

Manager's Column

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Drought talk – what does it really mean and how can I help?

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.

By now it's no secret that California is in a drought situation.

First, "what does it mean?" For Nipomo, the drought situation is serious because currently our ONLY source of water is groundwater. Our groundwater aquifers are recharged when it rains, but it takes significant rain over a significant period of time to replace the water that we use on a daily basis. Since there has not been much rain and we are so close to the ocean, this is serious. Our over-pumping and declining groundwater levels mean risking the quality of our water due to seawater intrusion.

Second, "how can someone like me really help?" Be aware of every drop you use. That water we all need in order to survive is a precious resource. Simply turning off the water while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers, and checking for leaky toilets are a start to doing your part. The District can provide information on how to check for leaks and read the water meter. Additionally, cutting back or turning off your outdoor irrigation is the largest contribution most customers can make to help conserve water since the largest amount of water is used outside. Yes, that means stop watering your lawn – it doesn't need it right now and will likely survive on much less than your normally water. We are lucky to live in an area with a cooler climate where watering landscape is not always necessary.

The District is also taking steps to make sure Nipomo has a reliable source of water now and in the future. Last fall the District began construction on a pipeline from Santa Maria to Nipomo. This supplemental water is scheduled to be available to Nipomo in summer 2015. Additionally, the District's Board of Directors adopted a Water Shortage Response Plan which lays out steps to address our water issue. More information can be found on our website at www.ncsd.ca.gov.

Finally, we want to hear from you. What are your concerns, questions or feedback? The District is providing an opportunity for the public to be heard on Monday, May 5th. Learn more about the issue and how the District is responding and provide your input. There will be two workshops: the first at 3 PM at Blacklake's Club House (1490 Golf Course Ln.) and the second at 6:30 PM in NCSD's Board Room (148 S Wilson St.). We hope you can take the time to come out.

Until next time...

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