

Manager's Column

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Welcome to the Nipomo Community Services District's 'Manager's Column'!

Welcome to NCS D's first post to the Manager's Column! My hope is that you find this information useful and I encourage you to let me know if there is something you'd like to hear more about.

For this first communication, I wanted to give you a brief history of NCS D – who we are and why we are.

After four confirmed cases of typhoid fever in the early 1960's, the San Luis Obispo County Health Department tested private wells in the community and found high concentrations of nitrate, chlorides and coliform bacteria in the water. It was determined that wastewater was seeping into the water supply. The County Health Department established a direct relationship between the occurrence of infant methemoglobinemia (Blue Babies) in the community and the presence of nitrates in the drinking water.

On June 4, 1964, County Hydraulic Engineer Mr. Bob Born made a report to the County Board of Supervisors on the water and sanitary problems in Nipomo and recommended that a public entity be formed to address these problems.

On January 28, 1965, Nipomo Community Services District was formed under the Community Services District Law of California. The first elected Board Members were *William C. Black, Cecil E. (Gene) Davis, James A. Kitchen, Oren W. (Jim) Miller and John R. Mylan*. The Board of Directors immediately pursued the construction of the District's first public water system. Construction began in June 1966, and was completed in November 1966, at which time water began to flow. Today, the District serves over 4,000 water system connections through over 90-miles of buried water lines. The District operates eight wells to produce water and holds over 4-million gallons of water in storage for system reliability and emergency (fire) response.

As far as sewer services go; the first vote by District customers to fund a sewer collection and treatment system failed, but a second succeeded and the first system was completed in 1986. Today, there are approximately 2,500 connections to the District's 'Town' sewer system via thirty-miles of buried sewer collection lines. Wastewater is conveyed to the District's Southland treatment facility. The facility is currently in the middle of an upgrade to meet new regulatory requirements for treatment and reclamation of wastewater. The upgrade project is scheduled to be complete in May 2014.

Well, there you have it! I look forward to communicating with you each month. Please do contact me if there's an item you'd like to hear more about.

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager

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