

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: MARIO IGLESIAS
GENERAL MANAGER



DATE: April 6, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM
F
APRIL 12, 2017**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ITEM

Standing report to your Honorable Board -- *Period covered by this report is March 19, 2017 through April 8, 2017.*

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Administrative

The District encourages residents to provide reports of any observed water waste. During the wetter winter months, there are fewer calls about water wasting. March calculations will be presented at the April 26, 2017 Board Meeting.

Office Activities

	Feb-17	Jul-16/Feb-17
Reports of water waste followed up on	0	2
Leak Adjustments	4	17
Leak Adjustment Amount	\$6,010	\$9,420

Water Resources

1) Total Production (AF)

	Mar-17	Year to date July 16-Mar 17
Groundwater Production	48.0	640.7
Supplemental Water Imported	<u>72.7</u>	<u>638.8</u>
Total System Demand	<u>120.8</u>	<u>1,279.5</u>

In March 2017, NCSD imported 72.2 AF of water over the 31 day period averaging 531 gallons per minute for a daily total of over 765,000 gallons per day. For the nine months, July through March, the District imported 638.8 AF of supplemental water. NCSD is 39 AF over the minimum scheduled take of 600 AF for this time period. For Fiscal Year 2017, NCSD is obligated to take or pay for a minimum of 800 AF from the City of Santa Maria ("CSM"). To import this amount of water, NCSD must average 66.7 AF per month from CSM. NCSD is meeting this target.

2) Production vs. 23%* State Reduction Target in Acre Feet (AF)

	Mar-17	Year-to-Date July 16-Mar 17
2017 Production Totals	120.8	1,279.5
2013 Production Totals	<u>185.5</u>	<u>1,884.0</u>
2017 over 2013 Total Reductions	<u>64.7</u>	<u>604.5</u>
Percentage Reduction	34.9%	32.1%
State Reduction Mandate	<u>23.0%</u>	<u>23.0%</u>
Difference in Percent Reduction vs. Targeted Reduction	<u>11.9%</u>	<u>9.1%</u>

**State Regulatory Offices accepted NCSD's self-certifying calculations and reduced water conservation levels from 28% to 23%*

For March 2017, the community's water conservation effort exceeded the month-to-month State-mandated reduction by nearly 12%. This reduction brings the cumulative State-mandated reduction to 32.1%, 9% greater than State mandated.

3) GW Only Production vs. NMMA reduction target for the period (AF)

	Mar-17	July 16-Mar 17
Total GW Production	48.0	640.7
5-year Average GW Production (2009-2013)	<u>185.5</u>	<u>1,848.5</u>
Reduction	<u>137.5</u>	<u>1,207.8</u>
GW Reduction Percentage	74.1%	65.3%
Target Reduction per NMMA	<u>50.0%</u>	<u>50.0%</u>
Difference in Percent vs. Targeted Reduction	<u>24.1%</u>	<u>15.3%</u>

Table 3 does not include the 33.3% purveyor credit. Refer to Table 4 for the calculated groundwater pumping reduction NCSD claims for this time period.

4) NCSD GW Reduction

The District's purveyor customers, GSWC and WMWC, each claim 16.66% (cumulatively 33.33%) of the imported water NCSD brings onto the basin through the NSWP. Of the 800 AF minimum imported water from the CSM, 266.6 AF will be credited to these two purveyor customers. The credited amount must be added to the District's groundwater pumping total every month to reflect the groundwater pumped by these customers in-lieu of taking imported water from the District.

4) NCSW GW Reduction (NCSW GW Well Production plus Purveyor Credit) - (AF)

	Mar-17	July 16-Mar 17
NCSW GW Well Production	48.0	640.7
Purveyor Customer Credit (33.3% of Import Water)	<u>24.2</u>	<u>212.9</u>
NCSW Total Calculated GW Production	72.3	853.6
5-year Average GW Production (2009-2013)	<u>185.5</u>	<u>1,848.5</u>
NCSW Percentage of GW Reduction	61.0%	53.8%

The District reduced groundwater pumping by 61% for the month of March compared to the 5-year average from 2009 to 2013. Taking into consideration the above referenced purveyor customer credit the District can claim a cumulative groundwater pumping reduction for the first nine months of fiscal year 2017 of 53.8%. At the current Stage IV level of NMMA’s Water Shortage Condition and Response Plan, the District must reduce its dependency on groundwater by 50% for the year, a goal the community has achieved.

Rainfall Gauge

Rainfall Summary (Reported in inches)	Nipomo East (Dana Hills Reservoirs)	Nipomo South (Southland Plant)
March 2017 Total	2.01	0.95
July-2016 through March. 31, 2017 (Seasonal Total)	30.77	22.22
Average Annual Year Rainfall	18	16

Safety Program

- No accidents or incidents to report.

Public Outreach

- The following Public Outreach Program materials are attached:
 - 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

1. San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority seeking nominations for its Board of Directors.

Supplemental Water Capacity Accounting

The District is not currently accepting applications for new water service.

Supplemental Water Available for Allocation	500	AFY
Supplemental Water Reserved (Will Serve Letters Issued)	-23.2	AFY
Subtotal Net Supplemental Water Available for Allocation	476.8	AFY
Supplemental Water Assigned (Intent-to-Serve Issued)	-180.4	AFY
Total Remaining Supplemental Water Available for Allocation	296.4	AFY

This information is accurate up to March 31, 2017.

Connection Report

The Connection Report is current through February 2017. This table is updated the second Board Meeting of the month, so updates will be provided at the April 26 Board Meeting.

Nipomo Community Services District
 Water and Sewer Connections

	16-Jul	16-Aug	16-Sep	16-Oct	16-Nov	16-Dec	17-Jan	17-Feb
Water Connections (Total)	4352	4355	4365	4365	4367	4368	4364	4365
Sewer Connections (Total)	3137	3139	3149	3149	3153	3154	3154	3155
New Water Connections	0	3	10	0	2	1	-4*	1
New Sewer Connection	0	2	10	0	4	1	0	1
Galaxy & PSHH at Orchard and Division Sewer Connections billed to the County	468	468	468	468	469	469	469	469

*4 irrigation meters were shut and locked.

Meetings (March 19 through April 8)

Meetings Attended (telephonically or in person):

- Mar 19, St. Joseph's Spring Festival
- Mar 21, LMD Presentation Review
- Mar 21, Public Information Director
- Mar 21, Rate Prep with Tuckfield
- Mar 22, Rotary
- Mar 22, Regular Board Meeting
- Mar 22, Management Team
- Mar 22, LMD Community Meeting
- Mar 23, Rate Prep with Tuckfield
- Mar 23, NMMA-TG Meeting

- Mar 25, AWWA Proctor Training
- Mar 27, SCAC
- Board Officer Meeting
- Mar 28, Public Info Program Update
- Mar 29, Rotary
- Mar 29, CSDA Quarterly Meeting
- Mar 30, Rate Prep Tuckfield
- Mar 31, Prep for Deposition Benham Case
- April 3, Deposition
- April 3, Board Officer Planning
- April 4, Rate Prep Tuckfield
- April 4, Benham Case Prep w/Attorney
- April 5, Management Team
- April 5, Rotary
- April 5, IRWM, SLO Library
- April 5, Eng/Admin Meeting
- April 6, Public Info Program Update
- April 6, Chamber of Commerce Event
- April 8, Kids Day – Nipomo Regional Park

Meetings Scheduled (April 9 through April 15):

- April 11, Public Information Director
- April 11, Ad Hoc Committee BL Review
- April 12, Rotary
- April 12, Regular Board Meeting
- April 12, SLO County OES
- April 12, County Admin – Community Meet
- April 13, Finance & Audit Committee Meeting
- April 13, Administration Committee Meeting
- April 14, County Training – Advisory Board
- April 14, Management Team

Water Resource Meetings

- NMMA-TG: April 14th @ 10:00 AM, NCSD Office
- RWMG: June 7th @ 10:00 AM, SLO Library
- WRAC: May 3rd @ 1:30 PM, SLO Library
- NMMA Purveyor Meeting: April 24th @ 1:00 PM
- NCMA/NMMA Managers Meeting: April 28th @ 1:30

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction and input from your Honorable Board

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Public Outreach Program Materials

April 12, 2017

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT A

**NCS D Outreach Summary
April 2017**

Date Started	Outreach	Description	Status	Date Completed
2/2/2016	Blacklake Outreach	Outreach plan for Blacklake Master Plan	In Progress	
10/25/2016	Customer Info Packets	Creation of information packets for new customers	In Progress	
1/3/2017	Rate Study	Outreach plan for 2017 Rate Study	In Progress	
* 3/13/2017	Ad	Fix-a-Leak Week ad in 3/17 Santa Maria Times	Complete	3/13/2017
* 3/13/2017	E-Newsletter	March E-Newsletter	Complete	3/17/2017
* 3/15/2017	Manager's Column	Article for Manager's Column in Adobe Press, pub date 3/24	Complete	3/17/2017
* 3/20/2017	Chamber Email Blast	Conservation Tip for Chamber of Commerce weekly email update	Complete	3/20/2017
* 3/20/2017	Ad	Conservation ad in 3/24 Adobe	Complete	3/20/2017
* 3/20/2017	Ad	Fix-a-Leak Week ad in 3/24 Adobe	Complete	3/20/2017
2/21/2017	Public Workshop	Presentation and displays for Vista Verde Landscape Maintenance District public meeting	Complete	3/22/2017
* 3/27/2017	Chamber Email Blast	Conservation Tip for Chamber of Commerce weekly email update	Complete	3/27/2017
4/3/2017	Ad	Conservation ad in 4/7 Santa Maria Times	Complete	4/3/2017
* 4/3/2017	Chamber Email Blast	Conservation Tip for Chamber of Commerce weekly email update	Complete	4/3/2017
3/17/2017	Social Media	Content posting	Complete	4/6/2017
3/17/2017	Website Updates	Home page; minutes; packets; etc	Complete	4/6/2017
3/24/2017	Kids Day	Preparation for District booth at event on 4/8	In Progress	
4/3/2017	Door Hanger	Door hanger updates	In Progress	
4/5/2017	Joshua Pump Station Reservoir Ribbon Cutting	Preparation for Ribbon Cutting event on 5/24	In Progress	

* Included in Packet

Did Erdogan, Trump hinder Dutch hopeful?

BY NICH COOPER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — If far-right Geert Wilders is looking for somebody to blame for his disappointing showing in the Dutch election, he could point to a couple of possible candidates: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and U.S. President Donald Trump.

That's the assessment of Matthijs Rooduijn, an assistant professor at Utrecht University who researches the rise of populist radical parties, and other Dutch political experts.

Erdogan's diplomatic spat with the Netherlands, which erupted over the weekend, allowed Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte to portray himself as a tough statesman on the eve of Wednesday's national vote, Rooduijn said Thursday. In addition, Trump's early chaotic days in the White House showed potential Wilders voters that putting populist policies into practice can trigger turmoil, he added.

But ultimately, Dutch politicians mauling into Wilders' traditional far-right territory may have cost the firebrand lawmaker the most votes.

In Wednesday's election for The Netherlands' 150-seat lower house of Parliament, Wilders' Party for Freedom, or PVV, got just over 13 percent of the vote. That was enough for 20 seats and second place behind Rutte's conserva-

tive VVD party, which easily won the election with 21 percent of the vote and 33 seats.

This means that Rutte almost certainly will lead the next Dutch government. On Thursday, the chairwoman of Parliament's lower house, Khadija Arib, appointed Edith Schippers of Rutte's VVD party to investigate possible government coalitions.

Analysts agree that Rutte likely got a boost in the crucial closing days of campaigning, when he plunged diplomatic relations with NATO ally Turkey into the deep freeze by refusing to allow two Turkish ministers to address gatherings about a Turkish referendum on constitutional reforms that would give Erdogan more power.

"It was a great opportunity for him to present himself as a strong leader, someone who really cares about Dutch pride," said Rooduijn. "That is something that many potential Wilders voters find really important."

The tumultuous start of Trump's time in office may have taken a toll on a Wilders, who has often been called the Dutch Donald Trump — a comparison that is increasingly backed away from in recent weeks.

"Initially, he wanted to be associated with Trump," Rooduijn said. "Then the way in which Trump behaved — many Dutch people do not agree with his policies and approach."

"Then the way in which Trump behaved — many Dutch people do not agree with his policies and approach."

Matthijs Rooduijn, an assistant professor at Utrecht University



Police officers take position Thursday after an attack in a high school student in Grasse, southern France. An armed high school student was arrested and police fanned out around a picturesque perfume capital in southern France after a school shooting that left four wounded.

Four shot, 10 wounded in French school shooting

A 16-year-old student opened fire at high school

BY GLAUB GARLEY
AND SYLVIA CORNET
Associated Press

PARIS — A 16-year-old student who had troubled relations with his peers opened fire at a high school in southern France on Thursday, wounding at least two other students and the principal who tried to intervene, officials said.

Police moved into the Alexis de Tocqueville school in the town of

Grasse — the country's picturesque perfume capital — and quickly arrested the still-armed suspect, identified by the Interior Ministry spokesman as Killian Barbey.

The government minister for victims' affairs, Juliette Meadot, told BFM television there were 4 people shot — three students and the high school principal — and 10 other victims.

The Grasse prosecutor said some of the victims were suffering from "emotional shock." None of the injuries was considered life threatening.

Prosecutor Fabienne Alzori said the young man —

armed with a rifle, several pistols and a small grenade — entered a classroom then left, "not finding the person or people he was searching for."

"The motivation of the student appears linked to bad relations with other students in this high school in which it appears he had some difficulty integrating," Alzori said.

She said there was no reason to suspect the shootings were terrorism-related, "whatever the origin of the terrorist enterprise." A national police official said earlier there did not appear to be any other suspects.

Investigators were now

trying to find out where did the suspect get the arms, she said.

Officials variously gave 16 and 17 as the age of the suspect. His Facebook page indicates he is 16.

After the suspect started shooting, students alerted the principal, who was wounded while "courageously" intervening, the prosecutor said. Some students only discovered shrapnel in their bodies once home, she said.

Education Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem who visited the school Thursday, called it "the crazy act of a fragile young man fascinated by firearms ... We just missed the worst."

Soldiers train for jungle warfare

BY ANDREW BEAUVY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — The U.S. Army soldiers finished wading across a stream in a rainforest in Hawaii, and they were soaked. Their boots and socks were water-logged and their clothes, hair and ears were caked with mud.

The soldiers were going through training at the first jungle school the Army has established in decades. The course is part of a program to train soldiers for exercises and potential combat on terrain that looks more like islands and nations in the Pacific than arid Afghanistan and the deserts of the Middle East.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Michael, deputy commander of the 25th Infantry Division, said the Army set up the school as its footprint was shrinking in Iraq and Afghanistan after more than a decade of war in those countries.

"The jungle school gives us that focus, a reminder that we're in the Pacific," Michael said. "If you're in the 25th, you understand you got to fight in the tough environment of the Pacific."

Ever since the turn of the 20th century, the Army has fought in tropical rainforests. It spent years, for example, battling Filipino insurgents after the 1898 Spanish-American War. The Vietnam War was fought in the jungle.

The Army gave up its jungle



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this March 1 photo, a soldier from the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team crosses a stream with a rope during jungle warfare training at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The Army set up a jungle training course amid a renewed focus on Asia and the Pacific after more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

training school in Panama in 1999 when the U.S. returned land there to the Panamanian government. Then jungle training lost priority in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks as the Army focused on preparing soldiers to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Now, surviving and fighting in tropical rainforests has captured the Army's interest again. In 2011, it set up a jungle school at Schofield Barracks, a sprawling Army post some 30 miles west of the soft sands of Waikiki. Its dense woods have a stream soldiers can practice crossing and cliffs for rappelling. First it needed instructors. The Army sent soldiers to military jungle schools in Brazil, Brunei and other

tropical spots to reacquire long-lost skills. Instructors-in-training posted over old Army jungle manuals.

"We had to relearn everything," said Staff Sgt. Ascencion Lopez, who was one of the first instructors at the school, which is part of the 25th Infantry Division's Lightening Academy.

Brian Price, a professor in diplomacy and military studies at Hawaii Pacific University, said the Army is training in the jungle so it will be ready before a crisis demands it.

"The Army has to train to fight everywhere — jungles, deserts, mountains and fair climates as well. This is kind of the missing piece of all that," he said.

Ireland's PM pushes on immigrants

BY CATHERINE LUCY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny is urging President Donald Trump to help Irish people living in the U.S. illegally, saying they just want to "make America great."

Kenny spoke at a luncheon at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday as part of a

series of events celebrating St. Patrick's Day, including a one-on-one meeting with Trump at the White House, where the two discussed immigration, trade and the Irish economy. In the evening, the pair participated in the annual shamrock ceremony, a decades-old tradition in which Trump was presented

with a bowl of Ireland's famous Guinness.

On people living in the U.S. illegally, Kenny said: "We would like this to be sorted. It would remove a burden of so many people that they can stand out in the light and say, now I am free to contribute to America as I know I can. And that's what people want?"

March 20 - 26, 2017

Fix a Leak Week

Save water, save money!

Check your sprinklers in the spring, summer and fall. Turn on the water and look for:

- 1** Symptoms of Poor Maintenance:
 - Erosion
 - Water runoff and swampy areas
 - Obstructions of spray
 - Plants performing poorly
 - Water spraying on the street or sidewalk
- 2** Problems with Sprinkler Heads and Valves:
 - Head clogged, caking, or broken
 - Valve leaking
 - Plants blocking sprinkler
 - Head pushed too far into the ground or spraying in the wrong direction
 - Sprinkler spacing not providing even coverage on turf grass
- 3** Low Water Pressure:
 - Pop up stem not extending
 - Spray not reaching intended watering area
 - Doughnut shaped dry areas in turf
- 4** High Water Pressure:
 - Pipe keeps breaking
 - Sprinkler nozzles blown off
 - Spray is misting or fogging or spray is overshooting desired area

For more information and tips, feel free to contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit us online at www.ncsd.ca.gov

Jessica Matson

From: Nipomo CSD <info=ncsd.ca.gov@mail253.atl221.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Nipomo CSD <info@ncsd.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:05 PM
To: Jessica Matson
Subject: News from NCSD: Are you a 2-percenter?



Friday, March 17, 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



Are you a 2-percenter?

A message from the General Manager



Nipomo CSD recently completed a customer satisfaction survey and found 54% of its customers believe the rate setting process is not satisfactory. 78% of these same customers rated the District's overall performance as favorable. The cost of service can be a difficult hurdle to overcome when trying to satisfy consumers. The District's rates are built on the predominant principle of charging only what it costs to provide the service. There is no other option.

The survey was not scientific. Statisticians would discount the information altogether because only 2% of the total pool of customers responded. Of the District's 4,300 water customers, only 87 people took time to answer the 25 question survey. So what can be learned from this small sample?

If we understand the limits of the information that was made available by the 2% that did respond, we can build a profile of this subgroup's sentiments. You as the reader can compare your sentiments against the sentiments of the profiled customers and judge for yourself the value of the data.

Based on the survey's six categories, the profile of the 2-percenter is: [Read more](#)

Conservation Update

State Regulatory Offices accepted the District's self-certifying calculations and reduced water conservation targets from 28% to 23%. The District's conservation efforts remain steady overall.

In February, the District produced 81 acre feet or about 26 Million gallons of water to meet customer demand. This equates to a **40.4% reduction** in overall production compared to February 2013. Additionally, thanks to the arrival of supplemental water in July 2015, groundwater pumping during February was **89% lower** than the 5-year average for February and therefore met the Stage IV 50% pumping reduction target*.

As always, [saving water saves money!](#)

**The District is currently in a Stage IV water shortage in accordance with the [Water Shortage Response and Management Plan](#). Information regarding groundwater levels will be available late spring/early summer.*



March 20 - 26, 2017

Fix a Leak Week



Save water, save money!

Check your sprinklers in the spring, summer and fall.
Turn on the valve and look for:

Symptoms of Poor Maintenance:

1

- Erosion
- Water runoff and swampy areas
- Obstructions of spray
- Plants performing poorly
- Water spraying on the street or sidewalk

Problems with Sprinkler Heads and Valves:

2

- Head clogged, leaking, or broken
- Valve leaking
- Plants blocking sprinkler
- Head pushed too far into the ground or spraying in the wrong direction
- Sprinkler spacing not providing even coverage on turf grass

Low Water Pressure:

3

- Popup stem not extending
- Spray not reaching intended watering area
- Doughnut shaped dry areas in turf

High Water Pressure:

4

- Pipe keeps breaking
- Sprinkler nozzles blown off
- Spray is misting or fogging or spray is overshooting desired area

For more information and tips, feel free to contact
the **Nipomo Community Services District** at
929-1133 or visit us online at www.ncsd.ca.gov



District Receives Accounting Excellence Award



In February, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) notified Nipomo CSD that the District's annual financial report for 2015-2016 qualified for and has received the Association's Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting. The annual financial report is audited by a third party.

The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Attainment of the Certificate represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The Association also specifically recognized District Finance Director and 25-year District employee, Ms. Lisa Bognuda with an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement for her instrumental role in the District achieving a level of accounting excellence.

This is the fourth year in a row the District applied for consideration and received the award. [Read more.](#)

Customer Feedback Valued



The District's mission is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Last fall the District launched its first customer satisfaction survey in an effort to hear from customers on a variety of subjects: Awareness of the District's Water Supply; Perception of Rates; Perception of Water Quality; Individual Water Conservation Behaviors; Sources of Information; and Emergency Preparedness.

Below is a snapshot of community perceptions based on a small sample.

Concerned with area water supply but are satisfied with District's efforts for securing a reliable source of water

Do not feel that the cost of service is reasonable and that the District sets rates fairly

Water quality at their home is acceptable

Conserved more water this year than in past years and would like to see an end to development and drought rates for high water users

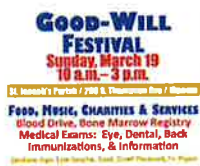
Confident that the District can provide services following an emergency

Feel well-informed and prefer communications via email and direct mail

Satisfied with the District overall

As the results are further analyzed, they will be shared with the public. To view the survey results summary, visit the District's website at www.ncsd.ca.gov.

The District aims to provide quality services for its customers and will continue to provide opportunities for feedback. Suggestions and comments are always welcomed by emailing info@ncsd.ca.gov.



Additionally, the District will have a booth at St. Joseph Parish's Goodwill Festival on Sunday, March 19th. [Read more.](#)

Come visit us!

Rebates Available

NCS D

[High-Efficiency Clothes Washer](#), \$75

County of San Luis Obispo

[Various Rebates](#)

[Turf Replacement](#) (Cash for Grass)

State of California

[Turf Replacement](#), Up to \$2,000

[Toilet](#), \$100

We welcome feedback and comments. Reach out to us using one of the links below and feel free to share with others.



Facebook



Twitter



Website



Email

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You are receiving this email because you opted in on our website.

Our mailing address is:

Nipomo Community Services District

PO Box 326

148 S. Wilson St.

Nipomo, CA 93444

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[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



http://santamariatimes.com/news/san_luis_obispo_county_news/inside-ncsd-when-will-my-water-bill-go-down/article_676684a7-1beb-59f1-a094-5ebb9f6445a1.html

INSIDE NCSD

INSIDE NCSD: When will my water bill go down?

Mar 22, 2017

This will be my final Manager's Column in the Adobe Press. It's a sign of the times. The costs of producing the free weekly Adobe Press outweigh the money it generates and it will no longer be published. You will, however, be able to read this column on Fridays on the Nipomo page in the Santa Maria Times. You can also find this column online at santamariatimes.com under San Luis Obispo County news.

Saving money and being aware of the environment are signs of the time as well. If you stop to think about it, money and the environment are directly connected. Reduce your demands on resources from the environment and you'll reduce your cash outlay. Consume less power, save money. Drive fewer miles, save money. All of this seems to make sense until you get to water. Use less water, pay more money. Water seems to buck the trend and it can be exasperating – a term my grandmother used a lot when describing something she just couldn't make sense of.

Grandma's not alone on this one. The community did a stellar job meeting the governor's mandate to cut water use. But water providers up and down the state not only had their water tanks and reservoirs drained, they had their cash reserve funds drained as well. In ironic terms, the proverbial rainy day money, that responsible agencies set aside to take care of unforeseen and unforeseeable problems, dried up.

Now that rain has finally started falling again, people are asking when water rates will start falling. I know from the expressions on customers' faces this is a hard pill to swallow, but water is not a manmade product – it is a finite resource.

There is only so much of it that we can readily use and then it's gone. We saw that vividly last summer as we drove by local reservoirs. Many water agencies experienced a 30 percent drop or more in budgeted water sales for the past several years. Budgeted water sales are built on historic consumption and matched with an anticipated revenue stream designed specifically to cover the cost of service. This is where I lose the attention of most customers. "When will my water bill go down" is the recurring question.

As a CSD (Community Services District), there is no profit built into the water/revenue relationship. This is where government and private enterprise part ways. When more revenue is generated by higher than budgeted water sales, the proceeds go towards building reserves - not to someone's pocket.

When reserves reach a level commensurate to the board-defined bill policies or the required bond covenants, rates don't rise as much. When droughts hit and revenues fail to reach the budget levels, then reserves are tapped and rates go up higher to recover the spent reserves and the reduced level of water sales.

We can't reach a point where our product delivery is no longer viable in the market place. We can't stop providing the essential utility services to our community even if the cost of services rise. Exasperating!

Stay connected with NCSD, your Community Services District, and give us your feedback. Here's how:

- Sign up to receive District news via email by visiting the www.ncsd.ca.gov

- Look for these monthly columns and other District information in the Santa Maria Times
- Follow the District on Facebook and Twitter by searching NipomoCSD
- Check the "What's Happening" section on the District website's homepage at www.ncsd.ca.gov
- Visit our booth at a Nipomo community event
- Provide feedback by emailing info@ncsd.ca.gov

Until next time...

Mario Iglesias 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. For more information, visit <http://nipomocsd.com>. Follow NCSD on Facebook or on Twitter @NipomoCSD.

Currents

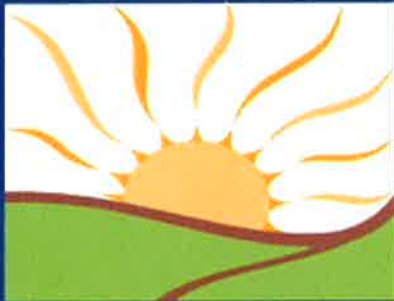


53 big colleges where it takes the most students more than four years to graduate



Photos: Massive fire triggers Interstate collapse in Atlanta

From: Nipomo Chamber of Commerce <info@nipomochamber.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Jessica Matson
Subject: Weekly News - March 21, 2017



Nipomo
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Weekly News

March 21, 2017

Lunch Time!

It's time for the Chamber Luncheon this Thursday, March 23rd. Where is it? Who's speaking? What are my lunch choices? What's the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow? All of these questions and more are readily answered with a cursory visit to the new and improved NipomoChamber.org. You can fill your head with knowledge and even purchase tickets all in the same place.

While you're there check out the [Directory](#). Scrolling through you'll see some stylish and informative listings like Alison's for Monarch Wedding Planning and some not-so-exciting (Sharon). If you're a Chamber member and have a listing it's easy as pie to make yours dynamic and not bring shame to your industry.

1. Go to NipomoChamber.org.
2. In the top right corner click on the login silhouette.
3. On the login page, click the "Forgot Password" link

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admin@nipomochamber.org

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6. Once in there please click the "Edit Profile" button and update all your info. The more complete you make this section, the more exposure you'll get.

When you get to your profile, it may show your membership being overdue. We lost some data in the transition, so please contact us if that info is wrong.

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March 20 - 26, 2017

Fix a Leak Week



Save water, save money!

Check your sprinklers in the spring, summer and fall.
Turn on the valve and look for:

Symptoms of Poor Maintenance:

1

- Erosion
- Water runoff and swampy areas
- Obstructions of spray
- Plants performing poorly
- Water spraying on the street or sidewalk

Problems with Sprinkler Heads and Valves:

2

- Head clogged, leaking, or broken
- Valve leaking
- Plants blocking sprinkler
- Head pushed too far into the ground or spraying in the wrong direction
- Sprinkler spacing not providing even coverage on turf grass

Low Water Pressure:

3

- Popup stem not extending
- Spray not reaching intended watering area
- Doughnut shaped dry areas in turf

High Water Pressure:

4

- Pipe keeps breaking
- Sprinkler nozzles blown off
- Spray is misting or fogging or spray is overshooting desired area

For more information and tips, feel free to contact
the **Nipomo Community Services District** at
929-1133 or visit us online at **www.ncsd.ca.gov**



Judge to weigh sentence for soap star charged with DUI

Probation or prison options for guilty plea

BY GINA KIM
gkim@centralcoastnews.com

Whether soap actress Jensen Buchanan receives probation or prison time — if she pleads guilty to charges filed in a DUI crash last summer — could be determined by a Santa Maria Superior Court judge next month.

Buchanan, 54, is charged with driving her Mercedes S550 under the influence, crashing into Bradley Asolas, of Camarillo, on Highway 154 near Baelton last May.

She reportedly crossed the double yellow line on the highway and slammed head-on into Asolas, who suffered major injuries and was airlifted to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Buchanan also faces special allegations of driving with a high blood alcohol level of 0.34, along with causing great bodily injury. She pleaded not guilty to the counts in October.

While there is no plea bargain in sight, the defense is seeking a probation sentence rather than prison time, which is what the prosecution has sought. On Buchanan's next court date April 5, Judge Gustavo Larayan will indicate what he believes is an appropriate consequence, if Buchanan



LEN WOOD, STAFF

Television soap opera star Jensen Buchanan appears in Santa Maria Superior Court last summer to face charges stemming from a DUI crash in May 2016.

is to plead to the charges. Then, during the future hearing in March 15 hearing, the prosecution also alleged that

"We have a lady who's got no criminal history, received tremendous treatment since the beginning of last May ... this type of incident would never occur again. She's actually now seeking a career to be a drug/alcohol counselor."

Dwight Gerin, who is representing Buchanan with Meryl Chambers and Joshua Lynn

Buchanan tampered with her SCRAM (tumble monitor) bracelet, which the defense vehemently denied.

"Your Honor, for the violation, we'll be requesting witnesses," began Dwight Gerin, who is representing Buchanan with Meryl Chambers and Joshua Lynn. "Our understanding is that, the SCRAM was [loose] so she went to officials, and they tightened it. There's no indication of alcohol, so if people assume there is a violation, we want witnesses to provide evidence on that issue."

Following the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Diaz said that "this is a case where a defendant deserves to go to prison based on the egregious facts of the case, along with the actions of the defendant, and the unfortunate consequences to the victim."

Outside the courthouse, Buchanan's attorneys voiced their

outrage about the SCRAM violation accusations, along with the prosecution's decision to seek a prison sentence for their client,

who, they noted, felt extreme remorse from the incident. "We have a lady who's got no criminal history, received tremendous treatment since the beginning of last May ... this type of incident would never occur again," Gerin said after the hearing. "She's actually now seeking a career to be a drug/alcohol counselor."

Lynn added there was no SCRAM violation and called the perceived accusation a "red herring."

That's a damaging thing to say without even one scintilla of evidence," Lynn said. "Nothing, zero, zip."

Gina Kim covers crime and courts for Santa Maria Times. Follow her on Twitter @gina_k210

Guadalupe loses fight in H-2A housing suit

BY GINA KIM
gkim@centralcoastnews.com

A jury ruled Thursday that the city of Guadalupe violated the constitutional rights of an apartment owner when it passed an urgency ban on boarding houses in 2014, causing a buyer to back out of purchasing the property to house seasonal farmworkers, resulting in serious financial losses.

The jury also found that when the city enacted the ban, officials intentionally violated Olivera St. LLC's constitutional rights when they singled out the apartment owners and buyer Steve Scaroni, and that the ordinance discriminated against seasonal farmworkers.

Guadalupe now must pay \$142,817 in damages to Olivera St. LLC, (a limited liability company in San Luis Obispo County) which owns La Plaza Apartments, a 74-unit complex located at 725 Olivera St. in Guadalupe. Currently, about 450 residents live at the complex, according to trial testimony.

However, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Jed Bebee ruled that the city does not need to nullify ordinances enacted in 2014, which the plaintiffs sought, in order to prevent the city from enacting similar regulations that may result in halting future H-2A housing development projects.

An H-2A worker comes from another country to work for a designated period — from two to 10 months — during which they carry an H-2A visa. After their time is up, the workers are required to return to their home country. While the farmworkers are in the United States, employers must provide housing and other essentials.

Following the verdict Thursday, which came after four weeks of testimony, the judge explained that the court backed the city's ordinance because he found it to be a valid regulation. He also determined the ordinance's purpose was to increase its density for certain zoning areas but, also, limit space to one resident per 500 square feet.

While Olivera St., LLC, lost its fight to have the or-

dinance thrown out, Dennis D. Law, of Andre, Morris & Buttery law firm, (who represented the plaintiffs), said he was "pleased with the jury's verdict."

"The jury fairly addressed Olivera's concerns with Guadalupe's actions," he said after the hearing. "Although the jury did not award the amount that fully accounts for Olivera's damages, its finding of unconstitutional conduct fully supports Olivera's claims."

Neither Guadalupe officials, or attorney Molly Thurmond of Hill, Heald & Connolly law firm in Santa Barbara, who represented the city, returned repeated contacts for comment by press time Friday. Councilwoman Gloria Robleska, in an email response, stated that the city will not be issuing any comments at this time.

The suit originated from a claim following the city's decision to pass an urgency ordinance in fall 2014 that prohibited the establishment of any boardinghouses on R-3 zoning properties within Guadalupe.

The law's function was to serve the public by avoiding overcrowding, displacement of current residents, the provision of necessary services such as water, sewage disposal, fire and police protection and the maintenance of the residential character of residential zones within the city, according to Thurmond.

During this time, Olivera St., was ready to strike a deal with buyer Scaroni, who reportedly intended to purchase the complex to use for H-2A housing.

In his complaint on Olivera St.'s behalf, Law contends that Guadalupe city officials found out about Scaroni's intent and hurriedly passed actions that discriminated against H-2A workers. The actions, Law claims, "prevented the sale of Olivera St.'s property from being finalized, so that the property could not be used as a boardinghouse, including housing Mexican national agricultural guest workers under the federal H-2A program."

Prior to the passage, R-3 properties could be used as boardinghouses that didn't require discretionary use permits.

Olivera St. alleged that the city failed to tell them about the ordinance, and had to find out from a third party.

After the ordinance passed, Scaroni canceled escrow, resulting in more than \$3 million in losses, which Olivera St. blamed on the city, according to the civil claim.

The ordinance limited occupancy in the property units to one residing occupant per 500 square feet per unit, and Scaroni himself said that he wouldn't have bought the property under those occupancy limits, the brief said.

"The ordinances were discriminatory because they singled out this property, and [Scaroni's] plan to use the property for H-2A housing of predominantly Mexican national guest workers," the complaint said.

In response, Thurmond claimed the city had legal justification for all its actions and denied any discriminatory acts against a single buyer.

The purpose of the urgency ordinance was to prohibit the establishment of any boardinghouse use in any zone in the city for 45 days, according to Thurmond.

Later, the city enacted a permanent ordinance that detailed more rules for boardinghouses, and required conditional use permits for any boardinghouses holding more than six people in any R-3 zone in the city.

Thurmond's brief further alleged that the ordi-

nances were enacted after Guadalupe learned that Scaroni proposed to buy Olivera's 74-unit condominium intended to use to house farmworkers, as he informed them that up to 15 workers may be housed in each unit.

In turn, the city rapidly moved to create a mechanism by which to reasonably regulate boardinghouses.

Thurmond also stated that neither Olivera St. nor Scaroni ever sought to utilize La Plaza for boardinghouses, failed to apply for a conditional use permit, and

never told the city enough information regarding the intended use, or occupancies.

Thurmond defended Guadalupe's actions and said H-2A workers were not singled out for disparate treatment and claimed Olivera St. has no "racial identity, nor it is a farm labor contractor or employer, thus cannot be a direct target of any alleged racial discrimination."


Gina Kim covers crime and courts for Santa Maria Times. Follow her on Twitter @gina_k210



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SM man arrested in cellphone theft

A Santa Maria man was arrested Thursday after he allegedly tried to sell a stolen cellphone back to the man he thought owned it but was really an undercover officer.

Armando Acosta, 41, was booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail on suspicion of misappropriating lost or stolen property and possession of stolen property, said Sgt.



Acosta

Chad Pfarr, of the San Luis Obispo Police Department. The case began at 3:40 a.m. March 13 when San Luis Obispo officers were called to the Taco Bell at Santa Rosa Street and Olive Court to investigate the theft of an iPhone 6s Plus, Pfarr said.

Working with the victim, officers tracked the phone to several locations in San Luis Obispo and Arvia Beach before it went dead.

Three days later, a friend of the victim received a brief call from a man who

said he had the phone and was willing to sell it back to the owner, Pfarr said.

The following day, an undercover officer posing as the victim arranged to meet the suspect at 12:15 p.m. in a public parking lot in the 1800 block of North Broadway in Santa Maria to pay for the phone's return.

Pfarr said after the undercover officer met the suspect and confirmed he was in possession of the stolen phone.

Acosta was taken into custody and transported

back to San Luis Obispo for booking.

"The suspect in this case believed he would be able to sell the stolen phone for profit," Pfarr said. "The Police Department wants to remind citizens that cellphones, once reported stolen, cannot be activated when taken to a cellphone provider."

He asked anyone with information about the crime to call the Police Department at 781-7312 or Crime Stoppers at 549-7867 to leave an anonymous message.

INSIDE NCSO

When will my water bill go down?

This will be my final Manager's Column in the Adobe Press. It's a sign of the times. The costs of producing the free weekly Adobe Press outweigh the money it generates and it will no longer be published.

You will, however, be able to read this column on Fridays on the Nipomo page in the Santa Maria Times. You can also find this column online at santamariatimes.com under San Luis Obispo County news.

Saving money and being aware of the environment are signs of the time as well. If you stop to think about it, money and the environment are directly connected. Reduce your demands on resources from the environment and you'll reduce your cash outlay. Consume less power, save money. Drive fewer miles, save

money. All of this seems to make sense until you get to water. Unless water, pay more money. Water seems to buck the trend and it can be exasperating - a term my grandmother used a lot when describing something she just couldn't make sense of.

Grandma's not alone on this one. The community did a stellar job meeting the governor's mandate to cut water use. But water providers up and down the state not only had the water tanks and reservoirs drained, they had their cash reserve funds drained as well. In ironic terms, the proverbial rainy day money, that responsible agencies set aside to take care of unforeseen and unforeseeable problems, dried up.

Now that rain has finally started falling again, people are asking when water rates will start falling. I know from the expressions on customers' faces

this is a hard pill to swallow, but water is not a manmade product - it is a finite resource.

There is only so much of it that we can readily use and then it's gone. We saw that vividly last summer as we drove by local reservoirs. Many water agencies experienced a 30 percent drop or more in budgeted water sales for the past several years. Budgeted water sales are built on historic consumption and matched with an anticipated revenue stream designed specifically to cover the cost of service. This is where I lose the attention of most customers. "When will my water bill go down" is the recurring question.

As a CSD (Community Services District), there is no profit built into the water/revenue relationship. This is where government and private enterprise part ways. When more revenue

is generated by higher than budgeted water sales, the proceeds go towards building reserves - not to someone's pocket.

When reserves reach a level commensurate to the board-defined policies or the required bond covenants, rates don't rise as much. When droughts hit and revenues fail to reach the budget levels, then reserves are tapped and rates go up higher to recover the spent reserves and the reduced level of water sales.

We can't reach a point where our product delivery is no longer viable in the market place. We can't stop providing the essential utility services to our community even if the cost of services rise. Exasperating!

Stay connected with NCSO, your Community Services District, and give us your feedback. Here's how:

- Sign up to receive District

news via email by visiting the www.ncsd.ca.gov

- Look for these monthly columns and other District information in the Santa Maria Times
- Follow the District on Facebook and Twitter by searching NipomoCSD
- Check the "What's Happening" section on the District website's homepage at www.ncsd.ca.gov
- Visit our booth at a Nipomo community event
- Provide feedback by emailing info@ncsd.ca.gov Until next time...

Marlo Iglesias 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. For more information, visit <http://nipomocsd.com>. Follow NCSO on Facebook or on Twitter @nipomocsd.

Wetzell

From A1

November. It is so nice to have another generation of Danas at the Adobe.

Reminder: The Quasta Jazz Fusion is taking place on Friday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. at SLO Campus CPAC Experimental Theater. General admission is \$15, students \$10.

Reminder: The Nipomo Lions Club will

Caltrans replacing ADA ramps along Hwy 246 in Buellton

www.nipomocsd.com
www.nipomocsd.com

Buellton residents as well as those passing through the city can expect to deal with narrowed traffic lanes and congestion through the summer as a Caltrans capital preventive maintenance project continues on Highway 246.

The pavement preserva-

tion project will improve the roadway paving from just under half a mile east of the Santa Rosa Creek Bridge to the junction with Highway 101 as well as bringing sidewalks in the city up to Americans with Disabilities Act standards, a Caltrans spokeswoman said.

"We will be upgrading noncompliant curb ramps and installing any that are

missing," said Jessica Biro, public information officer for Caltrans District 5. "We will also be constructing a sidewalk on the eastbound side of Highway 246 between Avenue of the Flags and Highway 101."

Currently, crews are demolishing old curbs and cross-intersection gutters and constructing the ADA compliant ramps along the

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Orchids

From A1

for years past.

The society is staging its 22nd annual Central Coast Orchid Show and Sale from March 31 through April 2 in the South County Regional Center, 800 W. Birch St., Arroyo Grande. Friday's show will be a preview/benefit event from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., with limited tickets that must be purchased in advance.

"Orchid Hunters" is this year's show theme.

"It's the best small show in the state," Asbell said, noting the Orchid Society, which has members from Santa Maria to the Five Cities to San Luis Obispo, always has high-quality

collections and exhibits at its yearly event. "This is one of the finest orchid shows anywhere."

The popular three-day event, which draws a few thousand people over the course of the weekend, will include orchid culture and repotting demonstrations. "Plant doctors" also will be on hand to provide tips and information to help novice growers keep their orchids alive and blooming.

Asbell said the No. 1 question he's asked during orchid shows is, "Why did my orchid die? What did I do wrong?" However, unless the person can give him something to work with, like the fact they watered the plant every day, then it's too hard for him to determine what went awry.

"I have to know what I am talking about," Asbell said. "I have to have a little help; it's so vast. Ask questions, that's the smart thing to do."

He also said if a person can't successfully grow a cymbidium, then they probably can't grow anything, since they're so easy to take care of, and should stick to admiring orchids.

"The resilience it has is incredible," Asbell said about cymbidium orchids, which produce a long spray of single blooms. "Add humidity. That's the secret!"

In addition to learning growing tips and techniques at the upcoming show and sale, individuals can peruse and purchase various orchid books and orchid-growing supplies that will be avail-

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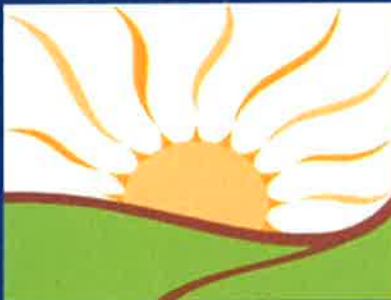
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Jessica Matson

From: Nipomo Chamber of Commerce <info@nipomochamber.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:27 PM
To: Jessica Matson
Subject: Weekly News - March 29, 2017



Nipomo
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Weekly News

March 29, 2017

Hello Nipomo!

There's always a lot going on in our fair town, but the next few weeks are busier than usual. Scroll down or check the [Nipomo Chamber](#) website for all the fun!

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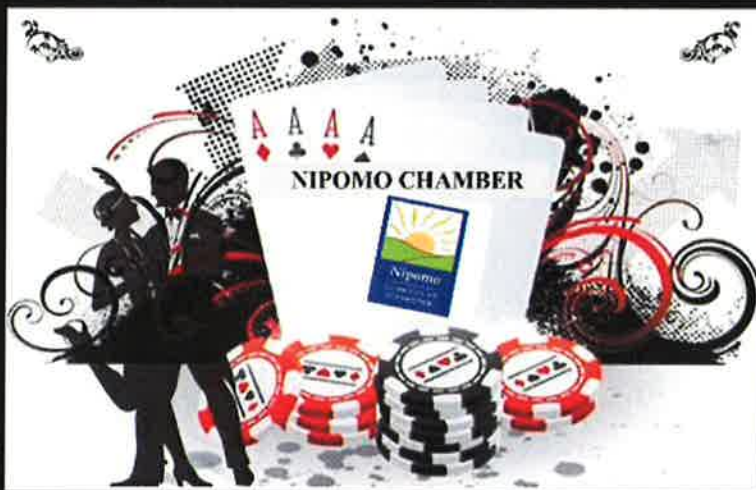
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Jessica Matson

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Weekly News **April 4, 2017**

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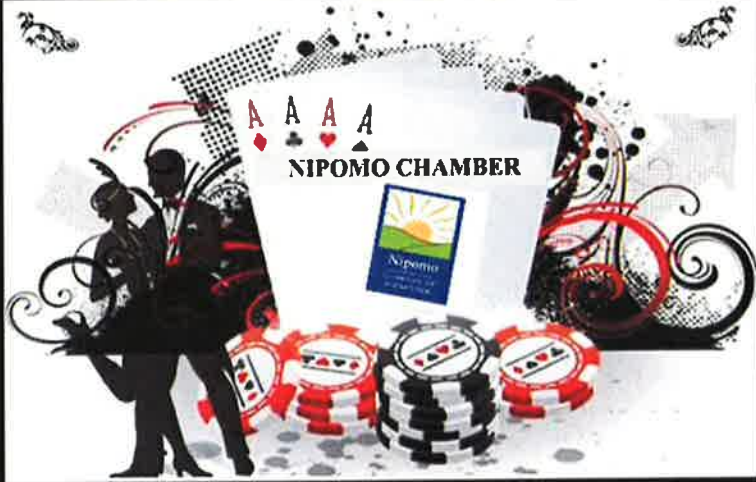
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Nipomo Community Services District

WATER MANAGEMENT

Supervisors spread groundwater costs across all county taxpayers

BY MONICA VAUGHAN

mvaughan@thetribunenews.com

All San Luis Obispo County taxpayers will pay to provide groundwater management plans for property owners in unregulated portions of five severely depleted basins, the Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday. The 3-2 vote threatens to torpedo efforts by multiple groups to form water agencies.

After hearing more than 50 public comments, the board decided to change the county's strategy on implementing the state Sustainable Groundwater Management Act at a cost of \$6.1 million to \$8.6 million in the next three to five years paid by the county's general fund.

The decision means property owners who continue with plans to form "groundwater sustainability agencies" will effectively be paying twice, once via fees to manage their GSA and again via the taxes they pay into the general fund.

The state's groundwater law requires that basins in overdraft — including five in San Luis Obispo County — form agencies by June 30 that will create and implement plans to sustainably manage their aquifers. If GSAs aren't set up by the deadline, the state can take control, at a cost that could be thousands of dollars to each landowner a year.

Multiple entities are working to form GSAs in San Luis Obispo County's five basins in overdraft: Paso Robles (and Atascadero sub-basin), Los Osos Valley, San Luis Obispo/Edna Valley, Cuyama Valley and Santa Maria. Residents in those GSAs will pay their agencies' management costs.

On Tuesday, Supervisors Debbie Arnold, Lynn Compton and John Peschong voted to have the county serve as the GSA in areas not represented by other agencies and to pay for planning and implementation, a decision welcomed by some small water users.

That shift in county policy may discourage some GSAs from forming.

"You don't have to be a genius to see that if you are going to charge somebody for something and you have a competitor that says, 'Hey, I'll do something for free,' it's going to have an impact," said Dana Merrill, a vineyard owner who chairs the formation committee of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District, which is working toward forming a GSA in the Paso Robles sub-basin. (He said landowners would still benefit by opting to join the water district by having a voice in groundwater management.)

"It is unfair to use county revenue collected from Paso Robles' citizens and used for existing county services to pay for those who chose not to be responsible and pay for the cost of complying with the state-mandated SGMA requirements," Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin said.

"It is poor planning and represents an arbitrary redistribution of resources that is not consistent with sound conservative financial policy."

County public works director Wade Horton said the board's decision will impact how agencies work together moving forward.

"Our partner agencies are taking a look at the county's new change in direction, and they now have an opportunity to decide if they want the Board of Supervisors to represent them in GSAs or if they want to move forward in being a GSA," Horton said. "That's the choice that these agencies are going to have to make."

"If they want to represent themselves, there is a funding requirement to do that," he continued. "If they want the Board of Supervisors to represent them, under the new direction, existing funds will pay for them in representing that new management structures."

There was some confusion during Tuesday's meeting about whether the vote means the county will pay costs to the unrepresented areas just for the planning phase, or if the county will pay for the costs of managing groundwater in perpetuity.

Horton said Wednesday that his understanding of the board's direction is that the county will pay for the costs associated with the planning phase, through the next three to five years.

"Once groundwater sustainability plans are adopted, if there is a project that needs to be done, a physical project, beneficiaries (groundwater users) would still need to pay for that infrastructure," Horton said.

"At the end of the (planning) phase, once we know what the (plans) are going to entail, my intent would be to go back to the board and clarify direction going forward," he said.

SAN LUIS OBISPO/EDNA VALLEY BASIN

The city of San Luis Obispo and the county had been working on an agreement along with other entities to create one GSA to oversee the basin that encompasses about 21.6 square miles.

To pay for a groundwater management plan, a basin-wide election would be held to ask landowners to approve a property assessment.

With the board's policy change, that collaborative approach is in jeopardy. San Luis Obispo residents don't have the same option as landowners in unincorporated Edna Valley to forgo an assessment and let the county pay costs.

"(Our) agreement for collaborative management of the basin is now in peril with the change in policy," San Luis Obispo Mayor Heidi Harmon said.

Harmon attended the board meeting to address her concern, but had to leave for a City Council meeting before her time was called. A spokesperson provided her comments on her behalf.

She said that an assessment vote would be less likely to succeed now that the county said it will pay for the people in the areas it represents.

"The remaining voters, specifically in our San Luis Obispo, would be in effect paying for basin management through both property taxes to the county and additional city assessment or fee to cover the cost of running a GSA," Harmon said. "This has been viewed by many in our county as inequitable."

PASO ROBLES SUB-BASIN

Multiple GSAs are in the process of forming to create one plan to manage the largest aquifer in the area, the Paso Robles basin.

The San Miguel Community Services District, the city of Paso Robles and the Heritage Ranch Community Services District are planning to form their own agencies. A 144,000-acre Shandon-San Juan Water District has been proposed; its 66 landowners have until Tuesday to return ballots deciding its formation. A 45,000-acre Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District with at least 190 landowners is proposed; a public hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

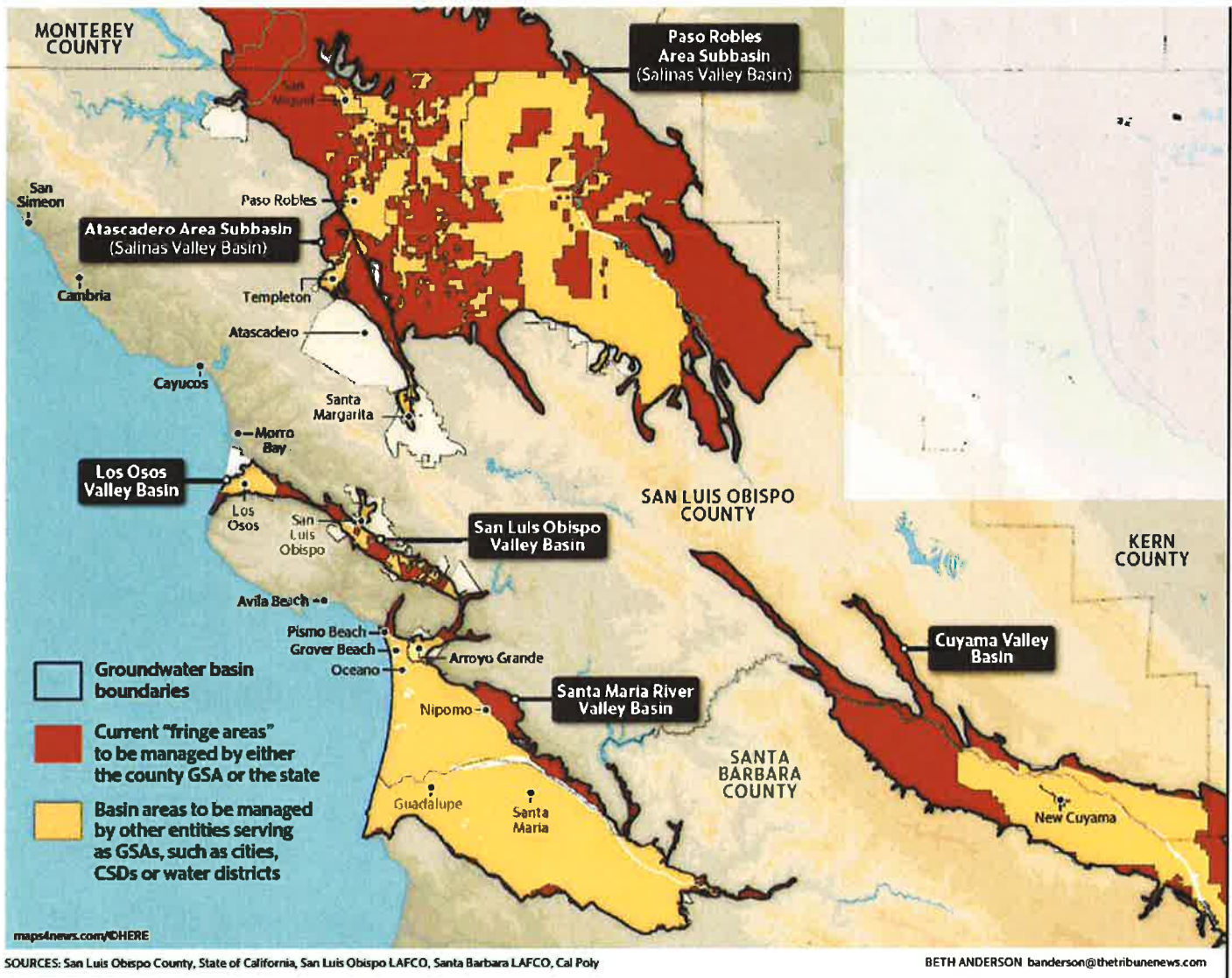
How the county's vote will impact those GSAs remains to be seen.

"There is no question about it that price does have an impact," Merrill said. To join the county GSA may be enticing because "it's free."

"But there is more to be gained by a water district forming than just complying with SGMA (state law), and we still think it's better to have a voice. I think that's why a lot of people are saying, 'I'm paying for it.'"

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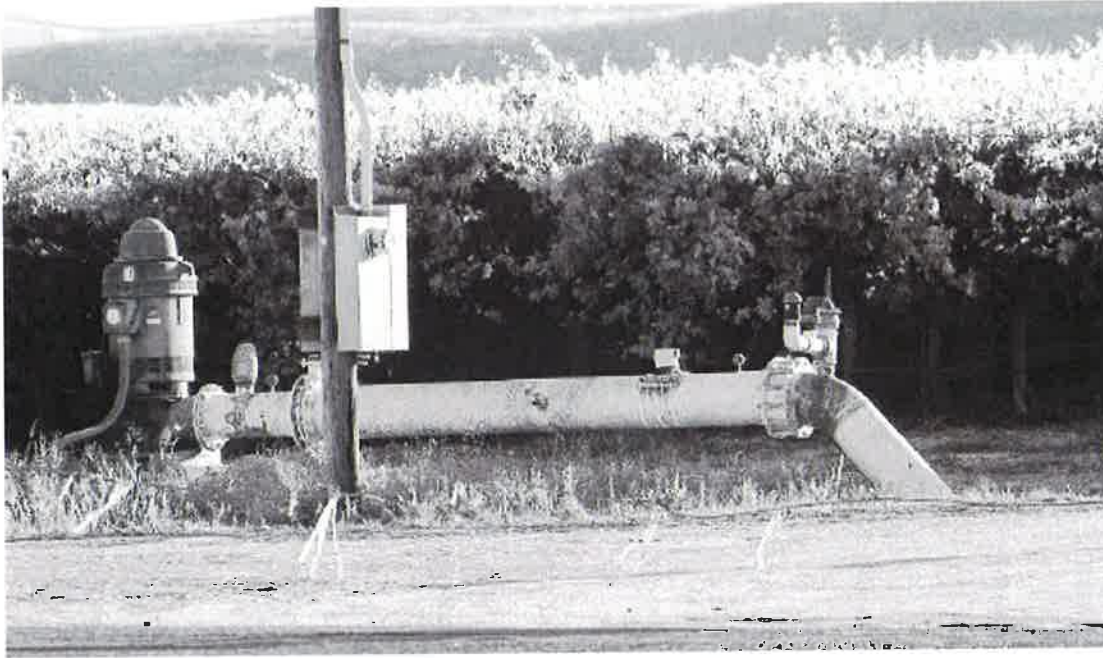
Dana Merrill, a vineyard owner who chairs the formation committee of the Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District



A look at who could manage the county's groundwater basins

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) established a framework for the long-term management of California's medium and high-priority groundwater basins. Who will manage these areas is in flux, with groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) still forming in some areas and the county discussing whether to form a GSA to shoulder the cost and management of other areas. As the state's June 30 deadline for GSA formation looms, here's a look at the groundwater basins in San Luis Obispo County affected by the SGMA.

As creeks ran dry and parched earth cracked in the midst of the drought, Californians became keenly aware that underground aquifers were not unlimited resources for drinking and irrigation water.



DAVID MIDDLECAMP Tribune file

An electric powered well near Highway 41 near Shandon services a vineyard. Each groundwater basin must have an overall management plan.

Well levels around San Luis Obispo County dropped; some became tainted with seawater as more groundwater was pumped out than was going into local aquifers. The most visible impact of declining water tables was in the Central Valley, where overdraft in

those basins caused land to sink.

The state responded by enacting legislation to do something it had never done before: regulate groundwater to create "a sustainable regime of pumping and recharge." It's been 15 months since the state Sustainable Groundwater Management Act took effect, and its first major deadline is June 30.

In anticipation, the county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday will revisit its pivotal decision about whether San Luis Obispo County will use general fund money to manage groundwater for some residents.

That promises to be a heated debate, with opponents saying the plan amounts to some residents actually paying twice — once through fees to cover the cost to manage their own groundwater basin and again in taxes to "subsidize" residents in other basins who won't pay those fees.

As the county scrambles to clarify its strategy, some local farmers and residents are voting to form new groundwater agencies, and cities are making 11thhour decisions about whether to be involved — all because local decision-makers must form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) by June 30 to manage basins in jeopardy, or the state will intervene, taking away local control.

The state law affects 127 basins (of 515) that the state deems medium or high priority. Five are in San Luis Obispo County: Paso Robles (and the Atascadero subbasin), Los Osos Valley, San Luis Obispo/Edna Valley, Cuyama Valley and Santa Maria basins.

Agencies formed by June in 21 basins around the state deemed to be in critical overdraft — including Paso Robles, Los Osos and Cuyama — must implement management plans by 2020. The other basins have until 2022.

THE COUNTY'S DYNAMIC ROLE

Then the issue gets complicated.

Groundwater sustainability agencies will govern over the most contentious natural resource in the state. Who is forming them and how they are being formed differs by basin.

While each basin must have an overall management plan, most will have multiple agencies that will need to work together to manage the basin as a whole. The 800-square-mile Paso Robles basin is a prime example: at least five agencies, cities and the county are in the process of forming GSAs so they can have a voice in any future decisions made for the basin overall.

While some cities want to be involved, some don't; some landowners are forming new water districts to have a seat at the table. Other areas are content to stay out of it, presumably leaving groundwater management up to the county.

On Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors will revisit its controversial 3-2 vote taken March 7 to shoulder the expenses of implementing groundwater plans for those so-called "fringe areas" throughout the county where other GSAs aren't being created — at a cost of \$6 million to \$8 million to the general fund over the next three to five years.

Supervisor Debbie Arnold, who supports the idea, said it is the county's job to manage water. Opponents, including Supervisors Adam Hill and Bruce Gibson, said the decision was unfair because county taxpayers — those in a GSA who will pay for groundwater expenses through fees — will end up "subsidizing" residents in the "fringe areas."

Tuesday's vote will revisit the supervisors' March 7 decision to take over groundwater management in those so-called "fringe areas" where no one else will do it. The costs of administrating an agency and performing technical studies to create a management plan are in the millions countywide.

Residents upset about that decision have demanded supervisors revisit the vote. One woman brought her water bill to the board and demanded the county pay it.

Supervisors agreed last year that the county would act as the governing water agency in fringe areas, but only if the affected landowners pay for it. That would happen through a Proposition 218 vote, in which landowners decide whether and how much to assess their property to pay for groundwater studies and administration.

On March 7, Arnold proposed stripping that language from the county's policy, so the county would pay for all groundwater management costs for the fringe areas out of the general fund. She said she is opposed to raising taxes, water management is the county's job and she doesn't want the state to intervene.

"It's a primary and fundamental responsibility of the county Flood Control and Water Conservation District to manage groundwater resources in the county," Arnold said. "My interest is to watch out for the long-term water resources."

She said it's unfair for landowners with small acreage to pay for regulation that was caused by large irrigators.

"(Say you've got) one horse in your backyard, and all of a sudden you're going to be taxed because your neighbors are overpumping their groundwater?" she said.

Meanwhile, residents outside of "fringe areas" will have to pay for groundwater management costs.

City residents in Arroyo Grande or San Luis Obispo, for example, will pay for the costs to manage their groundwater basins through their water bills.

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In addition, he said, "if you take that money out of the general fund then we don't do certain things. We don't fund sheriff's deputies, we don't fund opioid addiction councils."

HOW MUCH ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

The estimated cost to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans in the basins countywide is \$16.3 million in the next three to five years. In the current proposed budget, \$5.3 million would come from the Flood Control District, using existing property taxes.

The remaining costs, under the county's pre-March 7 policy, would be paid for by all water users, including in "fringe areas," through assessments or increased water bills.

Under the March 7 change, the county general fund would pay the expenses of the landowners in the "fringe areas" at a cost of \$6.1 million to \$8.6 million. Basin residents not in "fringe areas" would collectively pay about \$2.3 million to \$4.8 million.

The cost of the "fringe areas" varies greatly by basin. In the Paso Robles basin, for example, the cost to the county general fund for groundwater management of the "fringe area" may be \$385,000, or 17 percent of the total cost to manage the Paso basin (the rest of the cost would be covered by the county flood control district, the city of Paso Robles and the newly forming groundwater agencies in Shandon, Creston, etc.)

In Los Osos, the cost to the general fund to manage the fringe area of the groundwater basin could be nearly \$2.4 million, or 73 percent of the total \$3.2 million cost to manage the basin. (The rest of

the cost would be covered by a court-determined management committee composed of water suppliers, the county and the Los Osos Community Services District.)

These are the costs the county general fund might spend to manage "fringe areas" within the basins for the first 3-5 years:

A Paso Robles basin: \$385,600 to \$1,024,250.

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HOW AGENCIES ARE SHAPING UP IN BASINS

As the deadline closes in, potential groundwater sustainability agencies are defining boundaries, negotiating costs and preparing to submit applications to the state to gain authority to manage the county's most-used aquifers. Agencies will have to work together to form single basinwide plans.

Each basin has its own story.

Paso Robles Subbasin

Multiple agencies are in the process of forming in this 800-square-mile basin that lies in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. San Miguel Community Service District, the city of Paso Robles, Heritage Ranch Community Service District are forming their own agencies. A 144,000-acre Shandon-San Juan Water District has been proposed; its 66 landowners have until April 11 to return ballots deciding its formation. A 45,000-acre Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District with at least 190 landowners is proposed; a public hearing is scheduled for Thursday. The county is proposing to manage unrepresented areas, and county staff has emphasized the importance of all entities working together to create one management plan.

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Like the Santa Maria Valley Basin, this 10-square-mile basin is mostly exempt from the state law because of a court action that resulted in a groundwater management plan. The county can form a GSA for the fringe areas of the basin; a public hearing about that plan is expected to be held at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday. The county may lobby the state to alter the basin boundary lines.

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The state, in response to a petition, agreed that this area is a separate subbasin and is not in a critical state of overdraft. It's unknown whether a groundwater plan will be needed. Partners are working together to form one groundwater agency, with representatives from agriculture and environment interests. Those involved include Atascadero, Templeton Community Services District, Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company and Santa Margarita Community Services areas.

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Santa Maria Valley Basin

Most of the 288-square-mile basin is exempt from the state groundwater law because it is already governed because of a court action. Fringe areas not in the adjudicated portion of the basin may be governed by multiple agencies: Arroyo Grande recently voted to form its own agency. Pismo Beach is scheduled to make its decision Tuesday. San Luis Obispo County and Santa Barbara County are in negotiations to form a single agency. Those groups may lobby the state to alter the boundary of the basin so they don't have to comply with SGMA requirements.

Cuyama Valley Basin

Four counties share boundary lines in this basin that encompasses about 230 miles (51 in San Luis Obispo County), where the counties are negotiating with a small community services district and a proposed water district to form a single GSA.

Monica Vaughan: 805-781-7930, @MonicaLVaughan

EDITORIAL: OPINION OF THE TRIBUNE

It's not time to change policy on financing new groundwater controls

BY THE TRIBUNE EDITORIAL BOARD



DAVID MIDDLECAMP Tribune file

Much of the debate over who should bear the financial burden of groundwater planning has focused on vineyards.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors is about to take a second look at who should pay for state-mandated management plans for groundwater basins threatened by overpumping. Should it be the affected property owners who actually use the water, or all county taxpayers?

If the board decides the county should cover that cost — estimated at \$6.1 million — that would reverse the position it took back in November, when it agreed to act as lead agency for areas required to do groundwater planning, but only if property owners agreed to cover the costs.

Otherwise, control would revert to the state, which would then impose fees on landowners.

One point of clarification: Much of the debate over who should bear the financial burden has focused on vineyard owners in the Paso Robles basin and has been characterized as Big Ag vs. The Rest of Us.

While there have been serious water shortages in the Paso basin that led to emergency ordinances and a failed attempt to form a single water district, Paso is just one of six water basins in the county that must comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA. And it's by no means only large ag interests affected; small growers and rural residents are as well.

That said, we believe the Board of Supervisors should stick with its earlier policy and require property owners to pay their own way or, at the very least, share the cost rather than stick taxpayers with the entire bill.

Here's why:

A It would be inconsistent to change the policy at this late date.

Many landowners based their decisions on the board's earlier policy, including several who are in the process of forming — and funding — their own water management agencies. For the Board of Supervisors to suddenly come to the rescue of those who aren't interested in stepping up would only reward their unwillingness to share the burden.

A The county can't afford it.

Where, exactly, will this \$6 million come from? As it is, there isn't enough money to keep roads in good repair, and supervisors are bickering over where dwindling recreation funds should be spent.

And they're going to put an additional burden on the General Fund?

A It provides a benefit most other residents don't receive.

Most of us purchase water through a purveyor — be it a city, a services district or a water company — and pay water rates that cover not just the water we use, but also planning, maintenance, repairs and other costs associated with running a water system. (The city of Arroyo Grande, for example, has agreed to participate in developing a SGMA plan for the Santa Maria basin, and anticipates it may have to raise water rates to cover the additional cost.)

If the county foots the SGMA bill for a select group of people, the rest of us will be paying not only for our own water, but through our taxes we'll indirectly be helping others pay for theirs.

A There are too many unknowns.

One of the biggest: Why would the county do this?

When the idea was introduced last month by Supervisor Debbie Arnold, she argued that the state mandate imposes an unfair financial burden on property owners.

That's a concern. No one should be forced out of their home or off their family farm on account of this mandate.

But exactly how much would property owners be expected to pay? We don't really know, though judging by estimates in one of the proposed Paso districts, rural homeowners would pay, at most, \$50 per year. Owners of irrigated property would pay in the neighborhood of \$35 per acre. That could be a major expense, but farming is a commercial venture, and we don't believe the county should be in the business of subsidizing commercial ventures.

That costs to individual property owners could be more — or less — in other basins. Again, we don't know.

One example: The SGMA plan for the "fringe" area of the Los Osos basin — a portion not already covered by an existing court-approved plan — has been estimated at \$3.2 million. But Supervisor Bruce Gibson, who represents Los Osos, says work is underway to either establish that the fringe area should be exempted from SGMA requirement altogether, or included in the existing Los Osos basin plan.

He does not foresee an outcome that would deal "a crushing financial blow on individuals in that basin."

A Will it set a precedent if the county picks up the tab?

If the county pays for these plans, what will happen down the road if the state orders additional ones, or isn't satisfied with the plans as submitted? Will the county have an ongoing financial obligation?

Bottom line: We believe this proposal is a hastily conceived fix for a problem that doesn't really exist.

The county already indicated its willingness to serve as lead agency for affected property owners as long as they are willing to pay for water management.

That's fair. Giving affected property owners a free ride — especially in light of the county's financial challenges — is a generosity we can't afford.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to stick with its original policy by requiring property owners to pay their fair share.

GROUNDWATER BASINS

Who will pay to manage aquifers across region?

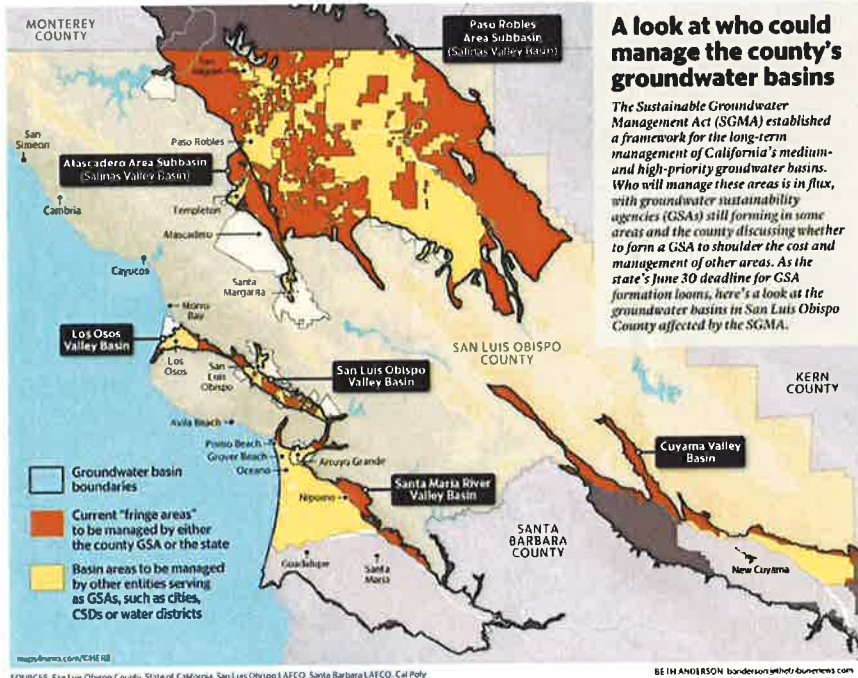
The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors will revisit a controversial vote about whether to spend millions of dollars from the general fund to help some people manage their groundwater basin, in what critics call a “subsidy” from other taxpayers. The pivotal policy question comes just a few months before the first major deadline set by the state Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

BY MONICA VAUGHAN

mvaughan@thetribunenews.com

LOCAL APRIL 1, 2017 9:08 PM

Who should pay to manage groundwater? SLO County supervisors will revisit the question



< 1 of 2 >



BY MONICA VAUGHAN
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As the county scrambles to clarify its strategy, some local farmers and residents are voting to form new groundwater agencies, and cities are making 11th-hour decisions about whether to be involved — all because local decision-makers must form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) by June 30 to manage basins in jeopardy, or the state will intervene, taking away local control.

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Agencies formed by June implement management | os and Cuyama — must

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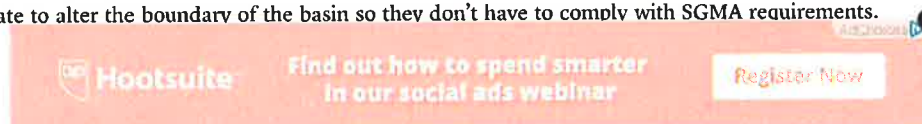
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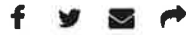
Cuyama Valley Basin



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Four counties share boundary lines in this basin that encompasses about 230 miles (51 in San Luis Obispo County), where the counties are negotiating with a small community services district and a proposed water district to form a single GSA.

Monica Vaughan: 805-781-7930, @MonicaLVaughan



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Nancy Bodily · Sierra Nevada College MFA Program

I cannot attend today's meeting because I work and it is during my work hours, so I will offer my thoughts here. Right now this feels like an issue of taxation without representation. If memory serves me, this was an issue on the November ballot and the people in those outlying areas rejected the idea of paying taxes to be proactive about this issue. Now it feels like government overreach by so called conservatives as they respond to a crisis situation by making others twice for water. So conservative members of the board voted to use tax dollars not designed for this because their constituents were unwilling to be proactive, tax themselves and pay their way for their own issue. This from conservatives who would never vote for a health care system for all, but are fine with asking taxpayers to cover the costs of water for certain areas of the county. Just so we are clear, this is welfare.

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James G. Green · Government Affairs Specialist at San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

Very well written on a very complex subject.

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Arroyo Grande will 'pay to play' by forming own groundwater agency

BY KAYTLYN LESLIE

kleslie@thetribunenews.com

Rather than letting the county take the lead in managing its 1,217-acre fringe area of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin — and risk having little to no control over future fees for regulation of that area — Arroyo Grande is going to “pay to play” as a staterecognized groundwater sustainability agency.

Its spot on the game board isn't going to be cheap: Based on preliminary estimates, the city could pay about \$135,000 just to form the GSA, and then pay \$13,250 per year thereafter in operating costs — costs that will have to be paid for through the city's water fund and a potential water rate increase in the future.

“I'm very concerned either way, whether we go with the county or our own GSA, for potential rate increases,” City Councilwoman Barbara Harmon said Tuesday. “It may be inevitable, but I know we'll do our best to get the information and be creative in regards to that.”

The Arroyo Grande City Council unanimously approved a resolution Tuesday directing city staff to begin the state application process to become a GSA, and appropriating \$15,000 from its water fund to pay for a consultant to assist with the application.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires groundwater sustainability agencies to oversee groundwater basins that are in overdraft and make sure they are being managed sustainably by 2020.

Though it does not apply to the majority of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin — much of that basin is already monitored through courtformed management groups set up following decades of water rights litigation in the area — SGMA does affect the roughly 15,000-acre “fringe area” of the basin that is not controlled by the adjudicated management groups.

Arroyo Grande's portion of the basin is on the north side of Highway

101. Much of the area south of the highway is part of the adjudicated area.

The county has said it intends to manage any unrepresented portions of the six local groundwater basins, including the Santa Maria basin fringe area.

Local groups statewide have until June 30 to declare their intent to form groundwater sustainability agencies. After that, they will have until 2022 to collaborate and draft plans for how they will sustainably manage their basins.

Arroyo Grande council members were at first hesitant to embark on the costly endeavor of forming a GSA for its 1,217-acre area of land, which includes only four working wells. But because the way the county plans to pay to manage the fringe areas is still in question (the county Board of Supervisors said it wouldn't charge property owners to pay for management, but that vote has been contested), the council decided it was more important to ensure local control now, rather than risk uncontrolled fees to city residents down the road.

"It's frustrating because I think we are spending money that's going to not do a whole lot in the end," Councilman Tim Brown said. "It's another expense I don't think we need, but it is the reality of the situation, and I've been brought to the idea that we need to have local control."

Forming a GSA will also prevent the city from having to seek permission from the county in the future if the council decides it wants to pump water from the fringe area.

"To give up a third of A.G.'s basin, that is a little bit scary, because who knows 20 years from now what we might want to do?" Councilwoman Kristen Barneich said. "So I would rather preserve that local control and have us be in charge of what we are going to do as far as pay for it, and not have the county have a say in that."

Arroyo Grande could be the only South County city to form a GSA. The Nipomo Community Services District Board of Directors voted March 22 to let the county manage its portion of the adjudicated basin, while Pismo Beach is expected to consider doing the same at its meeting Tuesday.

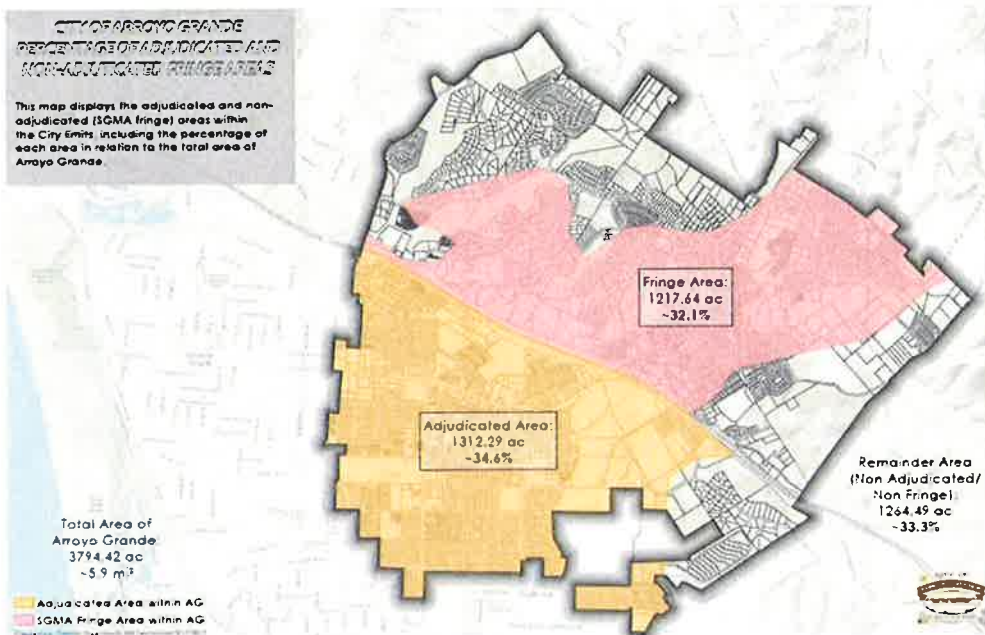
Grover Beach and Oceano both also draw water from the Santa Maria basin, but their portions fall within the adjudicated portion of the basin that is exempt from SGMA regulations.

Once the basin is finalized as a GSA, the Arroyo Grande City Council will work with San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties to begin drafting a groundwater sustainability plan that will outline how the trio of groups plan to make the fringe areas of the basin sustainable.

Kaytlyn Leslie: 805-781-7928, @kaytyleslie

LOCAL MARCH 30, 2017 3:48 PM

Arroyo Grande will 'pay to play' by forming its own groundwater agency



< 1 of 3 >



BY KAYTLYN LESLIE
kleslie@thetribunenews.com

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“

IT'S FRUSTRATING BECAUSE I THINK WE ARE SPENDING MONEY THAT'S GOING TO NOT DO A WHOLE LOT IN THE END.

Tim Brown, Arroyo Grande City Council

Though it does not apply management groups set up basin that is not controlled



through court-formed 1-acre “fringe area” of the

Arroyo Grande's portion of the basin is on the north side of Highway 101. Much of the area south of the highway is part of the adjudicated area. The county has said it intends to manage any unrepresented portions of the six local groundwater basins, including the Santa Maria basin fringe area. Local groups statewide have until June 30 to declare their intent to form groundwater sustainability agencies. After that, they will have until 2022 to collaborate and draft plans for how they will sustainably manage their basins.

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TO GIVE UP A THIRD OF A.G.'S BASIN, THAT IS A LITTLE BIT SCARY, BECAUSE WHO KNOWS 20 YEARS FROM NOW WHAT WE MIGHT WANT TO DO?

Kristen Barneich, Arroyo Grande City Council

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Kaytlyn Leslie: 805-781-7928, @kaytleslie



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LOCAL MARCH 22, 2017 5:27 PM

Nipomo allows SLO County to manage fringe area of Santa Maria Groundwater Basin



BY KAYTLYN LESLIE
kleslie@thetribunenews.com

The Nipomo Community Services District board of directors voted Wednesday to allow San Luis Obispo County to take the lead in forming a groundwater sustainability agency to manage a fringe area of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

The decision comes in light of a state law requiring that management groups be formed for groundwater basins in overdraft to help them become sustainable by 2020.

The Santa Maria Groundwater Basin, from which Nipomo draws its water, is mostly exempt because it is already managed through court-formed groups stemming from lawsuits in 2005 and 2008. A small portion of the basin within the Nipomo services district's boundaries is not controlled by this management group and is subject to the state regulations.

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3/27/2017

Nipomo to let county manage piece of Santa Maria Groundwater Basin | The Tribune

The county has promised it will form a groundwater sustainability agency to manage unrepresented and unadjudicated portions of the county's basins — like Nipomo's — at no cost to property owners.

Because the Nipomo services district does not draw water from that small fringe area within its boundaries, the board decided to instead let the county take the lead and manage that portion.

Kaytlyn Leslie: 805-781-7928, @kaytleslie



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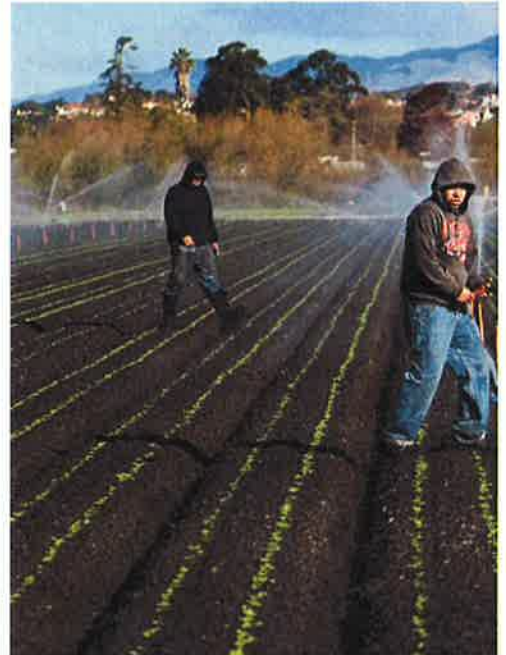
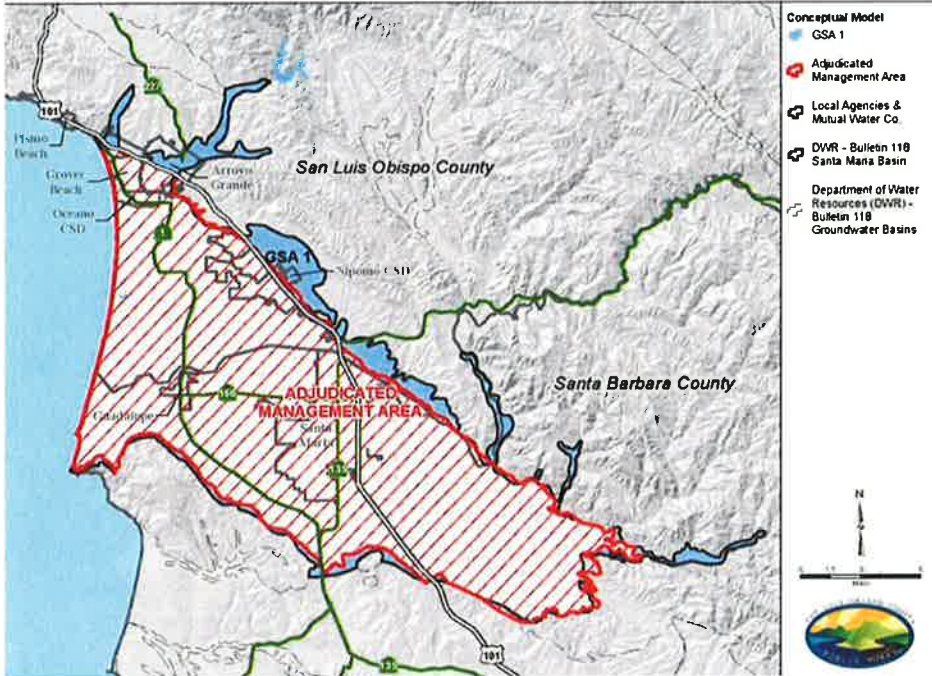
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SportsChatter

A horizontal advertisement banner for Walgreens. On the left is a small image of a box of Robitussin 12 Hour Cough Relief. To the right of the image, the text reads "FIND THE RIGHT COUGH RELIEF FAST" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this text, in smaller font, is "Use as directed." On the far right of the banner is the Walgreens logo in its signature red script. A small "x" icon is in the top right corner of the banner's border.

LOCAL MARCH 18, 2017 4:29 PM

South County ponders new groundwater management agencies for fringe areas of basin



< 2 of 2 >



BY KAYTLYN LESLIE
kleslie@thetribunenews.com

Faced with a June 30 deadline from the state, South County cities and community services districts are beginning to consider whether to form groundwater sustainability agencies to manage portions of the Santa Maria groundwater basin, or if they want to leave that management to San Luis Obispo County.

The Arroyo Grande City Council this past week decided to schedule a public hearing on the issue at its next meeting, while the Nipomo Community Services District Board of Directors will consider the topic Wednesday, and the Pismo Beach City Council on April 4.

Basin management isn't a new concept in the South County: Much of the Santa Maria groundwater basin is already managed by court-formed groups set up in 2005 and 2008, following a lengthy legal dispute over water rights in the area.

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That portion of the basin is not affected by the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which requires groundwater sustainability agencies to oversee groundwater basins that are in overdraft — including the Paso Robles sub-basin in North County — and make sure they are being managed sustainably by 2020.

The SGMA does affect the roughly 15,000-acre “fringe area” of the basin that is not controlled by the adjudicated management groups.

Local groups have until June 30 to declare their intent to form a groundwater sustainability agency. After that, they will have until 2022 to collaborate and draft plans for how they will sustainably manage the basin.

“

IT WILL IMPACT STAFF RESOURCES, IT WILL COST US MONEY, AND IT'S FOR YOU TO CAREFULLY WEIGH THE CONSIDERATION OF HAVING THAT CONTROL OR GIVING THE REIGNS, IF YOU WILL, TO THE COUNTY.

Teresa McClish, Arroyo Grande Community Development Director

Last week, the county Board of Supervisors voted to manage groundwater for any unincorporated and unrepresented areas of the county (although county counsel Rita Neal is reviewing whether that vote violated the Brown Act by not properly notifying the public in advance).

The three South County groups in the “fringe area” — Arroyo Grande, Nipomo Community Services District and Pismo Beach — must now decide whether they want to form independent agencies, or leave that up to the county's control.

At its meeting Tuesday night, the Arroyo Grande City Council considered three options for managing the 1,240-acre portion of the unadjudicated basin that falls within city limits:

- The county would take the lead as a groundwater sustainability agency, and the city could play an advisory role.
- The city would form its own agency and coordinate with other groundwater sustainability agencies in the area through a memorandum of agreement.
- The city, county and other governing groups form one agency under a joint agreement.

Teresa McClish, Arroyo Grande community development director, recommended Tuesday that the city form an agency because it would ensure Arroyo Grande had a seat at the table for issues pertaining to water use in the basin and could have some control over potential fees to pay for the sustainability plans and studies.

“Even though we are only one small part of the fringe of the area, we would want to consider the ramifications of having a seat at the table and being able to govern our own area within the city limits,” she said.

One of the chief issues with forming a groundwater sustainability agency is the cost.

Based on county estimates, Arroyo Grande could expect to pay about \$122,900 to form the agency, and then about \$13,250 in operating costs per year, though those numbers are tentative.

“It will impact staff resources, it will cost us money, and it's for you to carefully weigh the consideration of having that control or giving the reigns, if you will, to the county,” McClish said.

The cost could be folded into the city's water fund — though that fund is already struggling from less revenue because residents are using less water — and grants, McClish said .

Several council members were wary of taking on the costs of forming an agency, particularly since the area has only four working wells.

“If I'm understanding it correctly, we'd be paying possibly a good portion of money for a couple of wells within our portion,” Councilman Tim Brown said. “That's it. That's the extent of the whole thing.”

The city ultimately directed staff to schedule a public hearing to decide on the issue for March 28.

“I think that it's really important for our most important resource, for us to preserve and maintain the control, especially given that this is our only bite at the apple,” Councilwoman Caren Ray said. “If we don't take this because we didn't want to spend \$122,000, I fear that years down the road we will be kicking ourselves for not having control.”

The Nipomo Community Services District could take a different tact.

“

THE DISTRICT HAS ITS HANDS FULL PROVIDING UTILITY SERVICES AND THE BOARD WILL HAVE TO DECIDE IF THEY WANT TO TAKE ON MANAGING THE UNUSED GROUNDWATER BASIN WITHIN THE FRINGE AREAS WITHIN NCSO BOUNDARIES.

Mario Iglesias, Nipomo CSD General Manager

According to General Manager Mario Iglesias, the board of directors will consider the topic Wednesday, and staff has recommended that the district not form a groundwater sustainability agency because the district doesn't use the 5,410-acre adjudicated area of the basin in the Nipomo area for water production.

"The district has its hands full providing utility services, and the board will have to decide if they want to take on managing the unused groundwater basin within the fringe areas within NCSO boundaries," Iglesias said Friday. "Of course, it is a board decision."

Pismo Beach, which has roughly 470 acres of adjudicated basin within its city limits, will likely follow suit, City Manager Jim Lewis said Friday.

The city is mostly built out, he said, and has no plans to use the adjudicated land to pump more water any time in the future. Because of that, staff recommends letting the county be the lead agency for the fringe area.

The Pismo Beach City Council will discuss the recommendation at its next meeting April 4.

Kaytlyn Leslie: 805-781-7928, @kaytleslie



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Pismo won't form groundwater agency

— KAYTLYN LESLIE

Pismo Beach won't join Arroyo Grande in managing the unregulated area of the Santa Maria groundwater basin.

The Pismo Beach City Council unanimously voted Tuesday to let San Luis Obispo County take control of the 470-acre area of the basin within city limits, rather than form its own groundwater sustainability agency.

The state's Sustainability Groundwater Management Act requires the formation of GSAs to monitor and plan for how they will make state basins sustainable by 2020. Much of the Santa Maria basin is already managed through court-appointed groups, but several small fringe areas remain unmanaged.

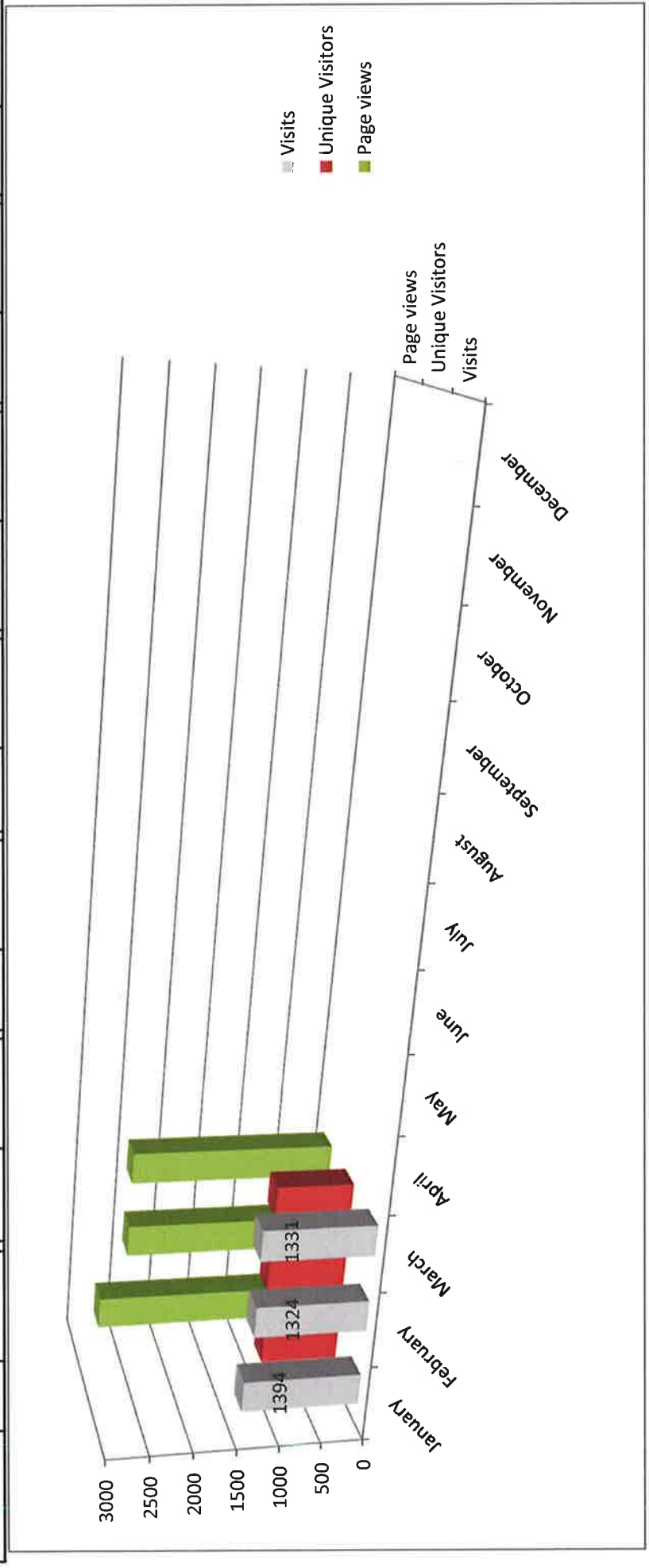
Arroyo Grande on March 28 decided to form its own GSA to manage its area, while the Nipomo Community Services District voted March 22 to cede its control to the county.

Pismo Beach is mostly built out and has no plans to use the small bit of fringe land to pump more water any time in the future, said Ben Fine, the city's public works director. Because of that, and the high cost of forming a GSA, the council decided to let the county be the lead agency.

"We basically don't draw any water from it, the county is going to do their's anyway — might as well let them do it and figure out what our share is so we can save a lot of money," Mayor Ed Waage said.

Website Traffic Summary

2016	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	1394		921		2733		1.96		0:01:57		53.37%		53.73%	
February	1324	-5.02%	934	1.41%	2436	-10.87%	1.84	-6.12%	0:01:47	-8.55%	61.03%	14.35%	56.34%	4.86%
March	1331	0.53%	920	-1.50%	2441	0.21%	1.83	-0.54%	0:01:30	-15.89%	61.91%	1.44%	57.78%	2.56%
April														
May														
June														
July														
August														
September														
October														
November														
December														



2016 Facebook Summary

FACEBOOK

Week	New Users	Comment Likes	Comment Shares	User Posts/ Messages	*Content Views	Most Popular Post
2016	85					
12/9/16 - 1/4/17 (27 days)	8	1	1	0	1841	The 2016 Customer Survey will be open for a couple more days. Let us know what you think at www.ncsd.ca.gov (275 views)
1/5/17 - 1/19/17 (15 days)						Students from Lange Elementary School, Dana Elementary, and Nipomo Elementary were recognized by the Board this morning for their participation in the District's water conservation poster contest! (259 views)
1/20/17 - 2/2/17 (14 days)	1	0	0	1	87	Press Release: Board Decides not to Enforce Additional Stage IV Conservation Measures. www.ncsd.ca.gov (43 views)
2/3/17 - 2/16/17 (14 days)	1	0	0	1	196	With all this rain we've been receiving don't forget to turn off your irrigation! #waterwisewednesday #saveourwater (50 views)
2/17/17 - 3/2/17 (14 days)	1	3	0	0	385	Interesting portrayal of California's drought conditions over the past few years! (174 views)
3/3/17 - 3/16/17 (14 days)	0	4	0	0	207	Last fall the District launched its first Customer Satisfaction Survey. Read more in the quarterly newsletter at www.ncsd.ca.gov (72 views)
3/17/17 - 4/6/17 (21 days)	0	7	0	2	381	The St. Joseph Festival of Goodwill is busy! Come visit us! (65 views)

2017 Twitter Summary

TWITTER

Week	List Growth (Followers)	Re-tweets (shared)	Mentions/ Favorites (comments)	Link Visits (visits to links)	Content Views (Impressions)	Average Views/Day (Impressions)	Most Popular Post
2016	192						
12/9/16 - 1/4/17 (27 days)	5	3	1	5	1,454	54	Board Reviewing Conservation Efforts and Status of Intent-to-Serve Letters in Preparation for Continued Drought http://www.ncsd.ca.gov pic.twitter.com/zFtJXJ115q (189 views)
1/5/17 - 1/19/17 (15 days)	7	5	3	6	3,200	213	There's another storm rolling into SLO County. The District has sandbags available for customers. Learn proper placement of sandbags below. pic.twitter.com/bz1qBiQvcj (373 views)
1/20/17 - 2/2/17 (14 days)	2	0	0	6	1,700	121	Agenda and Packet for the January 25th Regular Board Meeting have been posted on the District's website.... http://fb.me/O5DSXNjd (94 views)
2/3/17 - 2/16/17 (14 days)	6	1	0	2	1,700	121	Agenda and Packet for the February 8th Regular Board Meeting has been posted on the District's website. http://www.ncsd.ca.gov (100 views)
2/17/17 - 3/2/17 (14 days)	0	2	1	1	1,600	114	The February Quarterly Newsletter: The Drought is Not Over is out! http://www.ncsd.ca.gov pic.twitter.com/UQtVE4yYAK (143 views)
3/3/17 - 3/16/17 (14 days)	5	4	6	1	2,700	193	#waterwisewednesday https://twitter.com/WUIW/status/839523840673918976 ... (415 views)
3/17/17 - 4/6/17 (21 days)	5	4	2	4	2,600	124	Agenda and Packet for the March 22nd Regular Board Meeting have been posted on the District's website.... http://fb.me/7FuxXfhl (245 views)