

Manager's Column

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Development in a Time of Drought

The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.

Development during a drought situation can be scary and confusing. Many have approached the District with questions regarding development and why the District "continues to approve development in Nipomo." This is a simple question with a not-so-simple explanation. We will attempt to answer briefly in this month's column.

Nipomo CSD is one of a number of water purveyors that serve the Nipomo Mesa and draw water from the area's underlying groundwater. Others include Golden State Water Company, Woodlands Mutual Water Company, Rural Water Company, several smaller water companies and thousands of private wells.

Though the District is a public agency, Nipomo is not an incorporated City. Therefore, the County of San Luis Obispo is the responsible agency for services such as fire, law enforcement, roads, planning, just to name a few, within the District and across the Nipomo Mesa. The District has little influence over development within our service area and even less influence outside our boundaries. Additionally, the District does not and cannot directly control pumping by the other users of the groundwater basin we rely on.

As development in the area continues, the District has been diligently working with the County and other water purveyors to come up with solutions for protecting our shared groundwater basin. In order to address over-pumping of the area's groundwater which has been increasing over the past 30 years, the District is building a pipeline to import water to the Mesa. The District added additional capacity to this project and is allocating this to all new development approved within District boundaries. Since 2005, all new water connections to the District system have paid a substantial connection charge to help fund pipeline planning and construction.

While the District cannot prevent development from happening, we are dedicated to doing our part to protect our precious resources. In addition to bringing in new water sources to bolster long-term supply reliability, we are actively educating customers about changing water use patterns. District-wide water use was **down 21% in September!** District customers continue to do their part and more during this State-wide drought. Thank you all!

Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2AM on Sunday November 2 – remember to set your clocks back and check the batteries in your Smoke Alarm and Sprinkler Control Clock

The District's website provides helpful tips and resources. We encourage you to visit our site at www.ncsd.ca.gov. **The District is now on social media so connect with us on Facebook or Twitter for the latest District news, polls, conservation tips and more.**

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

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager