



Nipomo Community Services District District News

Issue No. 1, 2009

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NCS Mission Statement

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

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Waterline Intertie Project Update

From July 2008 to May 2009, Nipomo received about 8.6 inches of rain, compared to the historic average precipitation of 16.5 inches. This is the third year in a row that rainfall was below our historic average, with 2006-07 recording 6.6 inches and 2007-08 recording 10.5 inches. Below average rainfall translates into below average percolation into our groundwater basin, which currently accounts for 100% of Nipomo's water supply. Given that in normal rainfall years, less water reaches the Nipomo Mesa groundwater table than is pumped, dry years result in lower storage, and a sequence of dry years results in groundwater depressions below sea level. As reported in previous editions of the District News, the NCS Board has committed to developing the Waterline Intertie Project, connecting the Nipomo Mesa to the City of Santa Maria, so that supplemental water is available. This new waterline would initially deliver 2,000 acre feet per year. The 2,000 acre feet is needed immediately to reduce groundwater pumping to levels close to natural recharge.

The proposed project involves construction of about five miles of new pipeline starting at the corner of Blosser and Taylor in Santa Maria, where NCS would connect to the City of Santa Maria water distribution system. From this point, an 18" main would be constructed in Blosser North to the levy and a 24" main would be constructed under the levy and the Santa Maria River, using a technique call Horizontal Directional Drilling. At the top of the bluff on the north side of the Santa Maria River, a pump station and a 500,000 gallon storage reservoir would be built. The new water would then be

“The NCS Board has committed to developing the Waterline Intertie Project, connecting the Nipomo Mesa to the City of Santa Maria, so that supplemental water is available.”

connected with NCS's existing water system at the corner of Orchard Road and Joshua. In addition, the District would construct a new 12" water main in Southland Street from Orchard Road to South Frontage and construct a new 12" main in South Frontage from

Southland to Grand, then under US 101 to South Oakglen and along South Oakglen to West Tefft Street.

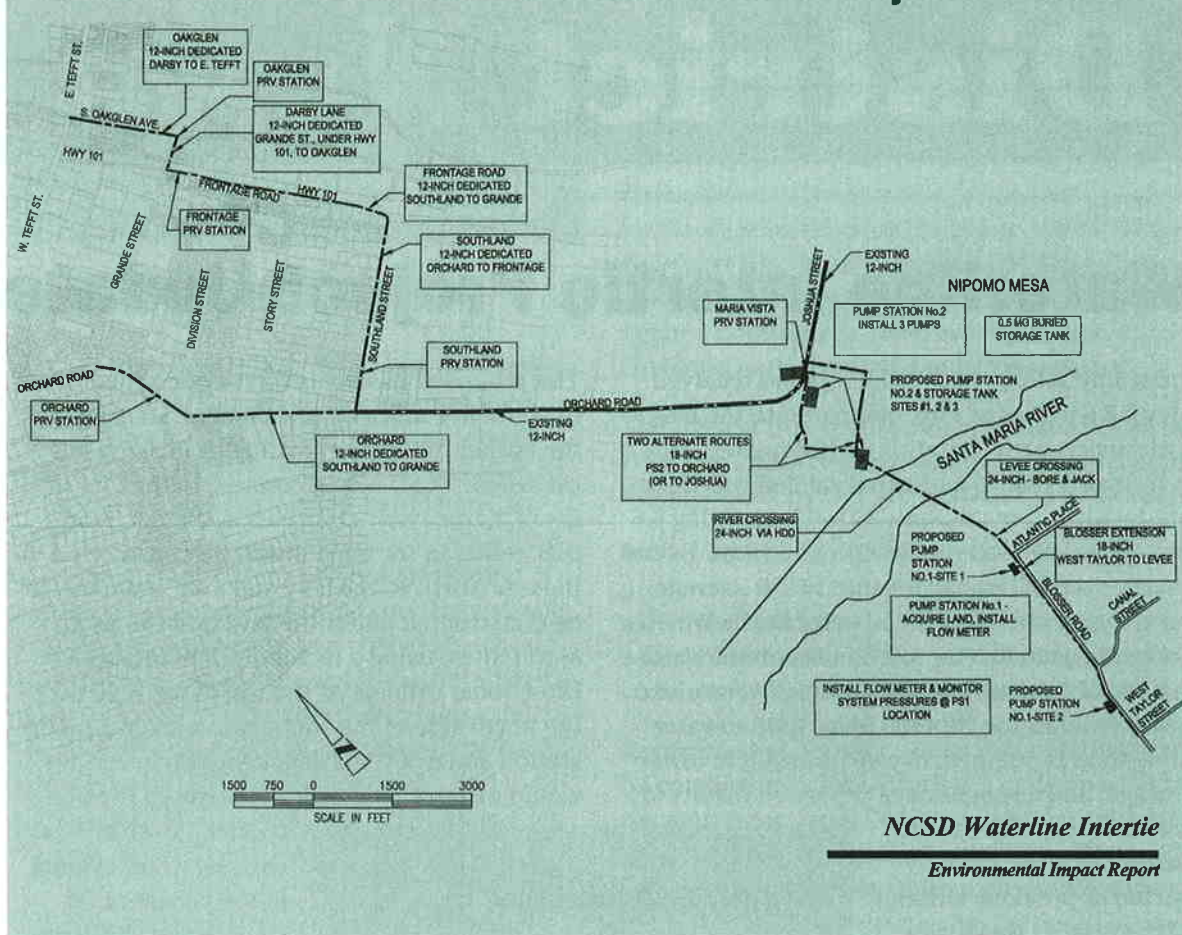
In 2008 the NCS Board hired AECOM Engineering Corporation to design the project. AECOM completed the Concept Design in April 2009, including eleven technical memorandums. The Board approved this Concept Design at its May 13, 2009 Meeting. AECOM is expected to deliver a 60% Submittal of Construction Plans and Specifications by July 2009 and a 90% Submittal of Construction Plans and Specifications by September 2009. Competitive bids from qualified contractors are expected in January 2010 with construction starting in Spring 2010 and finishing by the end of 2011.

This project was evaluated in a Draft and then a Final Environmental Impact Report by Douglas Wood and Associates (DWA). The Final EIR determined that the project had both beneficial and adverse environmental impacts and proposed a mitigation and monitoring program to minimize the adverse impacts. The NCS Board of Directors certified the Final EIR at its April 22, 2009 Meeting.

In regards to funding, AECOM estimates that the capital cost of construction at about \$23 million.

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Waterline Intertie Project Facilities



Hetrick Road Clean Up

Over the years, the dirt portion of Hetrick Road from Pomeroy Road up to Glenhaven Place has been used as an illegal dumping ground and it had become a visual blight and a public health nuisance. With encouragement from the neighboring property owners and the cooperation of SLO County Code Enforcement and South County Sanitation Service, the NCS D Board agreed to use solid waste fund reserves to pay the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to remove the built-up garbage and to close this roadway to travel to discourage future dumping. Over a three week period this winter, a 15-member CCC crew removed tons of garbage and constructed bollards at both the north and south ends of the dirt road. Ride Nipomo was also instrumental in removing overgrown vegetation so that the CCC could access the corridor. NCS D would like to thank everyone involved for solving a difficult problem so that the remaining trail is clean and usable.

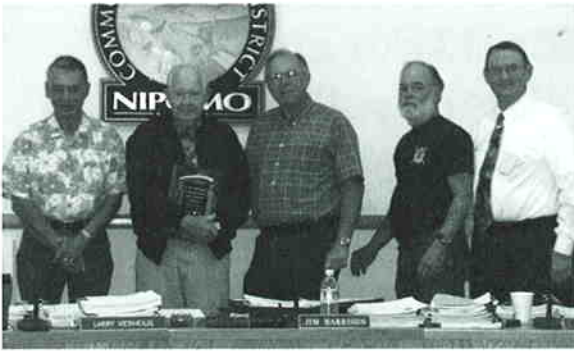
Waterline Intertie Project Update *(continued)*

The NCS D Board has proposed to borrow these funds in the form of a municipal bond and repay the resulting debt service (annual principle and interest) with assessments. The Board is working with an assessment engineer to prepare a preliminary assessment role for mailing this fall to each property owner within the District and for property owners within the Golden State Water Company, Rural Water Company and the Woodlands, who will share the cost. Property owners will then have an opportunity to request corrections to the assessment role before ballots are mailed out at the end of 2009. The preliminary evaluation indicate that the average single family residence would pay an assessment of approximately \$120 per year over the thirty year life of the bond.

Separate from the capital cost, NCS D must also pay for the water and the ongoing costs of operating the project. NCS D has hired a rate consultant to develop proposed new water rates.

The consultant will evaluate the size of the rate increase necessary and provide the Board with options regarding who will pay what share of the new charges this summer. The NCS D Board will then select a proposed rate and mail out protest ballots to all property owners and customers by the end of 2009. It appears that the annual cost of operations will be approximately \$240 per year for an average single family residence.

Readers interested in more details can access the "Nipomo Waterline Intertie Project - Concept Design Report" and the NCS D "Waterline Intertie Final EIR" off of NCS D's website - NCS D.CA.GOV or contact the NCS D Office at 929-1133. The District's Supplemental Water Project Committee generally meets once per month to consider project issues and public input is welcome and encouraged. The Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 9am at the NCS D Office.



Cliff Trotter Resigns

In April, long time **Board Member Cliff Trotter** submitted his resignation as a result of poor health. Director Trotter had served a total of eight years starting in 2001 and he was elected in 2002 and reelected in 2006. During his tenure, Cliff Trotter championed the development of Supplemental Water and implementation of preventive maintenance programs. He was able to apply his experience as a civil engineer and his expertise as a former water district General Manager to enrich the Board with high expectations for system performance. He will be hard to replace, but it is clear that his health had to be his top priority. Everyone at NCS D wishes Cliff the best in his retirement.

State law allows the District Board up to 60 days to select a replacement with a deadline of June 24, 2009. The Board agreed to accept nominations from voters residing in the District through the end of May 2009 and to hold interviews with prospective candidates on June 3, 2009.

Southland WWTF Upgrade Project

NCS D provides sewer service to a majority of its water customers, with one treatment facility on Willow Road serving the Blacklake Village and a second treatment facility on Southland Street serving 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 also has chronic problems achieving the quality of treatment prescribed by the State of California. To resolve these problems, the NCS D Board of Directors has researched the upgrade options and has selected a retrofit treatment technology that will increase the facility's hydraulic capacity and its treatment quality. Additionally, the sewer collection line in South Frontage Road is currently undersized and must be replaced.

The District Board in March selected AECOM Engineering to prepare the Final Design for the upgrade. AECOM is scheduled to produce a concept design report by October 2009 and a 60% design by February 2010.

In April, the Board also hired Douglas Wood and Associates (DWA) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the project. DWA will assist the District in scoping the document this summer and then publish a Draft EIR this fall. There will be an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the Draft EIR in Winter 2010 before it is finalized.

Assuming that permits can be secured, this work should start in 2010 and be completed in 2011. The issue of disposal of the treated wastewater remains unresolved. Unfortunately, the existing percolation ponds to the south of the facility are not working as designed and NCS D needs to find a substitute disposal site. Although the treated wastewater does percolate into the soil at the existing site, the Santa Maria Valley fault that runs down Orchard Road acts as a barrier to the migration of groundwater to the west and as a result a mound of groundwater is building underneath the site with nowhere to go. The Board will continue to evaluate options to resolve this problem and the alternatives will be equally evaluated in the upgrade Environmental Impact Report. It is likely that the solution to NCS D's Southland wastewater discharge problem will be implemented at a later date.

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

Wednesday, August 12, 2009
Wednesday, August 26, 2009

AUGUST

Wednesday, July 8, 2009
Wednesday, July 22, 2009

JULY

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

JUNE

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.

Up-Coming Meetings

ncsd.ca.gov
148 South Wilson Street, Nipomo, CA 93444

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Community Services District

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