

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NMMA TECHNICAL GROUP RELEASE SPRING 2014 GROUNDWATER INDEX

The court-appointed technical group tasked with monitoring the health of the groundwater basin underlying the Nipomo Mesa recently released their spring 2014 Key Wells Index measurement along with a statement from the group (accompanying this release).

The group's Index was found to be near last year's historic low following what was one of the lowest rain fall seasons on record. This information comes at a time when water users across the Mesa ramp up demand in response to longer days and dry weather.

The District takes the opportunity to reiterate it's appeal to all users of groundwater across the Mesa to conserve water with special attention to landscape irrigation. The District has extensive information on water saving tips on its website. District staff can provide answers and direction to people looking for help with saving water. Water conservation is paramount to protecting our groundwater basin and provides the direct reward of saving money on your water bill – Please do your part to protect this critical resource we all share and depend on.

The District Board of Directors is scheduled to hear a presentation on the current health of the area groundwater at its next regular Board Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 9AM, District Board Room 148 South Wilson, Nipomo. The presentation on groundwater condition is scheduled for 1PM.

For more information, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit www.ncsd.ca.gov.

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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 to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Nipomo Mesa Management Area Key Wells Index

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area ("NMMA") Technical Group ("TG") established groundwater level and groundwater quality criteria to track overall basin conditions within the NMMA. The criteria include the Key Wells Index ("KWI"), which combines groundwater level data from eight selected wells distributed throughout the inland portion of the Management Area. Water level measurements are made in NMMA groundwater wells representing the principal producing aquifer and are used to compute the KWI during the spring of each year.

The TG uses the KWI to help identify trends in basin groundwater levels and has compiled KWI data for the period from 1975 to the present. Groundwater levels have changed in the NMMA over time, and are now at an overall level that is lower than at any other time from 1975 to the present (Figure 1).

One of the NMMA TG's court-required duties is to determine when conditions of "Potentially Severe Water Shortage Conditions" and "Severe Water Shortage Conditions" have been reached. The 2014 KWI value (18.5 ft msl) has slightly increased from the previous year (17.9 ft msl), and is in the Potentially Severe Water Shortage Condition and remains very close to the Severe Water Shortage Condition (16.5 ft msl).

Details of the KWI, as well as the agreed upon responses to Potentially Severe Water Shortage Condition and Severe Water Shortage Condition, are explained in further detail in the NMMA TG's annual report of groundwater conditions. The report's attachments include a response plan to groundwater shortage and an associated well management plan. The NMMA annual report for calendar year 2013, including these attachments, is available as a digital document at [\[http://www.scefiling.org/filingdocs/19902/73125/endorse_114655_NMMARreport.pdf\]](http://www.scefiling.org/filingdocs/19902/73125/endorse_114655_NMMARreport.pdf).

Key Wells Index

