15 | 313 | 251 | 602 | 1.92 | 0:02:03 | 57.19% | 59.42% | Thu 6/11 | |
| 6/15/15 - 6/21/15 | 322 | 261 | 673 | 2.09 | 0:01:49 | 59.94% | 61.18% | Fri 6/19 | |
| 6/22/15 - 6/28/15 | 327 | 250 | 751 | 2.3 | 0:02:05 | 58.10% | 53.82% | Mon 6/22 | |
| 6/29/15 - 7/5/15 | 423 | 325 | 901 | 2.13 | 0:01:56 | 46.57% | 59.10% | Tue 6/30 | |
| 7/6/15 - 7/12/15 | 461 | 357 | 876 | 1.9 | 0:01:42 | 48.81% | 61.82% | Tue 7/7 | |
| 7/13/15 - 7/19/15 | 411 | 347 | 790 | 1.92 | 0:01:44 | 51.34% | 66.91% | Mon 7/13 | |
| 7/20/15 - 7/26/15 | 369 | 279 | 778 | 2.11 | 0:01:32 | 52.57% | 58.81% | Mon 7/20 | |
| 7/27/15 - 8/2/15 | 305 | 246 | 561 | 1.84 | 0:01:07 | 60.00% | 62.30% | Mon 7/27 | |

2015 Website Traffic Summary

| Week | Visits | Unique Visitors | Pageviews | Pages/Visit | Avg. Visit Duration | Bounce Rate | % New Visits | Highest Traffic Day | Significant Actions During the Week Possibly Contributing to Traffic |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| 8/3/15 - 8/9/15 | 330 | 259 | 684 | 2.07 | 0:01:50 | 55.15% | 56.67% | Fri 8/7 | |
| 8/10/15 - 8/16/15 | 313 | 246 | 641 | 2.05 | 0:01:51 | 49.84% | 56.23% | Tue 8/11 | |
| 8/17/15 - 8/23/15 | 351 | 266 | 635 | 1.81 | 0:01:23 | 57.55% | 54.42% | Mon 8/17 | |
| 8/24/15 - 8/30/15 | 329 | 278 | 642 | 1.95 | 0:01:56 | 55.32% | 66.26% | Thu 8/27 | |
| 8/31/15 - 9/6/15 | 523 | 401 | 1163 | 2.22 | 0:02:39 | 54.88% | 61.76% | Mon 8/31 | Brockovich posts/media |
| 9/7/15 - 9/13/15 | 314 | 228 | 586 | 1.87 | 0:01:14 | 52.55% | 48.41% | Tue 9/8 | |
| 9/14/15 - 9/20/15 | 320 | 253 | 647 | 2.02 | 0:02:12 | 52.81% | 60% | Mon 9/14 | |
| 9/21/15 - 9/27/15 | 402 | 299 | 743 | 1.85 | 0:01:28 | 61.19% | 58.96% | Mon 9/21 | |
| 9/28/15 - 10/4/15 | 366 | 278 | 755 | 2.06 | 0:02:06 | 55.46% | 56.83% | Wed 9/30 | |
| 10/5/15 - 10/11/15 | 708 | 561 | 1684 | 2.38 | 0:02:22 | 46.19% | 63.42% | Mon 10/5 | General Manager recruitment ads |
| 10/12/15 - 10/18/15 | 469 | 395 | 988 | 2.11 | 0:01:39 | 51.81% | 66.95% | Mon 10/12 | |
| 10/19/15 - 10/25/15 | 438 | 353 | 842 | 1.92 | 0:01:23 | 51.83% | 61.19% | Mon 10/19 | |
| 10/26/15 - 11/1/15 | 337 | 263 | 722 | 2.14 | 0:01:47 | 51.34% | 57.57% | Tue 10/27 | |

Website Traffic Summary

| 2015 | Visits | Chg from Prev Mo | Unique Visitors | Chg from Prev Mo | Page views | Chg from Prev Mo | Pages/Visit | Chg from Prev Mo | Avg. Visit Duration | Chg from Prev Mo | Bounce Rate | Chg from Prev Mo | % New Visits | Chg from Prev Mo |
|-----------|--------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| January | 1082 | | 705 | | 2122 | | 1.96 | | 0:01:35 | | 54.34% | | 52.77% | |
| February | 1127 | 4.16% | 713 | 1.13% | 2240 | 5.56% | 1.99 | 1.53% | 0:01:35 | 0.00% | 55.37% | 1.90% | 49.42% | -6.35% |
| March | 1080 | -4.17% | 724 | 1.54% | 2280 | 1.79% | 2.11 | 6.03% | 0:01:37 | 2.11% | 54.35% | -1.84% | 54.63% | 10.54% |
| April | 1467 | 35.83% | 1011 | 39.64% | 3051 | 33.82% | 2.08 | -1.42% | 0:01:41 | 4.12% | 55.96% | 2.96% | 58.01% | 6.19% |
| May | 1687 | 15.00% | 1126 | 11.37% | 3563 | 16.78% | 2.11 | 1.44% | 0:02:06 | 24.75% | 53.11% | -5.09% | 55.25% | -4.76% |
| June | 1529 | -9.37% | 1085 | -3.64% | 3241 | -9.04% | 2.12 | 0.47% | 0:02:01 | -3.97% | 56.70% | 6.76% | 57.36% | 3.82% |
| July | 1791 | 17.14% | 1299 | 19.72% | 3520 | 8.61% | 1.97 | -7.08% | 0:01:37 | -19.83% | 51.20% | -9.70% | 52.20% | -9.00% |
| August | 1490 | -16.81% | 1076 | -17.17% | 2935 | -16.62% | 1.97 | 0.00% | 0:01:48 | 11.34% | 54.56% | 6.56% | 59.66% | 14.29% |
| September | 1627 | 9.19% | 1129 | 4.93% | 3280 | 11.75% | 2.02 | 2.54% | 0:01:58 | 9.26% | 55.75% | 2.18% | 57.22% | -4.09% |
| October | 2109 | 29.63% | 1542 | 36.58% | 4546 | 38.60% | 2.16 | 6.93% | 0:01:52 | -5.08% | 50.45% | -9.51% | 61.93% | 8.23% |
| November | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



2015 Facebook Summary

| Week | New Users | Comment Likes | Comment Shares | User Posts | *Content Views | Most Popular Post |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 6/19/15 - 7/16/15 (28 days) | 4 | 18 | 0 | 4 | 819 | Supplemental Water has arrived in #Nipomo! "This is truly a monumental accomplishment for the District. This project will increase District water supply reliability for generations to come." www.ncsd.ca.gov (210 views) |
| 7/17/15 - 8/6/15 (21 days) | 2 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 390 | California #drought: Inside a Home without Water Families are having to make tough choices in many California communities. #brownisthenewgreen (51 views) #Nipomo CSD received two prestigious awards from American Society of Civil Engineers (#ASCE)! @ASCETweets www.ncsd.ca.gov (49 views) |
| 8/7/15 - 9/3/15 (28 days) | 6 | 27 | 0 | 18 | 857 | GOOD NEWS! The State has just announced \$30 Million in #rebates to help replace old toilets and turf! The rebates are for up to \$2,000 for turf replacement and \$100 for toilets. Read more and apply for your rebate here: http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com/ (109 views) |

2015 Facebook Summary

| Week | New Users | Comment Likes | Comment Shares | User Posts | *Content Views | Most Popular Post |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 9/4/15 - 9/24/15 (21 days) | 0 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 662 | The heat did not keep the District from celebrating the completion of the historic #Nipomo Supplemental Water Project with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony this morning. Thank you to Lynn Compton 4th District Supervisor, the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department, Mayor Alice Patino and City Council, Representative from Senator Bill Monning's office, the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce and the many others that came out to celebrate with us. (95 views) |
| 9/25/15 - 10/8/15 (14 days) | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 156 | Check out these #waterwise landscape principles. #bewaterwise (37 views) |
| 10/9/15 - 10/22/15 (14 days) | 1 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 130 | Nipomo Community Services District added 6 new photos from October 10 to the album: Nipomo Octoberfest 2015. (27 views) |
| 10/23/15 - 11/5/15 (14 days) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 184 | City of Santa Maria Utilities Department Press Release regarding their temporary switch to groundwater beginning this Friday, the 30th. (75 views) |

2015 Twitter Summary

TWITTER

| Week | New Followers | Re-tweets (shared) | Mentions/ Favorites (comments) | Link Visits (visits to links) | Content Views (Impressions) | Most Popular Post |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 4/3/15 - 4/16/15 (14 day period) | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 705 | Saving water is increasingly important. Share what you are doing to conserve. #CADrought #EveryDropCounts #savewater http://fb.me/3YFdOISC (182 views) |
| 4/17/15 - 5/7/15 (21 day period) | 6 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 1,200 | "We need to stop pretending we have lots of water." A humorous look at our serious drought. #CADrought #savewater http://fb.me/3esmPdh59 (88 views) _____ Its South County Sanitary's clean-up week. Check out the flyer for more information. #cleanupweek #nipomo... http://fb.me/3icMkQjps (82 views) |
| 5/8/15 - 5/21/15 (14 day period) | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1,100 | Remember, State regulations prohibit watering 2 days following rain. Turn off those sprinklers! #savewater #Cadrought (270 views) _____ New Press Release: Technical Group Releases Spring 2015 Index; Groundwater in Severe Shortage Condition; Meeting Thur http://ncsd.ca.gov (109 views) |
| 5/22/15 - 6/4/15 (14 days) | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1,600 | New NCSD Press Release: Board Declares Stage III Water Shortage Conditions and Moves Forward with Response Plan... http://fb.me/4qYkvlgw (172 views) |
| 6/5/15 - 6/18/15 (14 days) | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 986 | Is it raining at your house? We see some sprinkles here at the District office! Remember to turn off those irrigation systems. (111 views) |

2015 Twitter Summary

TWITTER

| Week | New Followers | Re-tweets (shared) | Mentions/ Favorites (comments) | Link Visits (visits to links) | Content Views (Impressions) | Most Popular Post |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 6/19/15 - 7/16/15 (28 days) | 10 | 1 | 5 | 24 | 2,600 | Two opportunities tomorrow to hear more about the arrival of supplemental water and our drought response. #Nipomo pic.twitter.com/N57zwMtzXw (277 views) |
| 7/17/15 - 8/6/15 (21 days) | 7 | 6 | 11 | 12 | 2,100 | Thx @bradpomerance for hosting #Nipomo CSD GM Michael LeBrun on #CharterLocalEdition #watermanagement during #drought http://ow.ly/PUFhb (338 views) |
| 8/7/15 - 9/3/15 (28 days) | 9 | 10 | 6 | 15 | 2,300 | The State has just announced \$30 Million in rebates for #turfreplacement and toilets! Apply for your rebate here: http://ow.ly/QSale (245 views) |
| 9/4/15 - 9/24/15 (21 days) | 6 | 6 | 12 | 11 | 2,000 | The heat didn't keep NCSd from celebrating #Nipomo's historic Supplemental Water Project with a Ribbon Cutting today pic.twitter.com/7dC4sqagHg (260 views) Thank you @bradpomerance for having Director Eby on #CharterLocalEdition recently! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=re-EINdtdNo&feature=youtu.be ... (242 views) |
| 9/25/15 - 10/8/15 (14 days) | 7 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1,200 | #Nipomo CSD Director of Engineering & Operations Receives Prestigious Award @ASCETweets #ASCE pic.twitter.com/rmeOOoltpU (178 views) |

2015 Twitter Summary

TWITTER

| Week | New Followers | Re-tweets (shared) | Mentions/ Favorites (comments) | Link Visits (visits to links) | Content Views (impressions) | Most Popular Post |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 10/9/15 - 10/22/15 (14 days) | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 810 | The Agenda and Packet for the October 14, 2015 Regular Board meeting has been posted on the District's website.... http://fb.me/7B56NbEMm (106 views) |