

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nipomo Community Services District Taking Action to Address the Drought

At its last meeting on March 26, 2014, the Board of Directors of Nipomo Community Services District reviewed a proposed Water Shortage Response Plan to address the depletion of local groundwater brought about by decades of over pumping across the region, and the current record drought.

General Manager Michael S. LeBrun noted that, “Over pumping and the continuing drought have made our current groundwater Basin unsustainable. We must take urgent action to protect the community’s water supply, and also to comply with court mandated groundwater Basin protection requirements.

Last year, a court appointed Technical Group responsible for monitoring groundwater conditions reported that area wells dropped to their lowest level on record, nearly triggering a Severe Water Shortage condition. This third year of drought has continued to degrade the groundwater condition; an official update on the groundwater Basin status is expected in May.

The District has been taking aggressive action for many years to respond to water supply concerns:

First, the District has succeeded in obtaining supplemental water supplies and is constructing essential, but costly facilities to bring that water to our community. Construction is already underway and new water supplies will begin to be available starting next year.

Second, the District is developing drought rates to motivate customers to reduce water use. These rates are proposed to be based on a set of five escalating drought stages. At each higher stage, the rates would be increased to motivate people to conserve increasing amounts of water, and also make up for the financial loss from reduced water sales.

Finally, the District is working with neighboring water suppliers, the County and the court to ensure an effective and coordinated basin-wide drought response

The next step will be formal approval of the Water Shortage Response Plan, which is scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 9AM in the District Board Room at 148 South Wilson in Nipomo. At the same meeting, the Board will also conduct a first review of draft drought rates intended to promote water use reduction by customers.

The District will provide extensive information to its customers before final adoption of proposed conservation rates. Watch for a mailer and announcements of a community forum in April. For more information, please contact the 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.