

## LOCAL GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS DECLARED SEVERE BY COURT'S TECHNICAL GROUP

*The mission of the Nipomo Community Services District is to provide its customers with reliable, quality, and cost-effective services now and in the future.*

This past week, the group tasked with monitoring local groundwater basin health announced conditions had worsened significantly from this time last year. The group uses an index of eight carefully selected wells ("Key Wells Index" or "KWI") to evaluate basin condition over time.

April 2015 groundwater level measurements have brought the Index to its lowest level in its 40-year record. The Index dropped 46% from last year's measurement and now indicates Severe Water Shortage conditions.

The District declared Stage III Water Shortage in response to Index measurement. **The District must reduce groundwater pumping by 30% immediately.** Supplemental water will begin flowing in July and will help the District reduce groundwater demand in TWO ways:

First, for every gallon of water we import, we pump one less gallon of groundwater – next year we are scheduled to import over 200 million gallons of supplemental water and pump 200 million less gallons of groundwater!

Second, our new water source is *expensive* and District customers can expect to see a 30% jump in water rates starting in July. All customers are encouraged to make every effort to conserve water this summer to avoid 'water-bill shock' in fall when summer usage bills arrive.

District staff is reaching out to high use residential, commercial, and irrigation customers directly and is coordinating with other area water companies, the County, Lucia Mar School District to address this Mesa-wide threat.

Customers who's typical two-month summer water use is 60 billing units (45,000 gallon) or greater can likely make adjustments to landscape irrigation and see a steady or declining bill in the face of the scheduled rate increase. More importantly, saving water today will help preserve our basin so less expensive groundwater can be preserved as a water source in the future.

Call us to get a record of your water use and more information on how you can save water and save money.

Water is precious and money is hard-earned – let's do all we can to save all we can.

**What have YOU DONE to conserve?** If you have cut your water use, we want to hear from you! Additionally, if you have converted your landscape to native, drought-tolerant plants, we want to hear from you. You may be featured in upcoming District communications. Contact the District at [info@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:info@ncsd.ca.gov).

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager, [info@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:info@ncsd.ca.gov)

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