## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Board Declares Stage II Drought and Moves Forward with Response Plan

On April 23, 2014, the Nipomo Community Services District Board declared a Stage II Water Shortage condition in accordance with the District's Water Shortage Response Plan.

The Water Shortage Response Plan is based on five escalating stages of drought. In stages III through V, there are targeted reductions in water use designed to protect long-term groundwater supplies. In Stage II, the Drought Response Plan asks customers to voluntarily reduce water use.

General Manager Michal LeBrun stated, "We expect to hear by the end of May about the current health of our groundwater supply. We don't expect good news—a Stage III shortage condition is likely." In the event the District declares Stage 3 drought, a 30% reduction in District pumping will be needed.

In addition, the District is evaluating water shortage rates that may be implemented to help motivate conservation by customers and make up for lost revenue from decreased water sales.

The District recently contracted to obtain supplemental water supplies from Santa Maria and is constructing essential, but costly facilities to bring that water to our community. Delivery of supplemental water is planned for summer 2015.

The drought response plan is designed to manage water supplies during the current drought. The new supplemental water supplies are part of a long-term solution to balance water supply and demand.

In addition, the District is working with neighboring water agencies that share our groundwater basin to ensure they institute similar conservation programs and pay their share for supplemental water. The District is also working with the County to ensure they implement policies that require new development to pay for new water supplies.

For more information about the drought, conservation programs and rebates and other water related issues, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit <a href="www.ncsd.ca.gov">www.ncsd.ca.gov</a>.

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Established in 1965 to meet the health and sanitation needs of the local community, Nipomo Community Services is pleased to provide a wide variety of services throughout its district including the provision of water, sewer, and waste management services as well as lighting and drainage in limited areas. The mission of Nipomo Community Services District is: Provide our customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.