

Manager's Column

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READYING FOR WINTER RAINS

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.

Depending on where you live, Nipomo Valley or Nipomo Mesa, your preparation for winter rains may vary significantly.

Nipomo Valley soils are generally heavy clays that are slow to drain, while the Mesa is an old sand dune and drains very quickly. Each soil condition has its benefits and challenges when it comes to winter rains.

The valley is prone to flooding and residents in low lying areas and near creek channels need to take extra precaution and preparedness. Clear minor drainage ways and have sandbags filled and ready to go. Sand bags are available for FREE to all customers – come by the District's office at 148 South Wilson during normal working hours.

On the Mesa, soils erode very quickly when exposed to concentrated flow. Drainages from streets and roof tops and other impervious surfaces must be carefully directed away from foundations and off native slopes. Sand bags can help divert flows. Mulching with wood chips and straw can also help to reduce energy and prevent erosion.

Fortunately, most all of the rain that falls in our area is eventually captured to replenish our local groundwater basin. On the mesa, this capture happens more readily in the numerous storm water basins and low areas among the naturally rolling and porous dune surface. In the valley, storm water quickly reaches creek tributaries and the main stem of Nipomo Creek – from there the water is conveyed southward toward Santa Maria River. In rare instances, the Santa Maria River flows through to the Ocean, but most often, Nipomo Creek surface water is 'swallowed up' by the sandy bottom of this normally dry river bed.

Let's prepare our community for winter rains so we can enjoy and appreciate this natural bounty when it arrives.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, we want to hear from you. Feel free to contact us at info@ncsd.ca.gov.

Until next time...

Michael S. LeBrun, General Manager