

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 11, 2014
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Board Actions Address Water Shortage and Drought

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 9, 2014, the Nipomo Community Services District Board of Directors took three steps to address the long-term groundwater decline which has been made worse by the current drought.

First, after hearing public comments, the Board unanimously approved a resolution adopting a Water Shortage Response Plan. This Plan is based on five escalating stages of drought. In the higher stages, there are targeted reductions in water use designed to protect the long-term groundwater supplies. As the stages escalate, the plan calls for increasing levels of voluntary conservation by customers. It also defines how the District will suspend processing requests for new water service in advanced stages of drought.

Second, to motivate customers to conserve water, the District is proposing special drought rates designed to signal customers to reduce water use should advance stages of drought be experienced. The Board reviewed these rates, which are proposed to be based on the same five stages in the Drought Response Plan. In stages three through five, the drought rates are proposed to motivate people to conserve increasing amounts of water, and also make up for the financial loss from reduced water sales.

General Manager, Michal LeBrun pointed out that, "The escalating rates approach lowers impacts on customers who are already conserving. Those who use less, pay less."

Third, the District has succeeded in obtaining supplemental water supplies and is constructing essential, but costly facilities to bring that water to our community. Delivery of supplemental water is planned for summer 2015. At the April 9 meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed a Supplemental Water Charge that is proposed to be levied when the new supply becomes available.

Taken together, the drought response plan, proposed drought rates, and the new supplemental water supply and proposed charges form a comprehensive response to the current water shortage situation both in the near term and the long run.

Details of the proposed drought rates and supplemental rates are still being developed. The Board is scheduled to receive a presentation outlining the proposed rates at its next Regular Board Meeting on April 23rd at 9 AM in the District Board Room, 148 South Wilson, Nipomo. Additionally, Public Workshops to discuss the rates are scheduled to be held the week of May 5th.

For more information, please contact the Nipomo Community Services 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: Provide our customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.