

Manager's Column

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Water and Wastewater – the most necessary utilities of all!

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.

Can you imagine going a week or a month without television, phone, or internet? How about going with no gas or electricity to heat your home in the coldest winter month? These scenarios are certainly not desirable, but for most of us, they would be survivable. Now, consider a month without water or sewer service. Not a pretty thought and not even doable. Many often take water and sewer service for granted.

Water makes up two-thirds of a typical human's weight. Without water, the human body will begin shutting down non-essential functions within 24 hours. Death from dehydration can occur in as few as 3 or 4 days! No water for your landscape or our community landscape would severely impact property values. No water to fight fires would be disastrous.

Sewer collection and treatment systems are every bit as important as water to an urbanized community like Nipomo. It was an outbreak of disease related to fecal contamination of private wells that led to the formation of the District back in 1965. According to water.org, world-wide, a child dies every 21 seconds from water-related illness and a majority of illness is due to fecal matter contamination of water supply.

Efficiently managed and maintained water and sewer systems are vital to a community's health and livelihood. Since the District is a 'customer-owned' local governmental organization, our customers and property owners play a critical role in keeping the District's operation sound. The District is a stand-alone local government agency. We are not associated with or controlled by the County, State, or Federal government. Our customer/owners control the operation through the election of five Directors who serve on the governing board and set District policy and direction. Be informed and involved in your services district. This is local control and governance at its best –and it will only stay that way if customers stay involved.

CONSERVATION NOTE: Fall is 'in the air', or at least 'right around the corner', and now is the time to plant! Removing turf/grass areas and replacing with trees and shrubs that need little to no water once they are established can provide a lasting savings of water and money. Planting in the fall takes advantage of winter rains to get plants established. When planted in the fall, most drought tolerant plants will require only one summer of irrigation.

Until next time...

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