



# Nipomo Community Services District DISTRICT NEWS

## On the Road to Supplemental Water

Since the publication of our last newsletter in August, the NCSD has made progress on design of the new waterline intertie project, on preparation of the Environmental Impact Report, and on development of financing. The proposed project involves construction of about five miles of new pipeline starting at the corner of Blosser and Taylor in Santa Maria, where NCSD would connect to the City of Santa Maria water distribution system. The pipeline would then cross the Santa Maria River and be connected with NCSD's existing water system at the corner of Orchard Road and Joshua.

This new waterline would initially deliver 2,000 to 3,000 acre-feet per year. With significant addition of more pipelines and pumping stations, it could ultimately supply as much as 6,200 acre feet per year to meet what the County has approved for build-out. The first phase, delivering up to 2,000 to 3,000 acre-feet per year, is expected to take approximately three years to complete. Assuming that permits can be secured by the end of 2009, the new water could be available in 2011.

As previously reported, the NCSD has hired Boyle Engineering Corporation to design the project. The overall design process is expected to take 16 months, with progressively more detailed sets of plans produced for review. The first phase of the design is the development of the Concept Design Report, including 11 technical memorandums. The development of the Concept Design Report is expected to be completed by February 2009. Boyle will then deliver a 60% Submittal of Construction Plans and Specifications by June 2009, and a 90% Submittal of Construction Plans and Specifications by July 2009. Competitive bids from qualified contractors are expected in October 2009, with construction occurring in late 2009 and all of 2010.

Part of Boyle's design is to evaluate options for eliminating the need for 200 pressure-regulating valves adjacent to the

homes in the area bounded by Story Road, Orchard Road, Southland Street and South Frontage.

In September, Boyle submitted a Technical Memorandum comparing five different plumbing arrangements to transport the supplemental water from Southland Street to West Tefft Street without a substantial increase in pressure to the customers in this rectangle.

The Board selected a design that leaves the old distribution system in place and interconnects the new mains to the old system with a series of large pressure regulating valves, not encroaching on the properties of the 200 homes.

The new design creates a new freeway waterline undercrossing

at Grande Avenue, which would allow the dedicated supplemental waterline to interconnect with the backbone of the District's existing water system at the intersection of South Oakglen and West Tefft instead of at South Frontage and West Tefft. This new design will not only protect the 200 property owners in the southern area of the District from high pressures that could damage their plumbing and appliances, but it will improve NCSD's ability to move water from our storage reservoirs on the east side of the freeway to the users on the west side of the freeway.



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## On the Road to Supplemental Water

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At the same time that Boyle has been working on design of the project, Douglas Wood and Associates (DWA) has been performing the research necessary for publication of the project Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This report is a California State requirement to examine all the potential negative impacts of the project.

DWA is scheduled to release the Draft EIR in November 2008. Interested parties will be able to submit comments on the Draft EIR through December 31, 2008. DWA will then draft responses to the comments and prepare a Final EIR by the end of January 2009. The NCSD Board will then consider certifying the Final EIR in February 2009.

In September 2007, the NCSD Board of Directors reviewed options to access the necessary financing for construction of the project and options for repayment of the loan to build the pipeline.

The Board determined that the most cost-effective funding tool involved the issuance of municipal bonds by the California Special District Finance Corporation. The Board further determined that the most equitable approach for repayment of the annual principle and interest on these bonds would be to form an assessment district comprised of both developed and vacant properties within the District. The advantage of forming the assessment district, as opposed to relying on user fees, is that the annual cost to existing customers will be minimized.

The District has hired the Wallace Group to prepare a preliminary assessment report, which will be presented to the Board in December. NCSD expects that ballots for voting on the formation of the assessment district will be mailed to property owners in 2009.

Readers interested in more details can access the "Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project – Preliminary Engineering Memorandum" on the NCSD website ([www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov)) or contact the NCSD Office at 929-1133. The Supplemental Water Committee Project Committee generally meets once per month to

consider project issues, and public input is welcome and encouraged.

## Update: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The NCSD provides sewer service to a majority of its water customers. One sewage treatment facility, located on Willow Road, serves Blacklake Village, and a second sewage treatment facility, located on Southland Street, serves the "Town" division customers who do not have septic systems.

This second wastewater treatment facility, called the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility, is approaching its hydraulic (flow) capacity and it has chronic problems achieving the quality of treatment prescribed by the State of California.

To resolve these problems, the NCSD Board of Directors has hired Boyle Engineering to complete a master plan for upgrading the collection and treatment works at the Southland facility, and an analysis of 11 potential discharge options for disposal of the treated (sewage) wastewater. Boyle Engineering is scheduled to present their draft master plan to the District at the December 12, 2008 Board Meeting.

At the same meeting, the Board will review a draft environmental assessment of the master plan's proposed collection and treatment upgrades and the evaluation of the 11 disposal options. In accordance with California environmental regulations, the Board will be asked to determine if a comprehensive and complex Environmental Impact Report should be prepared or

if the collection and treatment upgrades can be built using the recommended conditions of the less complex mitigated Negative Declaration. If an Environmental Impact Report is ordered, it will include a detailed comparison of the 11 disposal options. If the conditions of a mitigated Negative Declaration are used as guidelines for the collection and treatment upgrades, a separate environmental review will take place regarding the disposal options.



### Mission Statement:

*"The Nipomo Community Services District's mission is to provide the community with reliable, quality and cost-effective services."*



### Vision Statement:

*"The Nipomo Community Services District's vision is to manage the resources and future growth of the community."*



The NCS D expects to build the collection and treatment upgrades in 2010 with municipal bonds. The debt service necessary to repay the bonds has already been incorporated into the sewer user fees paid by the Town sewer customers. By building the collection works in South Frontage Road at the same time as the Supplemental Water Project is installing its plumbing, the NCS D can save substantial money and minimize disruption to the businesses and motorists using South Frontage Road.

septic system. If 100% of the self-regenerative water softeners were replaced, the concentration of dissolved solids would drop by approximately 23% and NCS D would achieve compliance with State discharge standards.

## Groundwater: Salts Management

**A**t the Board's October 8, 2008 meeting, the Board received two reports from Boyle Engineering regarding options to control salts discharged from the community into the Southland Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Blacklake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Each report concluded that the importation of softer supplemental water would assist NCS D in achieving compliance with our respective State discharge orders. However, even with the softer source water we will still exceed the maximum sodium and chloride limits set by the State. Both reports concluded that NCS D must either eliminate self-regenerative water softeners or construct very expensive filter systems to remove the salts at the two treatment facilities.

On October 8, 2008, the Board directed staff to draft an ordinance prohibiting the installation of new self-regenerative water softeners and a program to encourage customers who currently have these systems to convert to one of the canister-style softener services available in the region. Staff expects to present both a draft ordinance and a program to the Board in Winter 2009.

Meanwhile, NCS D is requesting that property owners with self-regenerating water softeners replace those systems with the canister systems offered by various water softening companies.

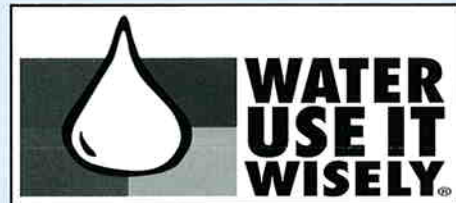
Self-regenerating softeners discharge salt into the sewer where the property is part of the collection system and into the groundwater basin where the property is served by a

## Solid Waste Franchise Agreement Extension

**O**n August 27, 2008, the Board extended the franchise agreement with South County Sanitation Service for 15 years. In exchange for the term extension, South County Sanitation Service agreed to reduce its operating profit from 8% to 7%. This cost reduction will be passed on to the customers inside of the District in the form of reduced bi-monthly billings.



"I wish John would get off this water conservation kick."



### Water Conservation Update: Conserve Now

**NOTE:** New web address for Nipomo's High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program:  
<http://www.cuwcc.org/smartrebates-nipomo.aspx>

Remember to change your irrigation schedule to match the cooling weather, and to turn off the system during December through February.

If you have any questions about water conservation, contact Celeste Whitlow at (805) 929-1133 or [cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov)

## NCS D Staff

- Bruce S. Buel, General Manager.
- Lisa S. Bognuda, Assistant General Manager
- Peter Sevcik, District Engineer
- Tina Grietens, Utilities Superintendent
- Celeste Whitlow, Water Conservation Coordinator



## For More Information

### Water-Efficient Home and Landscape

**Be Water Wise:** [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)  
**Santa Barbara Water Page:** [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org)  
**Water House:** [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org)  
**Water Family Game:** [www.thewaterfamily.co.uk](http://www.thewaterfamily.co.uk)

### Water-Efficient Irrigation Systems:

[www.sbwater.org/WeatherTechnology.htm](http://www.sbwater.org/WeatherTechnology.htm)  
**Irrigation tutorials:** [www.irrigationtutorials.com](http://www.irrigationtutorials.com)  
**Drip Irrigation:** [www.dripirrigation.ca](http://www.dripirrigation.ca)

### Info on the NCS D Website

(<http://www.ncsd.ca.gov/cm/Resources/Conservation.html>)

- "Reading Your Water Meter"
- "Detecting Leaks"
- "Drip Irrigation"
- "Septic Tank Maintenance"
- "Even You Can Fix a Leaky Faucet"
- "Why Use California Native Plants?"
- "Selected Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Nipomo Area"
- "Frequently Asked Questions about Water Conservation"
- "Tired of Paying a High Price for Your Landscape?"
- "Timing is Everything! You and Your Irrigation Controller"
- "Pharmaceuticals in the Water Supply"
- "Recycling and ReUse Guide"
- "Household Hazardous Waste: Where Do I Put It?"



Printed copies of these documents (and more!)  
are available in the lobby at the NCS D Office.



## Up-Coming Meetings

Following is a schedule of the regular NCS D Board Meetings held at 9 AM in the Board Room at the NCS D Office; 148 South Wilson Street, Nipomo:

### NOVEMBER 2008

- Wednesday 11/12/08
- Wednesday 11/26/08

### DECEMBER 2008

- Wednesday 12/12/08
- Wednesday 10/22/08

### JANUARY 2009

- Wednesday 1/9/09
- Wednesday 1/23/09

### FEBRUARY 2009

- Wednesday 2/12/09
- Wednesday 2/26/09

Board Meeting Agendas and packets can be downloaded from the NCS D website ([www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov)) 72 hours before each meeting.

*On the lighter side...*

### Top 10 Ways David Letterman Conserves Water

- 10.** No more scotch and water, from now on it's all scotch.
- 9.** On April Fool's Day, dropped air-filled balloons onto unsuspecting pedestrians.
- 8.** Three words: ketchup ice cubes.
- 7.** Fill up the swimming pool with Nyquil.
- 6.** Instead of washing dishes, I just throw them away and get new ones.
- 5.** Make coffee with air conditioning condensation.
- 4.** Brushing my teeth with Dr. Pepper.
- 3.** (Writers too dehydrated to write #3)
- 2.** Drinking more gasoline.
- 1.** Having my hairpieces dry-cleaned, not washed.

*Late Show With David Letterman*  
(<http://lateshow.cbs.com>)