

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: MICHAEL S. LEBRUN *MSL*  
GENERAL MANAGER  
DATE: MARCH 7, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM**  
**F**  
**MARCH 12, 2014**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**ITEM**

Standing report to your Honorable Board -- *Period covered by this report is February 22, 2014 through March 7, 2014.*

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**Administrative**

- Drought continues throughout the State and region. The winter of 2013-2104 is on track to be one of the driest, if not the driest, on record.
- The Nipomo Mesa Management Area groundwater basin levels are at their lowest recorded level in the forty-year record.
- The District's Supplemental Water Project, Phase is under construction and on schedule for completion in July 2015. Phase 2 of the project will be pursued prior to the completion of Phase 1.
- The District continues to encourage all customers to conserve water in its newsletters and advertising. Annual average customer water use has declined steadily since the District implemented an inclining tiered water rate structure in 2011. However, customer demand last fall and this winter was higher than typical due to the lack of rainfall.
- District staff is working to develop a Water Shortage Response and Management plan. Drought rates (premiums on top of existing rates) and/or water use restrictions may be necessary this summer if winter rain fall levels remain low.
- The District rate consultant is scheduled to present draft drought rate schedules based on the District's approved Water Shortage Response and Management Plan to the Finance and Audit Committee on March 25.
- The District issued a \$3,838 work order to Electricraft Electrical Contractors to perform miscellaneous electrical and lighting maintenance and repairs at the administrative office.
- On February 28, Annual disclosure form ("Form 700") for all District officials -- corrected - were forwarded to the County of San Luis Obispo Clerk Recorder.
- On March 4, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors considered a request by the County Planning and Building Department for authorization to process amendments to the County General Plan. District staff did not become aware of the agenda topic in time to allow formal consideration and comment by District Board of Directors. Staff did provide brief written comments via email to Fourth District Supervisor Ray two days prior to County Board meeting. County staff report and District staff comment email are attached herein.

- San Luis Obispo County maintains two rain gauges in the area. One is located at the District's Southland Wastewater Plant (Nipomo South) and one at the District's Tefft Street water storage site (Nipomo East). In the past two weeks, Nipomo South received nearly 2 inches of rain and Nipomo East received just over 2-inches of rain. The seasonal rain total for Nipomo South is 3.25 inches. Average for this gauge is 16-inches per year. The seasonal total for Nipomo East is 4.13. Average seasonal rainfall total for Nipomo East is 18-inches.

**Safety Program**

- No accidents or incidents to report

**Connection Report**

Nipomo Community Services District Water and Sewer Connections	END OF MONTH						
	AUG-13	SEPT-13	OCT-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	JAN-14	FEB-14
Water Connections (Total)	4290	4290	4293	4310	4312	4313	4313
Sewer Connections (Total)	3084	3084	3086	3102	3104	3104	3104
Meters turned off (Non-payment)	28	30	23	20	37	11	19
Meters off (Vacant)	48	45	45	44	32	44	46
Sewer Connections off (Vacant)	18	14	14	11	11	12	14
New Water Connections	1	0	3	17	2	1	0
New Sewer Connection	1	0	2	16	2	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sewer Connections billed to the County	462	462	463	463	463	463	463

**Public Outreach**

The following Public Outreach Program materials are provided:

- A summary of outreach and education activities
- Recent outreach materials;
  - February 28 Adobe Press 'Manager's Column'
  - March 7 Adobe Press, water conservation advertising
- Recent press releases and press release log
- District related news articles
- 'Slowaterwiselandscaping.com' website traffic report (District participates in the development and maintenance of this interactive website that helps homeowner save water through proper landscape selection and care.)

**Other Items and News of Interest (Attachments to this Report)**

- Americans Use Twice as Much Water as They Think – 3/3/14 LA Times Science
- SLO County Integrated Waste Management Authority March 12, 2014 Agenda

### Meetings

*Meetings Attended (telephonically or in person):*

- February 21, General Counsel Coordination
- February 21, Annual SLO County CSDA Chapter Annual Meeting
- February 24, Rate Consultant
- February 24, Woodlands MWC Manager
- February 24, Outreach Consultant
- February 26, Regular Board Meeting
- February 27, Blacklake Management Association – sewer fund
- February 27 and March 6, Management Coordination
- February 28, General Counsel Coordination
- March 3, Rate Consultant
- March 3, Mining Expert and Special Counsel
- March 3, Board Officers
- March 4, Bond Counsel
- March 4, Blacklake Golf Course Developer
- March 5, County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- March 6, Finance and Audit Committee
- March 7, General Counsel
- March 7, County Planning Director County Public Works Director

*Meetings Scheduled:*

- March 10, Bill Kengel
- March 11, County Board of Supervisors
- March 12, Regular Board Meeting
- March 12, Regional Recycled Water Strategic Plan
- March 13 & 20, Management Coordination
- March 14, Operations/Administration Coordination
- March 14, Board Officers
- March 14, Tour of Southland Construction w/ Board Officers

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks direction and input from your Honorable Board

### ATTACHMENTS

- A. March 4, 2014, County Staff Report and District Staff Comment Letter
- B. NCSD Outreach Program Summary Materials
- C. March 3, 2014, LA Times Water Use Article
- D. March 12, 2014, SLO County Waste Authority Agenda

MARCH 12, 2014

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT A

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Planning and Building	(2) MEETING DATE 3/4/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE James Caruso, Senior Planner / 805-781-5702	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize processing of possible amendments to the Conservation and Open Space, Agriculture and other elements and policies of the County General Plan and various Titles of the County Code, including Title 8 (Health and Sanitation Code), Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance), Title 21 (Real Property Division Ordinance), Title 22 (Land Use Ordinance), Title 23 (Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance) and Title 26 (Growth Management Ordinance) to implement countywide water resource policies and strategies. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board review the proposed amendments to the General Plan and ordinances and determine whether to authorize processing.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Department Budget	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent    { } Presentation    { } Hearing (Time Est. ___)    { X } Board Business (Time Est. <u>90 min</u> )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions    { } Contracts    { } Ordinances    { X } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: { } 4/5 Vote Required    { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A    Date: <u>December 3, 2013</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Lisa M. Howe			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Planning and Building / James Caruso, Senior Planner

VIA: Kami Griffin, Assistant Director

DATE: 3/4/2014

SUBJECT: Request to authorize processing of possible amendments to the Conservation and Open Space, Agriculture and other elements and policies of the County General Plan and various Titles of the County Code, including Title 8 (Health and Sanitation Code), Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance), Title 21 (Real Property Division Ordinance), Title 22 (Land Use Ordinance), Title 23 (Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance) and Title 26 (Growth Management Ordinance) to implement countywide water resource policies and strategies. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board review the proposed amendments to the General Plan and ordinances and determine whether to authorize processing.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Background

When changes to the County General Plan and ordinances are proposed, the first step in the process is for the Board to authorize staff to commence work on the amendments. If your Board authorizes processing of amendments to the various elements and codes, staff will start review of potential revisions, conduct stakeholder outreach and environmental review. The item will then be scheduled for public hearings at the Planning Commission and your Board.

### County General Plan and Ordinances

On December 3, 2013, your Board directed staff to return in early 2014 for authorization of general plan and ordinance amendments to implement countywide water resource policies of the Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) of the general plan. Your Board requested that staff prepare a comprehensive analysis of the potential policy and ordinance amendments addressed in the COSE and bring that full discussion and analysis to your Board. In addition, your Board directed staff to investigate other measures to address water conservation including: use of Transfer of Development Credits (TDCs) and creation of two Agriculture zones or Land Use Categories. All of these potential policy and ordinance amendments and other measures are discussed in this report and summarized in a table (Attachment 1). On December 3, 2013, your Board also gave direction to establish a no-water-export ordinance. This is being carried out based on the input provided to the Public Works Department by your Board on January 28, 2014.

The COSE and other elements of the County General Plan will need to be studied for possible revisions. All elements of the general plan must be "internally consistent" so that no conflicting policies appear in different elements. Other elements such as the Land Use Element will require some level of revisions so that they remain consistent with any changes adopted in the COSE and/or Agriculture Element.

In addition to the possible general plan element revisions, various county ordinances contained in the County Code may also be subject to revisions. Potential revisions to these ordinances include Title 8 (wells and metering), Title 19 (Building and Construction), Title 21 (Real Property Division Ordinance), Title 22 (Land Use Element), Title 23 (Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance), and Title 26 (Growth Management Ordinance). The following is a general description of these elements and ordinances and how they intersect with water resources.

## **I. General Plan Elements**

### *Conservation and Open Space Element*

The Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) is one of the elements of the County General Plan (Conservation and Open Space combines two of the required seven elements of every local jurisdiction's general plan) and was adopted after a four-year process in May 2010.

One of the ten chapters of the element addresses water resources. The chapter contains goals, policies and implementation strategies to employ those policies in ordinances and decision making processes.

### *Agriculture Element*

The Agriculture Element contains goals and policies to address agricultural issues such as agricultural land protection, water availability and conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. Each policy includes an implementation strategy along with a discussion of the policy and its intent.

### *Land Use and Circulation Element*

In the inland areas, the Land Use and Circulation Element includes the Framework for Planning (Part I), four area plans (Part II), community and village plans (Part III), and the official maps (Part IV). The element also contains land use policies, purpose and character statements describing the various land use categories (e.g. Agriculture, Rural Lands) and implementation programs. The Resource Management System (RMS) that addresses such resources as water supply is included in the Framework for Planning (Chapter 3). The Local Coastal Program contains the Coastal Plan Policies, Coastal Framework for Planning, four area plans and the official maps.

### *Other Elements of the General Plan*

The other elements of the general plan include mandatory elements such as Safety, Housing, and Noise along with optional elements such as Offshore Energy, Parks and Recreation and Economic. The policies and programs of these elements will be reviewed and revised as needed to ensure that internal consistency is maintained among all general plan elements as a result of changes to the preceding elements.

## **II. County Codes**

### *Title 8 (Health and Sanitation)*

This Title contains retrofit-on-sale requirements and the standards for well permits and well construction. Any revisions or additions to retrofit-on-sale requirements in County jurisdiction will be part of Title 8. The Public Health Department's Division of Environmental Health is currently working on new well standards that include installation, monitoring and reporting of water use.

### *Title 19 (Building and Construction Ordinance)*

Title 19, the Building and Construction Ordinance, contains all of the buildings standards for new or expanded dwellings, businesses and waste disposal systems. Potential changes to construction requirements such as retrofit-to-build would be part of this Title. Special water requirements in Los Osos and Nipomo are part of Title 19, as every dwelling constructed in the area is subject to building code requirements.

*Title 21 (Real Property Division Ordinance)*

Title 21 regulates the subdivision of land along with the State Subdivision Map Act. Issues such as provision of services (water and sewer), parcel design and voluntary merger are part of Title 21.

*Titles 22 and 23 (Land Use Ordinance and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance)*

These two titles contain a majority of the land use regulations in the County jurisdiction. As Title 22 addresses the inland area and Title 23 addresses the coastal zone, there are differences in how each title approaches water issues. Regulatory requirements for land uses, minimum lot sizes, extension of services and new development water requirements are part of these titles.

*Title 26 (Growth Management Ordinance)*

Title 26 establishes an annual rate of growth in the unincorporated jurisdiction. Some communities have a community growth rate such as Nipomo and Cambria; otherwise, the annual growth rate is calculated countywide. Other urban and rural areas could be addressed with separate growth rates in Title 26 based on available resources.

Potential Policy and Ordinance Amendments

The following are implementation strategies that address water resource goals and policies of the COSE.

**1. Protecting Agricultural Water Supplies (Implementing Strategy 1.7.1 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element)**

One of the most apparent results of the current crisis in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is the dropping groundwater level's effects on rural residential property owners. Recent testimony at public hearings indicates that these owners may not have the same resources available to drill deeper, larger wells as the agricultural (primarily vineyard) industry does. The rural area contains several large antiquated subdivisions of smaller lots, all with individual wells and septic systems. These areas were subdivided chiefly in the 1920's and first saw substantial development pressure in the 1990's and then again in the early to mid-2000's.

Competition and conflict between rural residential and agricultural water users in the basin can be addressed through lower development rates in the rural area, larger minimum parcel sizes for new subdivisions and merger of substandard-sized parcels.

**a. Amend Title 26 (GMO)**

The current Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) establishes limits on issuance of building permits for new dwellings throughout the unincorporated jurisdiction. This includes the rural area and all of the urban areas (i.e. unincorporated communities); although a few urban areas have their own growth rates (e.g. Nipomo and Cambria).

Possible amendments to the GMO would identify several alternatives to reduce rural residential/agricultural water (and other) conflicts, with an emphasis on including incentives to accomplish this. Alternatives include removing or relaxing growth management from the urban areas and establishing growth management areas in the rural area based on resource constraints as described below.

**i. Rural Areas**

Under one approach, building permits for residential development located within the rural area of groundwater basins, whether in the Agriculture, Rural Lands or Residential Rural land use categories, would be subject to annual limits based on resource constraints, for example, whether the groundwater basin is in Level of Severity (LOS) I, II or III. This alternative would seek to minimize water conflicts within agricultural areas near adjacent rural residential users and to maintain larger, more agriculturally productive parcels. As is currently the case, the Board would continue to set building permit allocations for new dwelling units within rural areas, but at a rate that acknowledges resource constraints.



The establishment of growth limits in the GMO for rural areas lacking resources may better address water conflicts than other alternatives such as no-new-net-water-demand requirements. Allowing continued development of small lots, even with no net increase in water demand, would subject this additional new development to continuing and worsening groundwater issues. A lesser amount of development in these areas may provide better protection of agricultural resources and would avoid increasing the numbers of properties subject to falling groundwater levels and other water issues.

ii. Urban areas

Under this alternative, unincorporated urban areas (and possibly some village areas) would not be subject to the GMO. Instead, water providers (such as the Community Services Districts) would be responsible for metering development consistent with the availability of resources. Urban areas identified as LOS III for water supply or other essential resources in the RMS could retain GMO limits as they currently are established.

**b. Amend Titles 22 and 23 (LUO/CZLUO): require larger minimum parcel sizes**

This strategy would amend the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) and the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) to increase minimum parcel sizes for any new land division in the rural areas of the county, including the Agriculture, Rural Lands and Residential Rural land use categories. In the 1990 Phase 1 Rural Settlement Study, it was estimated that there were over 8,000 undeveloped parcels within the Agriculture, Rural Lands and Residential Rural categories.

An increase in the minimum lot size for any new rural area subdivision would decrease the amount of new development pressure on limited water resources in constrained groundwater basins. Competition for limited water between residential and agricultural uses would be reduced.

An alternative to larger minimum parcel sizes is the use of a Transfer of Development Credit (TDC) program described in item 2b. below. A TDC program incentivizing land owners to maintain larger parcel sizes through transferring their development credits to lots outside of the basin or to areas where there are no resource constraints. This can reduce water conflicts from competing land uses within groundwater basins and support commercially viable agricultural parcels. Opportunities to further incentivize the transfer of development credits from productive agriculture and rural land use areas to existing urban areas with available and verifiable water supplies under County jurisdiction could be considered. Examples of such incentives include: voluntary consolidation of smaller parcels by a single land owner (see item c. below), continuation of existing farm leases (i.e. Williamson Act contracts) and intensification of production opportunities where local area resources will support the increased agricultural activity.

**c. Amend Titles 21, 22 and 23: merger of parcels**

As previously mentioned, a number of antiquated, non-conforming subdivisions currently exist throughout rural areas of the county. These non-conforming parcels are often located among large, commercial agricultural or grazing areas. Currently, the State Subdivision Map Act and the County Real Property Development Ordinance (Title 21) allow for voluntary merger of contiguous parcels under single ownership.

In order to minimize increased competition and pressure on groundwater basins in the rural areas, possible amendments to both Title 21 and the LUO would allow the County to establish an "involuntary" merger process consistent with the requirements of the State Subdivision Map Act. These provisions would allow the County to identify and merge contiguous, antiquated subdivided parcels under a single ownership. The law mandates that, in order to pursue an involuntary merger, the County must first adopt an ordinance that requires notification of property owners and an opportunity to oppose the merger at a public

hearing. The intent of these amendments would be to maintain larger agricultural parcels or larger residential parcels, while at the same reducing competition for water and other resources in groundwater basins designated at a LOS III.

The involuntary merger process is difficult and ultimately may not successfully merge standard parcels due to its complex administrative procedure. However, smaller parcels tend to fare poorly in groundwater-short areas (as is seen in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin) and facilitating the merger of such parcels might be an important measure to address rural land use/water conflicts.

## **2. Additional Board Direction to Protect Agricultural Water Supplies**

### **a. Amend LUE/Agriculture Element: two Agriculture Land Use Categories**

On December 3, 2013, your Board expressed interest in researching the feasibility of creating two Agriculture zones or Land Use Categories, one for irrigated and the other for non-irrigated uses. The purpose of creating two Agriculture categories would be to better define the range of agricultural land uses that are more water intensive. By doing so, water intensive agricultural uses might be focused in areas most suitable for irrigation, thereby conserving groundwater resources and helping to ensure the future viability of the agricultural industry.

The County General Plan describes the Agriculture land use category in the Framework for Planning of the Land Use Element (LUE) both Coastal and Inland. It also describes agricultural land use designations in the Agriculture Element. The Coastal LUE categorizes agricultural land uses in coastal areas of the county based on "prime" and "non-prime" soil capability classes of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

The purpose of both the Coastal and Inland LUE categories is to identify and protect parcels with soil types that support commercial agriculture where viability, siting and natural resources allow. Separately, the Agriculture Element specifically outlines two main categories of agricultural land uses, irrigated lands and dry farm lands, which are further defined by sub-categories. Irrigated lands are sub-categorized as "row crop terrain and soils" and "specialty crops and forage lands." Dry farm lands are sub-categorized as "mixed croplands," "dry croplands" and "rangelands for grazing."

Currently, the LUO has only one Land Use Category, Agriculture, to encompass all agricultural land uses. Alternatives for developing two agriculture categories are presented below. It should be noted that using only one Land Use Category or zone for all agricultural activities is typical of many county and city land use zoning ordinances throughout the country.

- i. One alternative for amending the current LUO would be to use the two classifications of agricultural land outlined in the Agriculture Element - irrigated lands and dry farm lands. These two classifications could define agricultural land based upon the well-established Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils capability classes used in the Coastal LUE. The NRCS classifies farmland based upon the limitations of soil classes and the availability of water for irrigation. Mapping of the new irrigated and dry farm lands categories could take into account potential impacts on or availability of water resources within groundwater basins with a Level of Severity (LOS), as well as current agricultural uses and irrigation.

One way to address the new Agriculture category resulting in limitations on irrigation in certain areas would be the Water Use Transaction Program currently being developed by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. This program could provide parcels designated as dry farm agriculture the opportunity to offset proposed irrigation if an owner wished to irrigate those lands. It is also possible that parcels

designated as irrigated lands could become dry farm lands through the Water Use Transaction Program.

- ii. Another alternative for amending the current LUO would be to model examples of agriculture land use zones already established in other jurisdictions. Examples of more than one agriculture zone are not prevalent; however, there is an example in Yolo County. Yolo County is located within the Central Valley, west of Sacramento, and is a predominantly agricultural county. In order to better define the agricultural land uses throughout Yolo County, agricultural uses are divided into five separate land use zones, including:

- Agricultural Intensive (A-N),
- Agricultural Extensive (A-X),
- Agricultural Commercial (A-C),
- Agricultural Industrial (A-I), and
- Agricultural Residential (A-R).

Both the "Agricultural Intensive (A-N)" and "Agricultural Extensive (A-X)" land use zones are the most relevant to this discussion and could be explored further to provide a rough framework to define new agriculture categories. Yolo County defines "Agricultural Intensive (A-N)" land uses to:

*"...preserve lands best suited for intensive agricultural uses typically dependent on higher quality soils, water availability, and relatively flat topography. The purpose of the zone is to promote those uses, while preventing the encroachment of nonagricultural uses. Uses in the A-N Zone are primarily limited to intensive agricultural production and other activities compatible with agricultural uses. This includes allowing agriculturally-related support uses, excluding incompatible uses, and protecting the viability of the family farm. Minimum lot size for newly created parcels(1) in the A-N Zone is 40 acres for irrigated parcels primarily planted in permanent crops, such as orchards or vineyards; 80 acres for irrigated parcels that are cultivated; 160 acres for parcels that are generally uncultivated and/or not irrigated."*

The "Agricultural Extensive (A-X)" zone is applied to land uses that:

*"...protect and preserve lands that are typically less dependent on high soil quality and available water for irrigation. Such lands require considerably larger parcel sizes to allow extensive agricultural activities such as livestock and ranching operations, and dry land farming. These lands may also be used for open space functions that are often connected with foothill and wetlands locations, such as grazing and pasture land, and wildlife habitat and recreational areas. Minimum lot size for newly created parcels in the A-X Zone is 160 acres for dry land farming and 320 acres for rangeland."*

Yolo County applies agriculture related land use designations to parcels based upon a combination of soil type, water availability and crop characteristics. The "Agriculture Intensive (A-N)" zone is applied to parcels that are typically designated as prime farmland by NRCS classifications. The "Agriculture Extensive (A-X)" zone is applied to non-prime soils that are generally not irrigated and are mainly used for grazing, rangeland, dry farming or open space use.

Either of the preceding alternatives would involve the major and significant tasks of assigning allowable uses to two new Agriculture land use categories and deciding what, if any land use limitations or standards would apply in each category. In addition, creation of two new Agriculture Land Use Categories in the LUE and LUO would involve extensive rezoning (general plan amendment) countywide. Parcels currently designated as Agriculture on the LUE official maps total 1,397,000 gross acres. Amendments to the Coastal and Inland LUE,

Agriculture Element and LUO, as well as the official maps, would require a significant amount of time. Public outreach and hearings would be required to ensure adequate public input in the process. It is expected that creating two separate Agriculture land use categories could require extensive environmental review, and possibly the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

**b. Amend TDC ordinance**

On December 3, 2013, your Board expressed an interest in revisiting the Transfer of Development Credits (TDC) provisions of the LUO to address water conservation. The TDC section of the LUO outlines the County processes and procedures for transferring development potential from one parcel of land to another. Parcels or areas that are proposed to reduce or retire development potential of a site(s) are called "sending sites." Parcels or areas that are proposed to increase the development potential of a site(s) are called "receiving sites." Property owners that elect to reduce the development potential of a site(s) are given full or partial credits based on a given proposal. The awarded development credits can then be sold and transferred at market value to a receiving site. The TDC framework allows for the voluntary, market-driven transfer of development potential of parcels whereby willing buyers and sellers can choose to protect a significant resource such as agricultural or grazing lands.

A TDC ordinance amendment could consider a framework to facilitate voluntary, market-driven transfers within a groundwater basin designated LOS III, for example. The amended TDC ordinance could allow for the transfer development from areas of constrained water resources to areas that are not constrained.

An amendment to the TDC ordinance could also consider mandatory transfers when development is proposed that represents new groundwater demand. For example, new development on antiquated subdivision lots could be required to transfer the development credits of other vacant parcels in the groundwater basin to the lot being developed. As an alternative, new development on antiquated subdivision lots could also be addressed through such programs as merger and growth management as discussed earlier.

**3. Amend Agriculture Element: various policies**

Of the numerous users of a groundwater basin, urban users constitute a major water user in some areas (e.g. Atascadero sub-basin) while in others, agricultural users are the major users of a groundwater basin (e.g. Paso Robles basin). Major water users have a significant effect on lowering groundwater levels. Ensuring that sustainable water supplies are maintained will need to reflect an area's major water users.

Amendments to various Agriculture Element policies would be based largely upon your Board's direction to staff on items outlined above to ensure internal consistency is maintained between all elements of the general plan. Additional consideration could be given to Agriculture Element policies that address water conservation and groundwater supplies to protect water resources in a long-term sustainable and equitable manner.

Agriculture Policy (AGP) 15 addresses continued use of the TDC program to direct development away from agricultural operations and to ensure protection of agricultural resources. As outlined in item 2b. above, possible amendments to the existing TDC section of the LUO involve expanding the current TDC framework to allow for the voluntary transfer of development from areas of water resource constraints to areas that contain adequate resources for development.

Consideration also needs to be given to AGP 21, which establishes minimum parcel size criteria for the division of agricultural land. As outlined in item 1b. above, amendments to Title 22 and Title 23 would involve increasing the minimum parcel sizes for land divisions in the Agriculture, Rural Lands and Residential Rural land use categories.

Additional policies regarding water conservation (AGP10) could be analyzed to determine the feasibility for major land uses to conserve water in groundwater basins designated LOS III. Similar to the Winery Water Conservation BMPs established as an attachment to the Resource Capacity Study in July 2010, additional rural area BMPs could be developed to ensure effective water conservation measures are used by all major land uses in rural areas. Irrigation efficiency analyses could also be required on a limited-term basis, rather than just encouraged.

Other possible amendments to the Agriculture Element could address groundwater supplies (AGP11) in groundwater basins designated LOS III, for example. Balancing long-term overdraft and including water neutral development strategies in LOS III groundwater basins could allow for adequate recharge and continued availability of groundwater resources for all major basin users.

**4. Water Supply Assessments (Implementing Strategy 1.12.2 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element)**

The COSE includes a policy and an implementation strategy to require Water Supply Assessments (WSA) for all new divisions of land. A WSA should:

*Determine whether the total projected water supplies for the project during the next 20 years will meet the projected water demand associated with the proposed project, in addition to existing and planned future uses, including agricultural uses.*

Implementation of WSA's will require changes to Title 22 and to Title 23 if the revisions extend into the Coastal Zone. Title 21, the Real Property Division Ordinance, could also be amended to clarify that WSA's are part of a land division application process. An aim of a WSA is to evaluate water resources available to new development prior to land division approval.

**5. Improve Well Permit Data (Implementing Strategy 2.2.2 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element) and**

**6. Groundwater Data Collection (Implementing Strategy 2.2.4 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element)**

These two administrative requirements are important when looking at how to successfully manage water resources. They are both directed at improving data gathering, management and use of that data. Well permit improvement strategies are aimed at each new individual well. Installation of meters can be required, as well as recording useful information such as location, depth, yield, use, flow direction, and water levels.

The Environmental Health Division proposes to make improvements to the Well Permit Application to include necessary reviews by other County Departments and strengthen the application so that important information is included on the application (such as "Is the water well intended to replace an existing well that now has inadequate production?", etc.). An amendment to Title 8 of the County code is required to change well permit information.

Improvements in groundwater data collection can also be addressed in Title 8. Currently, the Flood Control and Water Conservation District sends data requests every July to approximately 30 water providers. The response rate varies from year to year so there can be significant gaps in water use data.

A substantial update/revision of the County's Well Construction Ordinance (Title 8, Chapter 8.40) has been undertaken by Environmental Health and will be going to the Board of Supervisors for approval this year. Highlights of the update include:

- a. Mandatory water quality testing for all new drinking water and agricultural wells;
- b. Mandatory installation of water meters for all new drinking water and agricultural wells (i.e., irrigation & livestock wells);

- c. Meters for all small public water systems (15 connections or more);
- d. In conjunction with water meter installation, require owners of new drinking water and agricultural wells and small public water systems to record water use for review by the County for groundwater management reports and studies;
- e. Expand the County's ability to access new key wells for long-term monitoring in order to better manage groundwater resources countywide (e.g., enrollment in the Public Works Department Well Measurement Program).

**7. Identify Per Capita Water Use Baselines, Using Sub-regional or Community Data Where Available (Implementing Strategy 4.1.1 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element)**

The Resource Management System (RMS) Biennial Report has included community use where it is reported by water providers. The 2010-2012 report used data from water providers' Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP) to derive per capita water use. Where no UWMP was available, staff calculated per capita water use based on the best available information. The Department will continue to track community water use and will report findings in future Biennial Reports.

**8. Countywide Water Conservation Ordinance (Implementing Strategy 4.1.2 – Water Resources Chapter – Conservation and Open Space Element)**

This strategy includes a broad range of potential actions. These actions range from outdoor water use restrictions to water waste ordinances to retrofitting existing development through retrofit-on-sale programs and adoption of water neutral development standards. Some of these potential actions could be best implemented in groundwater basins based on the RMS Level of Severity (LOS) while others (e.g. outdoor water use) could be countywide standards.

**a. Amend Titles 22, 23 for new landscape requirements (LID)**

Outdoor water use represents up to 65% of total potable water use in some areas of the county. According to the California Department of Water Resources, water demand is determined chiefly by rate structure and climate. The hotter, drier areas of the county will generally see outdoor water use percentages over 60% (as compared to indoor water use) while the coastal areas that have cooler, wetter climates (and smaller lot sizes) use as little as 30% of total potable water use outdoors.

Rate structure has a lot to do with water demand, especially the heavy outdoor use of water. In areas with water systems that use a conservation-oriented tiered rate structure, outdoor use is usually lower than areas without these rate structures. Rural area development dependent on individual wells does not have a rate structure to control demand. This can lead to difficulty in lowering water demand, especially outdoor use. Such areas do not have incentives to use low water-using landscaping that are backed up by a steep rate structure so that the more water used, the more expensive each unit of water becomes.

New landscape requirements can be placed on new development in all areas of the county. Landscaping standards that limit high water-using landscaping and turf grass on all residential and commercial development could occur through amendment to Titles 22 and 23.

**b. Retrofit-on-sale (Title 8)**

Plumbing retrofit programs implemented at the time of sale of a property have been a standard water conservation measure since the 1980s. Efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures became increasingly tighter in 1980, 1994 and in 2013. Plumbing retrofits can be considered the "low hanging fruit" of water conservation programs because they have been so widely used and can save water. However, successful retrofit programs are often based on the age of the housing stock subjected to the requirement. An area with a relatively new housing stock such as the Nipomo Mesa, where about 75% of the housing has been

constructed since 1994, does not offer great opportunities for retrofitting, as most of the development is already fairly water efficient. The removal of 1.6 gallon per flush (gpf) toilets saves a small amount of water if they are replaced with the new standard 1.28 gpf toilets (1.6-1.28 = 0.32 gallons per flush). At the most, this might reflect a savings of 3-4 gallons per day out of a total of perhaps 110 gallons per day of indoor water demand.

Retrofitting new development (built after 2012) would require using even more efficient toilets (e.g. 0.8 gpf) to save an appreciable amount of water. These toilets are more expensive than other standard models and would drive up the cost of "retrofitted" water.

Plumbing retrofits are most appropriate in areas with an older housing stock (pre 1994). Amendments to Title 8 for a retrofit-on-sale program should focus on this housing stock.

**c. Metering and monitoring of all new wells (Title 8)**

The Public Health Department's Division of Environmental Health is working on changes to Title 8. These changes will require installation of meters, monitoring of the meter readings and reporting of the recorded water demand (see 5 and 6).

**d. Water waste ordinance (Title 8)**

A number of cities and counties across California have adopted and implemented permanent water-waste ordinances in order to minimize the excessive use of water. Water-waste restrictions have provided numerous options to local jurisdictions to better address their current water supply conditions. These water-waste ordinances have also provided local jurisdictions with defined measures of enforcement for users who choose to waste water.

Water-waste ordinances mainly address behavioral measures to improve water conservation in times of drought. Measures include limiting irrigation times for landscaping, prohibiting the washing of hard or paved surfaces, and controlling excessive runoff, among others. Enforcement of water-waste is normally handled through the issuance of fines or one-time rate increases. Some local jurisdictions have adopted these water-waste ordinances on a permanent basis, whether drought conditions persist or not.

In considering a water-waste ordinance, a number of issues applicable to rural areas of the county will need to be addressed. Most water-waste ordinances have been implemented within urban areas that have existing water rate structures. When water-waste ordinances are enacted, water rate structures act as a natural incentive for users to conserve water; conserving water equals monthly rate savings. However, trying to apply water-waste standards to rural areas and agriculture that do not have a water rate structure may not have the same impact on water conservation efforts as in urban areas. Consideration should also be given as to how the County would enforce any adopted water-waste restrictions given the geographic extent of the rural areas and limited staff resources.

**e. Water neutral new development (Titles 21, 22 and 23; Agriculture Element, Conservation and Open Space Element, Land Use Element, Housing Element)**

Currently, new development is subject to a range of special water supply requirements. For example, in Los Osos there are retrofit-to-build and retrofit-on-sale ordinances implemented by the County as part of the land use and construction permit processes. In the Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area, building permits applications are subject to special fees required to help fund water conservation programs and new land divisions (within the urban area) are subject to a fee to help fund the supplemental water project. New discretionary development in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin is subject to a 2:1 offset standard and the Urgency Ordinance requires both agricultural and other development be water neutral.

These three areas mentioned above share some characteristics that should be noted:

- Water supply is at a certified Level of Severity III (LOS III) in the County's Resource Management System.
- Resource Capacity Studies (the vehicle to establish a LOS III) were prepared for these areas between 2004 and 2010.
- There are multiple water providers along with private well users.
- There is a substantial water use by the residential population, as well as agriculture and rural uses.
- The three areas rely chiefly or solely on groundwater.

As described above, water issues in various areas of the county have been addressed in different ways. The urgency ordinance in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and the Title 19 requirements in Los Osos require new development to be water neutral. In the Nipomo Mesa area, funding of water conservation measures is required of new development in lieu of water neutral requirements.

There is some evidence that other areas of the unincorporated county have recently experienced water problems. These areas include the Arroyo Grande Fringe, Los Berros and lands west of Paso Robles. It appears that all of these cases are in areas of fractured rock, not groundwater basins. Additionally, there are no special water supply standards or requirements in these areas.

Notwithstanding the three areas subject to Resource Capacity Studies, development in the unincorporated areas has not been subject to substantial water availability analyses. The area included in the Edna Valley Groundwater Basin has seen substantial residential, agricultural, institutional and industrial water demand. However, no water supply work has been contemplated for this area. This area may warrant the preparation of a Resource Capacity Study.

The ordinances could be amended to have a single method of guaranteeing new development stays water neutral for those areas that have been designated as LOS III for groundwater basins. One of the existing methods could be chosen and applied across to all three areas. The existing standards could remain in effect, with a new standard being developed for the remainder of the county. A 1:1 or 2:1 offset could be required, however, as the stock of pre 1994 housing stock diminishes, it will become harder to find the necessary retrofitting opportunities to offset new water use.

#### CEQA Considerations

Some of the actions considered above may require the preparation of more extensive environmental review. For example, changes to the growth management limits in the Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) may require more significant environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared in the past for significant changes to the GMO. Other potential actions may also require more extensive CEQA review, such as revisions to the Agriculture Element, creation of two new agriculture categories and revisions to the TDC ordinance. On the other hand, some potential actions may be exempt from CEQA, such as metering of wells, improved groundwater data, water use assessments and development of community data.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

If the amendments are authorized for processing, staff will contact and consult with the Public Works Department, Environmental Health, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, water providers and other interested organizations and agencies.



## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Some of the potential actions identified in this staff report may require minimal environmental review, such as use of CEQA exemptions. Other actions, such as revisions to the Agriculture Element, creation of two agriculture categories and revisions to the TDC ordinance, may require more extensive CEQA analysis that may include preparation of an EIR. An effort to create two agriculture zones could involve substantial staff time due to the complexity and likely controversy that would be generated by such a proposal, including the likelihood of widespread rezoning of agricultural land throughout the county. Depending on which amendments your Board authorizes for processing, it may be necessary to request additional funding for completion of CEQA review. Other amendments can be completed using the current Department budget.

## **RESULTS**

Authorization of these ordinance amendments will result in review and possible revisions to various elements of the County General Plan and various Titles of the County Code to implement Conservation and Open Space Element water resource polices and other measures discussed in this report.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Exhibit A - Amendment Options - Conservation and Open Space Element – Implementation Strategies

## Michael LeBrun

---

**From:** Michael LeBrun  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 02, 2014 10:43 AM  
**To:** eruth@co.slo.ca.us  
**Subject:** 3/4/14 BOS Meeting, Item 14

Hi Liz,

Some thoughts from District perspective on possible amendments to G Plan focused at water policy and strategy (3/4/14 BOS Meeting, Agenda Item 14):

Well Permits:

- We'd like to see the local CSD's that provide water service included in referrals of all water well drilling permit applications, especially when the area in question is a LOS III for water resources.
- When an application is for the replacement of a failed well, we'd like to see a requirement for documenting proper abandonment of the failed well. Improperly abandoned wells are a hazard to people and are a conduit for contamination of groundwater. Last time I looked in to well permitting at the County, there was little to no understanding regarding the status of the hundreds and even thousands of abandoned/replaced wells.
- We'd like to see a report on the number of existing wells in our area – general enough in nature to protect confidentiality where required, yet detailed enough to give sense of the number of wells currently existing.

Small water systems: County health department regulates all 'small' water companies (less than 200 connections. State DPH regulates those >200).

- We'd like to see the County consider a requirement for phasing meters in on these systems over the next 5 years. It looks like it might only be required if they are replacing wells?

'Build to save' paper water programs (aka retrofits etc..) are not effective and not long term. We feel all new development/new water demand in areas of LOS III should be watered by actual wet water. Gains made by retrofits and improved efficiencies of current users in LOS III areas should benefit all by reducing the overall pressure on the system. These paper water efforts should not be used to add more demand.

We understand this item is just the beginning of a process.

I will not be able to attend and comment at Tuesday's meeting. President Armstrong or another Director may. I will be meeting with Board Officers tomorrow and will let you know if any Directors are planning to attend.

Thanks,

---

**Michael S. LeBrun, P.E.**  
**General Manager**

Nipomo Community Services District  
148 South Wilson Street  
Nipomo, CA 93444-0326  
(805) 929-1133  
(805) 929-1932 fax  
[mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov)

MARCH 12, 2014

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT B

**NCSO Outreach Summary  
March 2014**

<b>Date Started</b>	<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
11/25/2013	Report	Design/Update of SWP Narrative Report	In Progress	
2/2/2014	Website Upgrade	"Production Phase" with website consultant	In Progress	
8/19/2013	Brochure	Update of "Reading Water Meters" brochure	3rd Draft In Progress	
1/27/2014	Postcard	Conservation postcard to high users regarding drought conditions and conserving	First Draft In Review	
2/28/2014	Brochure	Creation of "Detecting Leaks" insert for "Water Meter" brochure	In Progress	
2/18/2014	Manager's Column	Article 12 for Manager's Column in Adobe Press, pub date 2/28	Complete	2/24/2014
2/24/2014	Bulletin Board	Update of lobby and Board room bulletin boards	Complete; Ongoing	2/28/2014
3/3/2014	Press Release	January Water Demand up Significantly over 2013	Complete	3/4/2014
3/4/2014	Conservation Education	Observation of class presentation at Dana School	Complete	3/4/2014
2/24/2014	Website Updates	Newsletter 5; press release	Complete; Ongoing	3/5/2014
2/28/2014	Ad	Drought conservation 1/4 page ad in Adobe, pub date 3/7	Complete	3/5/2014
3/5/2014	Bulletin Board	Installation of new bulletin board in Board Room for better presentation of public info items	Complete	3/5/2014

## **Dive into dos and don'ts of coping with the drought**

*By Michael LeBrun*

With just enough rain to knock down the dust, our state and region remain in serious drought conditions.

As February comes to a close, it seems inevitable that this rain year will be as dry as last and may be the driest in 120 years.

Rain recharges local groundwater, and local groundwater provides 100 percent of the Nipomo area's water supply.

The pumping demand for local groundwater has increased steadily over the past 30 years. The increase is mostly attributable to growth in the area's residential — including schools, parks and golf — as well as agricultural and commercial water users.

The increase in water demand over time, coupled with low rainfall in recent years, has resulted in the area's groundwater dropping to the lowest level in our 30-year record.

What you can do to help:

n Rethink your landscaping choices; consider converting your lawn to native shrub garden.

n If you have a drought-tolerant landscape already, don't water it from September to May and water once a month from June through August.

n Redouble your efforts to stop water waste in the home; fix that leaky faucet or toilet, take shorter showers and capture the "warming" water to use on plants.

n Learn how to use the water meter on your supply line to track water use.

n Talk it up with your neighbors and friends; share ideas on how to save water.

Something to avoid:

n "Wasting" water.

I put "wasting" in quotes above because the term means different things to different people.

Nipomo Community Services District has a list of what is considered wasting water (see the front page of our Winter 2014 newsletter or the district's website at [www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov) for the list).

I am sure most of our customers agree with the list and likely follow the items on it already. I am also sure some of our customers do not.

NCSD is currently in drought stage two of five stages. That means conservation is strongly encouraged, which is accomplished mainly through rate structure.

If you are an NCSD customer, the amount you pay for water increases as your use increases.

If the drought worsens, the district's elected board will consider "drought premiums" that would make it substantially more expensive to use water in the highest-volume categories.

Remember, saving water is its own reward — because saving water saves money.

Michael LeBrun is the general manager of the Nipomo Community Services District. He can be reached by calling 929-1133 or by email at [info@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:info@ncsd.ca.gov).

# Finally some significant winter rain

**YET NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO  
END OUR MULTI-YEAR DROUGHT**

**With the recent rains,  
Nipomo CSD suggests  
all customers consider  
shutting off outdoor  
irrigation for at least  
two months.**



**This will help conserve our  
precious water resources  
and save water customers  
some money on the next  
water bill.**

**For more information...  
visit the District's website  
at [www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov)**



**Nipomo Community Services District  
148 S. Wilson St., Nipomo 93444  
(805) 929-1133 [www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov)**





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 3, 2014  
Contact: Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager  
Nipomo Community Services District  
148 S. Wilson St., Nipomo, CA 93444  
Phone: (805) 929-1133 – Email: mlebrun@ncsd.ca.gov



**January Water Demand up Significantly over 2013**

On Wednesday, February 26th, the District's Board held its regular meeting at 9AM and received a report from Director of Engineering and Operations Peter Sevcik.

Mr. Sevcik reported that groundwater well pumping in January 2014 was nearly 60% greater than in January 2013 and exceeded the five-year average January production by nearly 40%.

Mr. Sevcik attributed the increase to the extreme drought conditions which are causing customers to irrigate during a time of year irrigation water is typically not needed.

General Manager, Michael LeBrun stated "This is the compounding effect of drought. Groundwater levels drop due to a lack of rainfall while demand for water increases as homeowners, parks, and farmers across the mesa require more water to keep their landscapes and crops growing".

The Board of Directors expressed great concern over the trend and directed staff to expedite the adoption of drought based rates and to redouble efforts to encourage all users of area groundwater to conserve.

Next Scheduled Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, February March 12, 2014, 9AM, District Board Room 148 South Wilson, Nipomo.

For more information, please contact the Nipomo Community Services District at 929-1133 or visit [www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov).

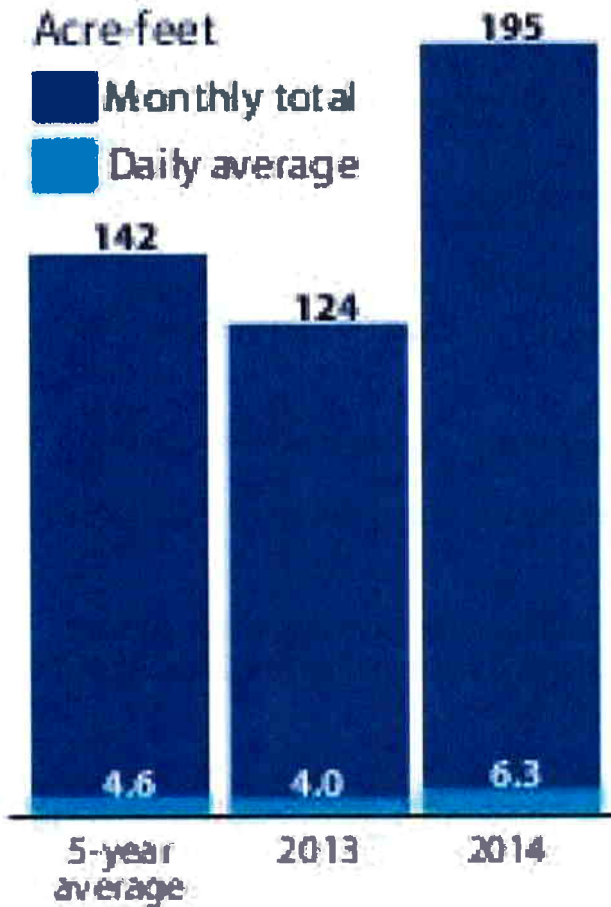
###

**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.**

## Nipomo CSD water pumping up 60% in January

Officials says increase is drought's 'double whammy'

### Nipomo CSD water Jan. production from groundwater basin



Source: Nipomo Community Services District

13 HOURS AGO • MIKE

[HODGSON/MHODGSON@SANTAMARIATIMES.COM](mailto:HODGSON/MHODGSON@SANTAMARIATIMES.COM)

The amount of water Nipomo Community Services District pumped from the aquifer in January jumped 60 percent compared to January 2013.

A report to the board of directors last week from Peter Sevcik, director of engineering and operations, showed NCSO pumped 195 acre-feet in January to meet customers' demand for water.

That's an average of 6.3 acre-feet per day.

In January 2013, the district pumped 124 acre-feet — an average of 4 acre-feet per day — to meet the demand for water.

This year's January total also exceeded the five-year average of 142 acre-feet, or 4.6 acre-feet per day, by nearly 40 percent, Sevcik said.

An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or the amount generally considered necessary to supply four to 10 people a year.

The figures brought the drought's impact into sharp focus, as Sevcik attributed the increase to customers irrigating more at a time of year when it isn't usually required.

"February is normally our lowest month, and January is right behind it," Sevcik said. "This was very unusual."

NCSO General Manager Michael LeBrun said the increase is evidence of the "double whammy" drought deals to groundwater supplies.

"Groundwater levels drop due to a lack of rainfall, while demand for water increases as homeowners, parks and farmers across the Mesa require more water to keep their landscapes and crops growing," he said.

Equally disturbing, perhaps, is that the figures are only for NCSD.

They don't include the Woodlands Mutual Water Co., Rural Water Co., Golden State Water Co. and all the private wells that are pumping water for domestic use and irrigating lawns, landscaping and crops.

"We're a fraction of the pumping on the Mesa," Sevcik said.

LeBrun said he believes the pumping has increased by a similar level for all water purveyors and private users.

"I think if you ask any farmer, they'll tell you they're pumping a lot more water to irrigate their crops," he said.

Not all the numbers are in for 2013 yet.

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group, which by court order monitors the health of the groundwater basin, is still working on its estimate for pumping by rural landowners and agricultural operations.

That report is due in April.

But the numbers for 2012 show NCSD pumped a total of 2,472 acre-feet, Golden State pumped 1,102 acre-feet, Woodlands pumped 857 acre-feet and Rural Water pumped 763 acre-feet.

That accounted for about 39 percent of the groundwater pumped across the entire Mesa.

The Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery at the edge of the dunes pumped another 1,100 acre-feet that year.

Using a formula that plugs in the acreage of crops and climate data — rainfall totals and the number of warm windy days — the NMMA estimated rural land owners pumped 2,052 acre-feet and agricultural operations pumped 2,912 acre-feet in 2012.

"I think agriculture for 2013 will get close to doubling (that amount)," LeBrun said.

NCSD and other Nipomo Mesa water users all pump from the same aquifer — the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin that stretches from southeast of Santa Maria all the way to Pismo Beach.

But LeBrun said increased pumping on the Nipomo Mesa isn't likely to have an impact on the basin in the Santa Maria area.

"There might be a minimal impact in the subsurface flow to the Northern Cities (Management Area)," he said. "But it would not impact the Santa Maria Valley. The largest percentage of the basin is in the valley, something like 90 percent.

"The groundwater levels in the valley show a healthy east-west flow gradient year-round," he added.

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## Nipomo devises action plan in case drought conditions worsen

**New applications for water service may not be accepted and rate increases could go into effect under the draft plan**

By Cynthia Lambert

[clambert@thetribunenews.com](mailto:clambert@thetribunenews.com) February 26, 2014 Updated 14 hours ago

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[View Full Gallery \(13 Photos\)](#)

Ways to save waterHere are tips anyone can adopt to save water during one of the worst droughts in California history. [View Full Gallery](#) RANDALL BENTON — Sacramento Bee Staff Photo

The Nipomo Community Services District could cut off new water service connections if advanced drought conditions are declared, under a draft action plan discussed Wednesday.

However, the services district board would only consider doing so if the groundwater basin falls to extremely low levels and there's evidence of seawater intrusion, and the severe water shortage exists for more than two years.

"We want to put in place tools that your board can adopt should we hit advanced stages of drought," said district general manager Michael LeBrun.

The board told the district staff to move ahead with the action plan, which will come back to board members for consideration and approval in about six weeks.

While heavy rain is expected in San Luis Obispo County this week, drought conditions are still a concern because the aquifer serving the district is at the lowest level in nearly 40 years.

Two weeks ago, the board voted 3-2 to approve a water shortage response plan that could also mean higher water rates for residents within the Nipomo services district under certain drought conditions.

A district consultant is now preparing a set of rate increases that the board could decide to put into effect if a severe water shortage is declared.

Before any rate increases could occur, however, residents would have 45 days to object. A majority of customers would have to protest to halt the increases.

Since spring 2008, the Nipomo district — which provides water to about 12,000 people and 40 businesses — has been operating under a Stage 2 condition, meaning that a potentially severe water shortage exists. District officials have asked residents to voluntarily reduce their water use by 30 percent.

Currently, Nipomo residents have one source of water, an underground aquifer that serves parts of southern San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties.

Aquifer levels were 30 percent lower in spring 2013 than in the previous spring and are the lowest since 1975, the earliest year on record. The measurements were just short of triggering a Stage 3 severe water shortage in spring 2013, LeBrun said.

If a Stage 3 condition is triggered, the district is required to reduce its production of groundwater by 30 percent. A Stage 4 condition would trigger a mandatory 50 percent reduction in production, and Stage 5 would compel the district to reduce its pumping by 60 percent.

The district is currently continuing to process new applications for water service. However, if a Stage 3 condition is declared, the district board may stop accepting new applications under the action plan discussed Wednesday.

Stage 4 could prompt the board to stop processing existing applications except for those with will-serve letters, which means the district has committed to providing water service. And Stage 5 could mean that no new water service is allowed.

"If we get to level 5, we are basically declaring our water supply is not adequate enough to support the necessary uses," said district legal counsel Michael Seitz. "Even if you have a will-serve letter, we're basically saying we can't serve you."

Board member Bob Blair expressed concern.

"We made a commitment to these people to give them will-serve letters," he said. "A guy wants to build his dream house; I don't think we have the right to put a hole in his dream if he's paid his money."

But as member Craig Armstrong noted later in the meeting, "We have 4,500 customers we have to take care of. You don't want them to be irate because we're adding more customers while asking them to cut water use as much as possible."

LeBrun added that the will-serve letters don't expire.

"We're talking about honoring those commitments unless a Stage 5 condition is declared," he said. "And then we would let folks know (that) when drought conditions diminish, we would then meet this condition we have given you."

Board members also hope that other water purveyors on the Mesa, including [Golden State Water Co.](#) and [Woodlands Mutual Water Co.](#), will act similarly during extreme drought conditions.

LeBrun plans to meet soon with San Luis Obispo County planning staff — which considers applications for building permits on the Mesa — to discuss a draft water policy statement that the district board has supported. It states in part that the district will work with the county to ensure new developments either bring supplemental water or pay a fee.

Eventually, Nipomo officials hope to get the statement in front of county supervisors.

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Reported period: Feb 2014 OK

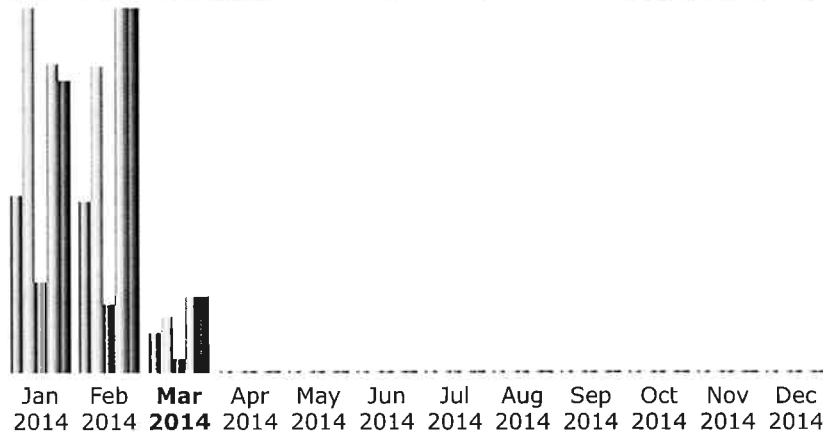
### Summary

Reported period Month Feb 2014  
First visit 01 Feb 2014 - 00:13  
Last visit 28 Feb 2014 - 23:49

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	<b>892</b>	<b>1,586</b> (1.77 visits/visitor)	<b>10,471</b> (6.6 Pages/Visit)	<b>56,935</b> (35.89 Hits/Visit)	<b>1.68 GB</b> (1113.94 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			<b>55,243</b>	<b>67,860</b>	<b>676.51 MB</b>

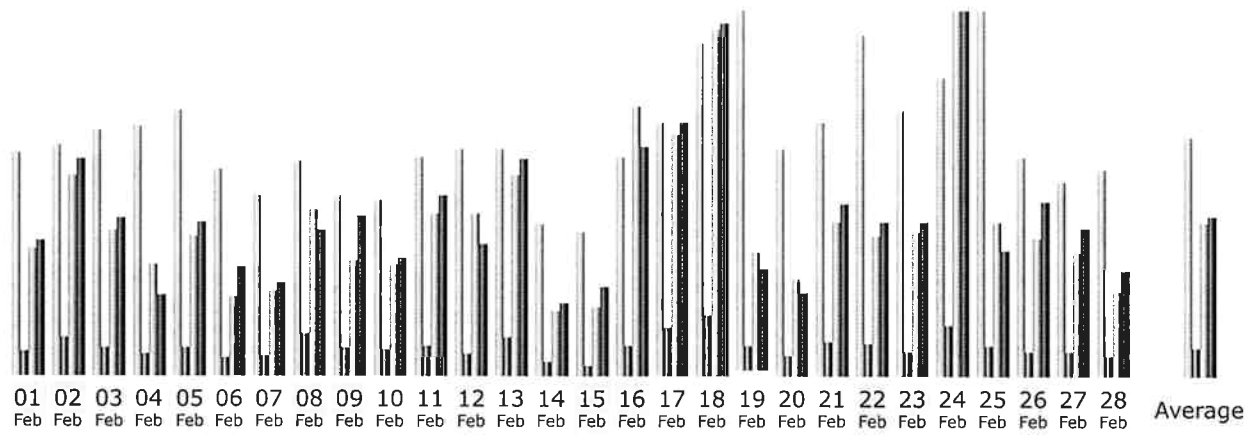
\* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.

### Monthly history



Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	921	1,889	14,015	48,215	1.35 GB
Feb 2014	892	1,586	10,471	56,935	1.68 GB
<b>Mar 2014</b>	207	291	2,194	11,744	357.28 MB
Apr 2014	0	0	0	0	0
May 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Jun 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,020	3,766	26,680	116,894	3.38 GB

### Days of month

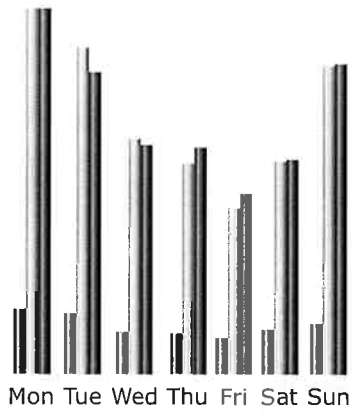


Day	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
01 Feb 2014	53	304	1,679	52.36 MB
02 Feb 2014	55	503	2,656	83.45 MB
03 Feb 2014	58	369	1,933	61.04 MB
04 Feb 2014	59	276	1,454	30.77 MB
05 Feb 2014	63	368	1,841	59.52 MB
06 Feb 2014	49	229	1,034	41.80 MB
07 Feb 2014	43	248	1,124	35.54 MB
08 Feb 2014	51	545	2,184	56.02 MB
09 Feb 2014	43	373	1,511	61.49 MB
10 Feb 2014	42	323	1,467	44.92 MB
11 Feb 2014	52	395	2,133	69.54 MB
12 Feb 2014	54	291	2,145	50.75 MB
13 Feb 2014	54	487	2,653	83.66 MB
14 Feb 2014	36	177	854	28.02 MB
15 Feb 2014	34	112	908	34.53 MB
16 Feb 2014	52	392	3,573	88.42 MB
17 Feb 2014	60	626	3,182	97.68 MB
18 Feb 2014	79	801	4,582	136.45 MB
19 Feb 2014	86	297	1,537	38.90 MB
20 Feb 2014	54	245	1,273	32.01 MB
21 Feb 2014	60	449	2,039	65.99 MB
22 Feb 2014	81	424	1,836	58.88 MB
23 Feb 2014	63	309	1,905	59.29 MB
24 Feb 2014	71	671	4,845	141.27 MB
25 Feb 2014	87	384	2,025	48.25 MB
26 Feb 2014	52	314	1,814	67.10 MB
27 Feb 2014	46	299	1,618	57.04 MB
28 Feb 2014	49	260	1,130	40.61 MB
Average	56	373	2,033	61.62 MB
Total	1,586	10,471	56,935	1.68 GB

**Days of week**

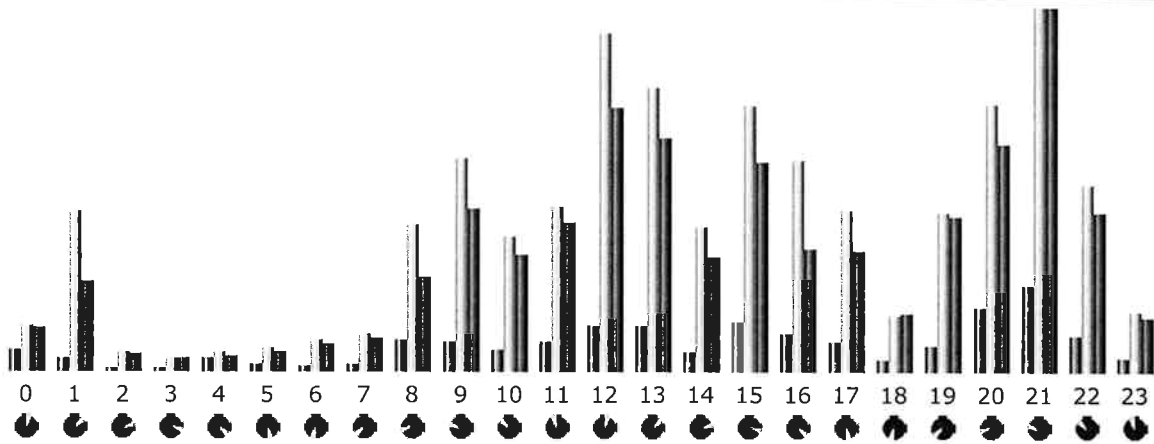
Days of week	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Sunday				





Day	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Mon	497	2,856	86.23 MB
Tue	464	2,548	71.25 MB
Wed	317	1,834	54.07 MB
Thu	315	1,644	53.63 MB
Fri	283	1,286	42.54 MB
Sat	346	1,651	50.45 MB
Sun	394	2,411	73.16 MB

### Hours



Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth	Hours	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
00	343	745	26.38 MB	12	752	5,498	159.67 MB
01	215	2,604	54.75 MB	13	747	4,600	140.52 MB
02	50	319	10.65 MB	14	321	2,345	69.04 MB
03	54	216	7.95 MB	15	819	4,321	125.77 MB
04	199	320	9.21 MB	16	607	3,435	74.29 MB
05	100	388	11.68 MB	17	472	2,616	72.15 MB
06	85	510	15.98 MB	18	190	894	34.66 MB
07	101	622	20.63 MB	19	419	2,588	93.24 MB
08	508	2,362	56.26 MB	20	1,019	4,340	136.98 MB
09	478	3,451	98.49 MB	21	1,408	5,899	219.44 MB
10	333	2,165	70.33 MB	22	570	3,033	95.44 MB
11	466	2,682	89.21 MB	23	215	982	32.59 MB

MARCH 12, 2014

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT C

Americans use twice as much water as they think they do, study says

By Monte Morin

March 3, 2014, 12:30 p.m.

Americans use twice the amount of water they think they do, and appear to be particularly oblivious about how much H<sub>2</sub>O they flush down the toilet on a daily basis, according to new research.

In a paper published online Monday in the journal PNAS, a researcher concluded that Americans underestimated their water use by a factor of 2, and were only slightly aware of how much water goes into growing the food they eat.

"In general, people tend to underestimate water by a very large magnitude," said study author Shahzeen Attari, an assistant professor in the Department of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

The study's conclusions were based on an Internet survey of 1,020 people, and comes amid a national drought that extends from the Pacific Coast to portions of the Mississippi Valley, with the most severe conditions in California.

"Most Americans assume that water supply is both reliable and plentiful," Attari wrote. "However, research has shown that with climate change water supply will become more variable due to salinization of ground water and increased variability in precipitation."

Prior research has shown that well over a quarter, or 28%, of water used within the average household is the result of toilet flushing. While the Environmental Protection Agency says that installing low-flow or water-conserving toilets will result in the greatest savings in household water use, fewer than 2% of the surveyed adults realized this, according to the study.

"That to me was really surprising," Attari said. "We may be underestimating how much water toilets use, because we use them frequently throughout the day."

A standard toilet uses about 3.5 gallons of water per flush, while a low-flow toilet uses 1.6 gallons or less, Attarai noted.

"Reducing the number of times you flush -- if it's yellow, let it mellow -- would also decrease the amount of water you use in the home," she said.

Experts say that after installing a water efficient toilet, the next greatest water saver is a high-efficiency clothes washer. While a standard top-loading washer will use about 34 gallons per load, a high-efficiency front-loading clothes washer will use less than 15 gallons.

Yet when asked to name the single best thing Americans could do to conserve water, roughly 43% of the survey participants said that taking fewer, or shorter showers would save the most water.

The next most popular response -- roughly 17% of those surveyed -- said they would turn off the water while doing other activities, including brushing their teeth.

Attari said that taking shorter showers would help to save water, and shouldn't be discounted. However, the savings was less than many people perceived.

"The average length of a shower is 8.2 to 8 minutes," Attari said. "So if you were to decrease the length of the shower from 8 minutes to 5 minutes, that would save roughly 8% of your total water use in the home."

Water resources expert Peter Gleick, of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, has estimated that humans require 13.2 gallons of clean water each day to meet basic needs. In 2005, the average American was estimated to use about 98 gallons per day.

However, it wasn't only personal use of water that people had a loose grasp on in the survey. They also tended to underestimate how much water was "embodied," or used to cultivate, different food staples.

Asked to estimate how much water was used to produce a pound each of sugar, rice, cheese and coffee, the survey respondents said they were all about the same.

In reality, the staples require vastly different amounts of water: 157 gallons were required to make a pound of sugar; 299 gallons for a pound of rice; 606 gallons for a pound of cheese and a whopping 2,264 gallons for a pound of coffee.

"People don't realize how much embodied water is in the different foods that we eat," Attari said.

The author said that Americans had a somewhat better sense of water usage than they did of power usage. She said this was understandable as energy was transformed into many different things -- light, heat, motion, sound, etc. Water was much more familiar, although rarely considered.

"Water is a really essential but neglected resource," Attari said. "We need to start paying more attention to water just in general."

<http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-americans-underestimate-personal-water-usage-study-says-20140227,0,3836890.story#ixzz2v2KBpbll>

MARCH 12, 2014

ITEM F

ATTACHMENT D

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (IWMA)  
BOARD MEETING

RECEIVED  
MAR 05 2014  
NIPOMO COMMUNITY  
SERVICES DISTRICT

March 12, 2014  
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisor's Chambers  
County Government Center  
1055 Monterey Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

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Board of Directors

Tom O'Malley, President, City of Atascadero  
Adam Hill, Vice President, San Luis Obispo County

Tom Brown, Arroyo Grande  
Jeff Lee, Grover Beach  
George Leage, Morro Bay  
John Hamon, Paso Robles  
Ed Waage, Pismo Beach  
John Ashbaugh, San Luis Obispo City

Debbie Arnold, San Luis Obispo County  
Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County  
Frank Mecham, San Luis Obispo County  
Caren Ray, San Luis Obispo County  
Dan Lloyd, Authorized Districts

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1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.**

2. **Public Comments.**

Note: Any member of the public may address the Board for a period not to exceed three minutes. Any item not on the agenda, within the jurisdiction of the Board, may be presented. The Board will listen to all communication, however, in compliance with the Brown Act, no action can be taken at this time.

**Americans With Disabilities Act Compliance.** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the IWMA is committed to including the disabled in all of its services, programs, and activities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the IWMA clerk at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to enable the IWMA to make reasonable arrangements to insure accessibility to the meeting.

3. **Manager's Report.** Oral report by Bill Worrell.

Food Waste Composting update  
School Program update  
2012 Annual Report Closure letter

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following items listed below are scheduled for consideration as a group. After public comment, any member of the Board or the Manager may request an item be withdrawn from the Consent Calendar to allow discussion.

4. **Draft Minutes of the November 13, 2013 IWMA Board Meeting (Action Item - Roll Call Vote)**
5. **Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting (Receive and File)**

#### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

6. **Grant Applications (Action Item - Roll Call Vote)** Consider approving grant applications to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.
7. **Proposed FY 14/15 Program Goals and Status of FY 13/14 Goals (Review and Comment)** Review the proposed program objectives for FY 14/15 and review the current status of FY 13/14 objectives.
8. **Legislative Update (Action Item - Roll Call Vote)** Update on pending legislation.
9. **Member Comments and Future Agenda Items** Discussion by Members regarding future agenda items.
10. **Closed Session.** The manager's annual performance review will be discussed. (Government Code Section 54957).
11. **Report on Closed Session.**
12. **Adjournment** The next meeting is scheduled for **May 14, 2014** at 1:30 p.m. in San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisor's Chambers, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

## Key Recommended Actions for the Waste Sector

- ARB and CalRecycle will lead the development of program(s) to eliminate disposal of organic materials at landfills. Options to be evaluated will include: legislation, direct regulation, and inclusion of landfills in the Cap-and-Trade Program. If legislation requiring businesses that generate organic waste to arrange for recycling services is not enacted in 2014, then ARB, in concert with CalRecycle, will initiate regulatory action(s) to prohibit/phase out landfilling of organic materials with the goal of requiring initial compliance actions in 2016.
- ARB and CalRecycle will identify and execute financing/funding/incentive mechanisms for in-State infrastructure development to support the Waste Management Sector goals. Mechanisms to be considered will include the Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan; loan, grant, and payment programs; LCFS pathways; CPUC proceedings (e.g. biogas from anaerobic digestion and Renewable Market Adjusting Tariff); and offset protocols for recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, and biomass.
- ARB will lead a process of identifying and recommending actions to address cross-California agency and federal permitting and siting challenges associated with composting and anaerobic digestion. As the first step, ARB convened a working group in 2013 made up of representatives from CalRecycle, SWRCB, and local air districts to identify challenges and potential solutions. A working group report will be released in mid-2014.
- ARB will explore and identify opportunities for additional methane control at new and existing landfills, and increase the utilization of captured methane for waste already in place as a fuel source for stationary and mobile applications. If determined appropriate, amend the Landfill Methane Regulation and/or move landfills into the Cap-and-Trade Program (2016/17).
- ARB and CalRecycle will develop new emission reduction factors to estimate GHG emission reduction potential for various recycling and remanufacturing strategies. To the extent data are available, these factors will include upstream and downstream emissions impacts.
- CalRecycle and the Department of General Services will need to take the lead in improving the State procurement of recycled-content materials through the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign reform. Recommended improvements need to be identified by 2014, along with a plan for implementing the identified improvements.



## Bill Worrell

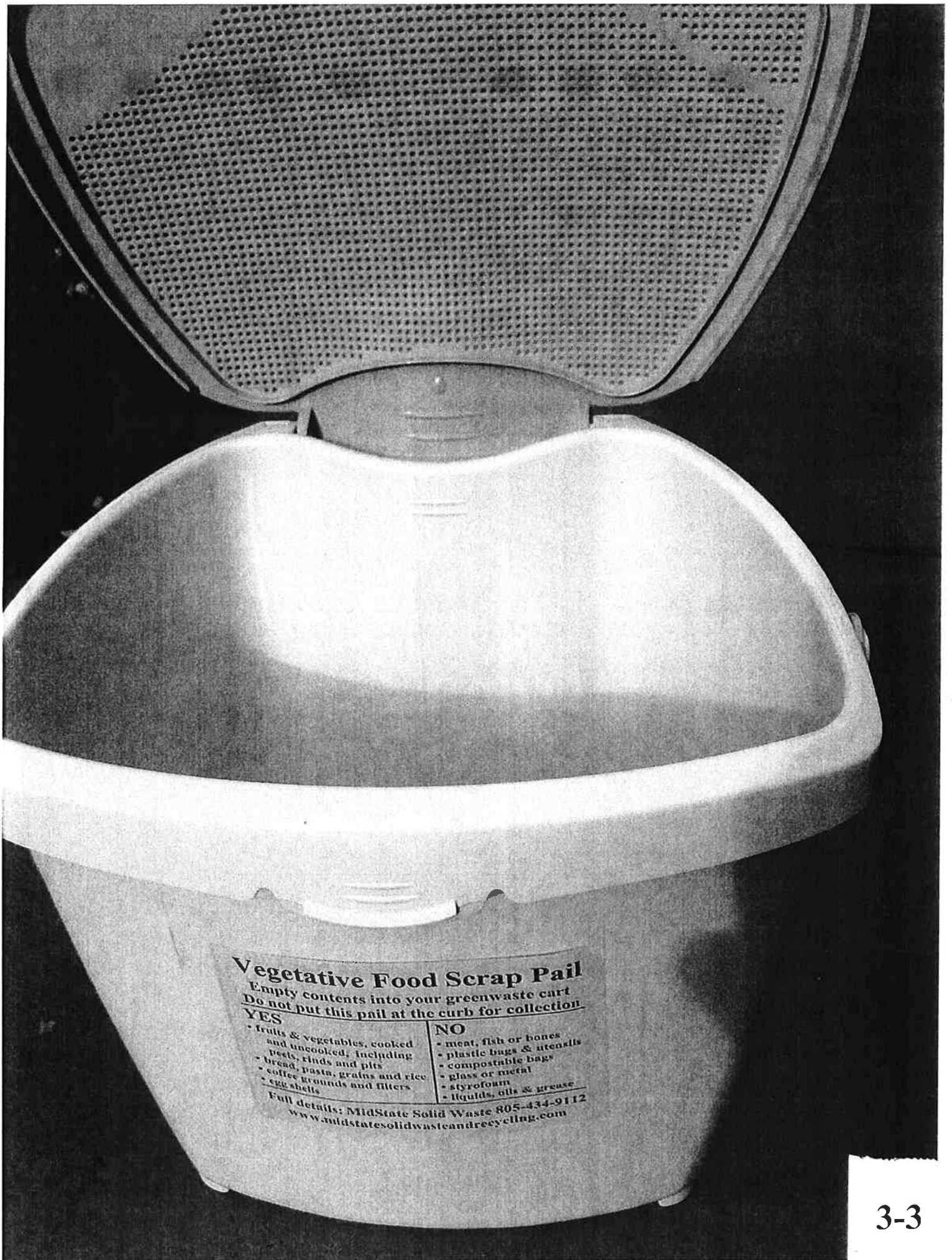
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**From:** Bill Worrell <bworrell@iwma.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2014 1:50 PM  
**To:** 'GHGReductions@CalRecycle.ca.gov'  
**Subject:** Comments Organics Grant

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Organics Grant Program. My comments are as follows:

1. Ineligible costs include: "Purchase or lease of land or building". Please clarify what is considered a building. For example would a fully enclosed AD or composting facility be considered a building? The new San Jose AD project has a large building that includes a receiving area, enclosed digestion tunnels and finished product load out area. Would this be considered a building and not eligible for funding?
2. The purpose of the grant is to "... reduce the amount food and green material being disposed in landfills." How will you consider green material that is currently being used for ADC? My suggestion is for the purpose of this grant ADC be considered disposal in landfill because this material decomposes in the landfill and produces greenhouse gas. In addition if you do not consider ADC as disposal in a landfill, then you would need to allow projects that take green material that is currently being landfilled and convert it into ADC.
3. The scoring criteria includes, "15 points for the tons of organic material composted, digested, or source reduced." As written this gives priority to large projects since the amount of material diverted would be greater. A more equitable measure would be tons diverted per dollar of grant funding. Thus the more cost effective projects will be funded not necessarily the largest projects.

Bill Worrell  
San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority  
870 Osos Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
805-782-8530



### **Vegetative Food Scrap Pail**

Empty contents into your greenwaste cart  
**Do not put this pail at the curb for collection**

#### **YES**

- fruits & vegetables, cooked and uncooked, including peels, rinds and pits
- bread, pasta, grains and rice
- coffee grounds and filters
- egg shells

#### **NO**

- meat, fish or bones
- plastic bags & utensils
- compostable bags
- glass or metal
- styrofoam
- liquids, oils & grease

Full details: MidState Solid Waste 805-434-9112  
[www.midstatesolidwasteandrecycling.com](http://www.midstatesolidwasteandrecycling.com)

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Do not put this pail at the curb for collection

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Full details: MidState Solid Waste 805-434-9112  
[www.midstatesolidwasteandrecycling.com](http://www.midstatesolidwasteandrecycling.com)

## Teacher Newsletter of the IWMA

2013/2014

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) is offering five class programs and a recycling field trip for the 2013-14 school year. All programs are FREE, presented by an experienced science educator, and correlated to the California Science Content Standards. Schedule soon for best availability!

**Introduction To Recycling:** Students will learn about natural resources and how they are harvested from the Earth and made into every-day objects. They will also learn which items can be recycled and how to reduce waste at home and school. This program is a prerequisite for the recycling field trip. See page two for science correlations. **Grades K-12, 45 minutes.**



**Recycling Field Trip:** Visit the Cold Canyon Landfill and Recycling Facility to be both amazed and educated about what happens to our recyclables and trash. Students will see how their recyclables are sorted and processed by various trucks and machines. On this trip, students will also visit our very popular recycling education center, filled with hands-on exhibits and stimulating displays. Introduction to Recycling (above) is a prerequisite for this trip. Field trips are from 9:00 – 11:30 am. See page two for science correlations. **Bus cost paid for by IWMA. Grades 3-12.**



**Vermicomposting:** This hands-on program introduces students to the concepts and practices of composting food waste. Our staff will build a worm bin for your class and you to use (on loan). Students may add lunch scraps to the bin for a real interactive learning experience. See page two for science correlations. **Grades K-12, 45 minutes.**

**The TREEmendous Paper Tale:** This presentation explores the natural resources needed to make paper. Vivid models show the path from tree to finished paper products. Students will learn how paper is made. Your presenter will make a piece of paper in class. Students will also learn how many pounds of paper they use each year, and how this resource can be conserved. See page two for science correlations. **Grades K-6, 45 minutes.**



**Oil and Beyond:** Oil and Beyond introduces students to various types of household hazardous waste and how they can be properly recycled or discarded. This program uses a large circle called the "oil loop," with eye-catching 3-D objects to illustrate each major concept. See page two for science correlations. **Grades 2-8, 45 minutes.**

**Zero Waste 101:** This interactive slide program provides the next step in applying what students have learned from the Introduction To Recycling class program (above). Students and teachers will be empowered to implement their understanding of waste reduction, composting and recycling! You'll have the option to turn your classroom into a zero waste zone for one week, one month, or the entire school year. See page two for science correlations. **Grades 4-8, 45 minutes. Prerequisite: Introduction to Recycling.**



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

1001 I STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • WWW.CALRECYCLE.CA.GOV • (916) 322-4027

P.O. BOX 4025 MS 9A, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812

J 1/2 (8)

November 27, 2013

Mr. Bill Worrell  
Manager  
San Luis Obispo County IWMA  
870 Osos Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: 2012 Electronic Annual Report (EAR) review complete; No further Information needed.

Dear Mr. Worrell:

In accordance with the Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA), CalRecycle staff must review a jurisdiction's Electronic Annual Report (EAR) within 120 days. The intent of this review is to evaluate the implementation of Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE) and Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE) programs.

I'd like to inform you that I have completed San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority's EAR review, and at this time, I do not have any further questions.

Note that CalRecycle staff-recommended per capita disposal indicators for all jurisdictions will be posted at: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LGCentral/DataTools/Reports/DivDispRtSum.htm>. A jurisdiction's per capita disposal rate alone is not determinative of its effort to implement its SRRE and HHWE programs. Rather, program information submitted within the EAR and verified through LAMD staff site visits and other findings will be included in a scheduled Department review, every two or four years, to evaluate a jurisdiction's effort in meeting disposal reduction requirements.

Should you have any questions about the EAR review process, please contact me at (916) 341-6680 or by email at [diana.suarez-arguelles@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:diana.suarez-arguelles@calrecycle.ca.gov).

Respectfully,

Diana Suarez-Arguelles  
Integrated Waste Management Specialist

cc:  
Melissa Vargas, Supervising Integrated Waste Management Specialist

DATE: March 12, 2014 ITEM: 4  
 Approve  Deny  
 Continue to \_\_\_\_\_

**TO: Integrated Waste Management Authority**

**FROM: William A. Worrell, Manager**

**RE: Draft Minutes of the November 13, 2013 IWMA Board Meetings (Action Item - Roll Call Vote)**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

Approve minutes

---

**ATTACHMENT: Draft Minutes of the November 13, 2013 IWMA Board Meetings**

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2013

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Debbie Arnold, County Supervisor  
John Ashbaugh, City of San Luis Obispo  
Bruce Gibson, County Supervisor  
John Hamon, City of Paso Robles  
Adam Hill, County Supervisor  
Jeff Lee, City of Grover Beach  
Frank Mecham, County Supervisor  
Tom O'Malley, City of Atascadero  
Ed Waage, City of Pismo Beach  
Caren Ray, County Supervisor

**Board Members Absent:**

Tim Brown, City of Arroyo Grande  
George Leage, City of Morro Bay  
Dan Lloyd, Authorized Districts

**Staff Members Present:**

William A. Worrell, Manager  
Ray Biering, IWMA Counsel  
Carolyn Goodrich, Board Secretary

2. **Public Comments.** Mr. Brad Goodrow, Mid-State Solid Waste and Recycling, inquired about school field trip sites. Staff was requested to provide information on the school field trip program.

3. **Manager's Report.** Bill Worrell provided an update on the PaintCare Program, CalRecycle Grant, board member stipends, food waste recycling, and biosolids assistance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Motion was made, seconded, and passed 9-0-1 abstain (Ray)-3 absent (Brown, Leage, Lloyd) to approve the Consent Calendar.**

Those items approved are as follows:

4. **Minutes of the September 11, 2013 IWMA Board Meeting (approved).**

5. **Draft Minutes of the October 30, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting (receive and file with one correction).**

## PUBLIC HEARING

6. **Audit Report for FY 2012/2013.** Bill Worrell provided an overview of the audit report. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and public hearing was closed. **Motion was made by Board Member Ashbaugh, seconded by Board Member Hill, and passed 10-0-3 absent (Brown, Leage, Lloyd) to accept the FY 2012/2013 audit report.**

7. **Meeting Schedule for 2014.** Bill reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2014. **Motion was made by Board Member Mecham, seconded by Board Member Hill, and passed 10-0-3 absent (Brown, Leage, Lloyd) to approve the staff recommended 2014 Board Meeting Schedule and authorize the President to cancel the January 8, 2014 Board Meeting.**

8. **Update on Programs.** Bill Worrell provided a status report on FY 2013/2014 programs. He indicated as part of the update of the HHW permits, the Morro Bay and Nipomo HHW sites will be open to CESQGs.

9. **Member Comments and Future Agenda Items.** A report on the use of compostable bags as part of the single use bag ordinance was requested.

10. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting of the IWMA scheduled for **January 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor's Chambers, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA.**

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL NOR A PERMANENT PART OF THE RECORD UNTIL APPROVED BY THE IWMA AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.**



DATE: March 12, 2014 ITEM: 5

Approve  Deny

Continue to \_\_\_\_\_

TO: Integrated Waste Management Authority

FROM: William A. Worrell, Manager

RE: Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting (Receive and File)

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and File

---

ATTACHMENT: Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting

**San Luis Obispo County  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
Executive Committee  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2014**

---

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order by President Tom O'Malley.

**Executive Committee  
Members Present:**

John Hamon, City of Paso Robles  
Adam Hill, County of San Luis Obispo  
Ron Munds, SWTAC Representative (non-voting)  
Tom O'Malley, City of Atascadero

**Executive Committee  
Members Absent:**

None

**IWMA Staff:**

Ray Biering, IWMA Counsel  
William A. Worrell, Manager  
Carolyn Goodrich, Board Secretary

2. **Public Comments.** None.

3. **Manager's Report.** None.

4. **Minutes of the October 30, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting.** Motion was made by Member Hamon and seconded by Board Member Hill to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting, together with recommendations and findings as set forth therein.

**Board Member Hamon moved to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting, together with recommendations and findings as set forth therein. Seconded by Board Member Hill and passed on the following roll call vote:**

**AYES:** Hamon, Hill, O'Malley  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

5. **Draft Minutes of the November 13, 2013 IWMA Board Meeting (receive and file).**

6. **March 12, 2014 IWMA Board Meeting Agenda.** Bill Worrell presented the

tentative agenda for the March 12, 2014 IWMA Board Meeting and requested the a Legislative Update be added to the proposed agenda.

**Board Member Hamon moved to approve the tentative agenda for the March 12, 2014 IWMA Board Meeting to include a Legislative Update agenda item. Seconded by Board Member Hill and passed on the following roll call vote:**

**AYES:** Hamon, Hill, O'Malley  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**ABSENT:** None

7. **Member Comments and Future Agenda Items.** Board Members Hamon and O'Malley requested that Bill Worrell provide overview of the IWMA, program information, effectiveness.

8. **Closed Session.** The Executive Committee adjourned to a closed session for the following:

a. Review the manager's contract (Government Code Section 54957).

9. **Report on Closed Session.** No final action was taken; no report.

10. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to **April 30, 2014** at 12:00 p.m. in the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority Office, 870 Osos Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL NOR A PERMANENT PART OF THE RECORD UNTIL APPROVED BY THE IWMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.**

DATE: March 12, 2014 ITEM: 6

Approve  Deny

Continue to \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** Integrated Waste Management Authority

**FROM:** William A. Worrell, Manager

**RE:** Grant Applications (Action Item - Roll Call Vote). Consider approving grant applications to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Manage to submit grant applications to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and obtain letters of authorization from the Member Jurisdictions as needed. In addition authorize the Manager to execute the subsequent grant agreements and amend the IWMA budget to reflect the grants.

---

**DISCUSSION**

The IWMA has been very successful in obtaining grant funding. As shown on the attached table (see attachment 1), the IWMA has received more than \$6.8 million in grant funding during the last 19 years. This funding has allowed the IWMA to supplement local revenue and offer additional programs. The following is a list of grants that the IWMA may apply for.

**1. City/County Recycling Grant.** Total funding for the IWMA would be about \$80,000. For the previous 12 years the IWMA has served as the grant manager for the member jurisdictions. Funds would be used to continue the educational program to inform residential and commercial customers (including multi-family and schools) about their recycling options and to assist them in establishing and/or expanding recycling programs. This program would rely primarily on site visits to the commercial businesses and apartments. In addition equipment to enhance recycling would be provided. Note that in the Governor's proposed 2014/2015 budget this grant would be eliminated.

**2. Beverage Container Recycling Competitive Grant.** CalRecycle may provide a grant to promote increased recycling of beverage containers. The IWMA would prepare a grant application to help increase beverage container recycling. This grant funded the golf course and school program.

**3. Household Hazardous Waste and Used Oil Competitive Grants.** CalRecycle provides a Household Hazardous Waste Grant program. Last year the IWMA received \$94,446 from this grant.

**4. Used Oil Payment Program.** CalRecycle has established an oil payment program. The annual funding under this grant, for all Member Jurisdictions, is typically approximately \$75,000. The IWMA has received funding under this grant program since FY 95-96. The funding would be used to fund local used oil programs consisting of public education, used oil curbside collection, certified oil collection centers and other programs.

As part of the application packages for the above grants, each Member Jurisdiction may need to provide a letter authorizing the IWMA to act on behalf of the jurisdiction both as applicant and grant administrator.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**ATTACHMENT #1: List of Grants**

# Attachment 1. List of Grants

as of March 1, 2014

TYPE OF GRANT	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	AWARD DATE	STATUS
Recycling	CIWMB	\$8,000	Compost bin program	9/95	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$80,000	One day collection events	1/96	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$134,280	Curbside programs and tanks	6/96	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$51,647	Education and certified centers	6/96	completed
Tire program	CIWMB	\$100,000	Tire shredder for Chicago Grade	9/96	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$120,000	Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facilities	1/97	completed
Composting	Dept. of Conservation	\$123,500	Develop and sell compost bins made from Recycled PET	4/97	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$70,733	Education, curbside and centers	4/97	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$136,760	Education, curbside and centers	3/98	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$79,546	Recycling bins located downtown	3/98	completed
Air	APCD	\$4,800	Partially fund an electric vehicle	10/98	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$68,407	Education, curbside and centers	4/99	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$190,631	Used oil collection, ag. Oil & ed. center	1/00	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$83,574	Morro Bay HHW Facility	3/00	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$81,297	Education, curbside and centers	7/00	completed
Tire Grant	CIWMB	\$12,744	Playground surface	7/00	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$70,305	Recycling assistance for businesses	8/00	completed
Recycling	APCD	\$220,000	Natural gas powered recycling truck	3/01	completed

Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$70,178	Recycling assistance for businesses	6/01	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$250,303	Nipomo and Hertiage Ranch HHW Facility	6/01	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$76,478	Education, curbside and centers	8/01	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$141,200	Recycling assistance for businesses	7/02	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$116,544	Education, curbside and centers	9/02	completed
Reuse	CIWMB	\$50,000	Habitat for Humanity Facility	6/03	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$77,776	Recycling assistance for businesses and curbside	7/03	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$84,452	Education, curbside and centers	7/03	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$109,596	New HHW building, forklifts and security cameras	11/03	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$77,558	Recycling assistance for businesses and curbside	7/04	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$76,174	Education, curbside and centers	7/04	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$45,000	Recycling at 100 Bars and Restaurants	11/04	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$77,155	Recycling assistance for businesses and curbside	7/05	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$75,356	Education, curbside and centers	7/05	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$59,524	curbside oil collection	7/06	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$74,966	curbside oil collection	7/06	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$299,977	battery and fluorescent tube take back program	8/06	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$7,000	planning grant for universal waste	8/06	completed
Reuse Grant	CIWMB	\$43,872	habitat for humanity south county project	9/06	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$150,000	recycling at large venues	10/06	completed

Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$50,000	recycling at 100 bars and restaurants	10/06	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$76,835	recycling guide, business program	10/06	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$345,742	truck and recycling containers	8/07	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$76,960	recycling guide, business program	8/07	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$76,074	curbside oil collection	10/07	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$296,300	sharps take back program	12/07	100% complete
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$7,000	planning grant for sharps	1/08	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$76,684	recycling guide, business program	8/08	completed
Used Oil	CIWMB	\$76,189	curbside oil collection	10/08	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$443,900	recycling at multifamily locations	10/08	completed
Recycling	Dept. of Conservation	\$497,700	recycling at multifamily locations	12/08	completed
Household Hazardous Waste	CIWMB	\$387,435	Latex paint take back program	12/08	completed
Used Oil	CalRecycle	\$60,914	curbside oil collection	2/10	completed
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$50,034	recycling guide, business program	6/10	completed
Used Oil	CalRecycle	\$93,254	curbside oil collection	12/10	completed
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$79,825	recycling guide, business program	6/11	completed
Used Oil	CalRecycle	\$85,234	curbside oil collection	12/11	completed
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$79,528	recycling guide, business program	12/11	completed
Used Oil	CalRecycle	\$83,775	curbside oil collection	6/12	completed
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$87,000	recycling bins for schools	7/12	95% complete
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$110,000	recycling bins for golf courses	7/12	95% complete
Recycling	CalRecycle	\$79,451	recycling guide, business program	12/12	completed
Used Oil	CalRecycle	\$84,197	curbside oil collection	10/13	75% complete



Household Hazardous Waste	CalRecycle	\$94,446	hazardous waste storage unit and forklift	10/13	completed
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,819,167</b>			

DATE: March 12, 2014 ITEM: 7

Approve  Deny

Continue to \_\_\_\_\_

**TO:** Integrated Waste Management Authority

**FROM:** William A. Worrell, Manager

**RE:** Proposed FY 14/15 Program Goals and Status of FY 13/14 Goals (Review and Comment)  
Review the proposed program objectives for FY 14/15 and review the current status of FY 13/14 objectives

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Review and comment on the Proposed FY 14/15 Program Objectives and status of FY 13/14 Program Objectives

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**DISCUSSION**

Attached are the proposed FY 14/15 program objectives. Please review and provide comments on the proposed program objectives. Based on input, program objectives and a budget will be presented to the IWMA Board at the May 14, 2014 meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:** (1) Program Highlights and Proposed FY 14/15 Program Objectives  
(2) Status Report on FY 13/14 Program Objectives

## **Attachment #1**

# **FY 14/15 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Develop long term solution for greenwaste and food waste management.
2. Open hazardous waste drop off sites in Morro Bay and Nipomo for businesses that are Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG).
3. Expand the IWMA Leadership Role. The IWMA will continue to expand its leadership role in the management of solid and hazardous waste.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**PROPOSED**  
**FY 14/15 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**USED OIL PROGRAM**

- Provide funding to franchised haulers to continue collecting oil and oil filters at the curb
- Provide oil collection equipment to franchised haulers
- Advertise oil collection programs

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM**

- Operate the 5 permanent household hazardous waste facilities
- Attend household hazardous waste events and training
- Operate the special/universal waste retail take back program
- Continue to participate in the PaintCare Program

**EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

- Place the Recycling Guide in the 2014-15 ATT phone book
- Prepare and distribute Christmas tree recycling information
- Continue to serve as the region-wide recycling and hazardous waste clearing house by staffing the recycling and hazardous waste hotline
- Maintain a web site for recycling/hazardous waste information and IWMA agendas and minutes
- Participate in and sponsor recycling and hazardous waste events and recycling organizations.

### **LEGISLATION AND REPORTING**

- Provide comments on proposed rules and regulations
- Follow and comment on proposed State and Federal legislation
- Prepare the CalRecycle annual report
- Serve as a technical resource for Member Jurisdictions

### **SCHOOL PROGRAM AND GRANTS**

- Continue the school-based education program with 550 presentations and 150 field trips
- Support school composting programs

### **COMMERCIAL RECYCLING**

- Open CESQG business hazardous waste drop sites in Morro Bay and Nipomo
- Provide on-site assistance to businesses in developing and implementing recycling programs

### **GREENWASTE AND FOOD WASTE**

- Continue to work towards implementing greenwaste and food waste programs

## Attachment #2. Status Report on FY 13/14 Program Objectives

### FY 13/14 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

(Status as of March 1, 2014 shown under each task)

#### USED OIL PROGRAM

- Provide funding to franchised haulers to continue collecting oil and oil filters at the curb  
*Funding is provided on a quarterly basis.*
- Provide oil collection equipment to franchised haulers  
*Oil containers provided: San Luis Garbage - 500, Paso Robles Waste - 500, San Miguel Garbage - 248, Mid State - 248. In addition oil filter bags provide: San Miguel Garbage 1,000, South County Sanitary - 1,000, and San Luis Garbage -3,000.*
- Advertise oil collection programs  
*Information in 2013/2014 ATT phone book and on IWMA website.*

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

- Operate the 6 permanent household hazardous waste facilities  
*On-going. The five large sites have been refurbished this year. A grant provided for a new storage unit in Morro Bay HHWF and a forklift for Cold Canyon Landfill HHWF.*
- Attend household hazardous waste events and training  
*Attended the CalEPA household hazardous waste conference in Sacramento in October.*
- Operate the special/universal waste retail take back program  
*The battery, fluorescent tube, paint, sharps and mercury thermostat programs are on-going*
- Continue to participate in the PaintCare Program  
*During the first 7 months conducted 272 pickups and collected 25,000 gallons of paint.*

#### EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- Place the Recycling Guide in the 2013-14 ATT phone book  
*Completed.*
- Prepare and distribute Christmas tree recycling information  
*Christmas tree recycling pads provided and ads in the newspaper and radio.*
- Continue to serve as the region-wide recycling and hazardous waste clearing house by staffing the recycling and hazardous waste hotline  
*On-going.*
- Maintain a web site for recycling/hazardous waste information and IWMA agendas and minutes  
*Information is available at IWMA.com.*
- Participate in and sponsor recycling and hazardous waste events and recycling organizations.  
*Sponsored ocean cleanup event, Morro Bay Community Yard Sale and will participate in Earth Day.*

## **LEGISLATION AND REPORTING**

- Provide comments on proposed rules and regulations  
*Commented on the proposed compost regulations and the PaintCare annual report.*
- Follow and comment on proposed State and Federal legislation  
*Reviewed legislation that was passed in 2013.*
- Prepare the CalRecycle annual report  
*The 2013 Annual report will be prepared in June 2014. Programs reviewed by 2 CalRecycle staffers.*
- Serve as a technical resource for Member Jurisdictions  
*On-going including meetings with staff from Atascadero, SLO and the County.*

## **SCHOOL PROGRAM AND GRANTS**

- Continue the school-based education program with 550 presentations and 150 field trips  
*As of March 1 there have been 426 presentations and 59 field trips.*
- Support school composting programs  
*The IWMA is supporting 15 school composting programs.*
- Provide recycling containers to schools  
*IWMA has provided recycling containers to schools.*

## **COMMERCIAL RECYCLING**

- Open a CESQG business hazardous waste drop site in North County  
*IWMA opened two CESQG drop sites in North County, Paso Robles Landfill HHW facility and Chicago Grade Landfill HHW Facility.*
- Continue to accept waste at the Cold Canyon Landfill HHW facility from CESQGs  
*On-going.*
- Provide on-site assistance to businesses including golf courses in developing and implementing recycling programs  
*The golf course grant is almost completed.*
- Provide equipment to franchised haulers and businesses/government to enhance recycling.  
*1,029 site visits to businesses and apartments and distributed 3,285 recycling containers. Also had booths at the Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce events.*

## **GREENWASTE AND FOOD WASTE**

- Continue to work towards implementing greenwaste and food waste programs  
*Staff visited compost, anaerobic digestion facilities and attended the US Compost Council Conference in Oakland.*
- Provide containers for a food waste collection demonstration program  
*Staff provided 100 64-gallon yellow food waste containers to the 5 franchised waste haulers in the County.*

DATE: March 12, 2014 ITEM: 8  
 Approve  Deny  
 Continue to \_\_\_\_\_

**TO: Integrated Waste Management Authority**  
**FROM: William A. Worrell, Manager**  
**RE: Legislative Update (Action Item - Roll Call Vote) Update on pending legislation**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the President to send a letter commenting on the Governor's proposed eliminate of the City/County Grant.

**DISCUSSION**

The Governor's budget is proposing the elimination of the \$10.5 million city/county payment program. This would reduce IWMA funding by about \$80,000 per year. For the previous 12 years the IWMA has served as the grant manager for the member jurisdictions. Funds are used to continue the educational program to inform residential and commercial customers (including multi-family and schools) about their recycling options and to assist them in establishing and/or expanding recycling programs. This program relies primarily on site visits to the commercial businesses and apartments. In addition equipment to enhance recycling is provided.

The IWMA is tracking several bills in Sacramento. At the May Board Meeting an update will be provided.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**ATTACHMENT #1: Governor's Proposed Budget Change**



Payments to Cities and Counties: [PRC Section 14581(a)(4)] Statute mandates a \$10.5 million annual payment to incorporated city and county governments for unspecified beverage container recycling and litter reduction activities. CalRecycle issues the full \$10.5 million payment once per year distributing it in proportion to the population residing in each jurisdiction. To receive payment, jurisdictions simply complete a one-page request form.

The existing city/county payment program was created by Chapter 815, Statutes of 1999 (SB 332) as a program to assist local jurisdictions to comply with Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989 (AB 939) stipulating 50% waste diversion by the year 2000. At that time, many cities and counties had not yet achieved the diversion goal, and the payments were intended to assist in reaching that goal by providing resources to implement beverage container recycling programs. As of 2012, the statewide per capita diversion rate stands at about 65 % and the overall beverage container recycling rate is at an all-time high reaching 83% in FY 2011-12.

Cities and counties receive payment by submitting a request to CalRecycle with little else expected other than that the money be used for beverage container recycling- or litter reduction-related activities. There is little accountability for the use of the funds. While the program's flexibility may help the jurisdictions (by allowing them, in effect, to use the payment in any manner that they please), the program does not allow CalRecycle to direct funding to specific activities promoting BCRF policy goals. Current law does not allow or require any oversight or reporting.

Each year CalRecycle selects 60 jurisdictions at random from the roughly 540 jurisdictions which received payment that year. CalRecycle requests that those randomly-selected jurisdictions submit a report of expenditures identifying how the payment was spent. The jurisdictions receiving payment have no other obligations under current statute.