

## WRAC update for 6/6/12 by John Snyder

New Technical Memorandum: Potential for aquifer storage and recovery in the Santa Maria River basin, 4/9/12, Stillwater Sciences

[http://www.nonewwiptax.com/Pages/Water\\_Studies.html](http://www.nonewwiptax.com/Pages/Water_Studies.html)

Study of source to replace of 1000-1500 AF of “Twitchell Dam” water so it can be used for fish with plan to divert Sisquoc River flows to a 10 acre basin.

“we estimate that 25– 50 acre-feet per acre could be infiltrated within a recharge basin each day. Hence, a 10-acre basin could be part of a project to spread between 250 to 500 acre-feet per day, and with four days on average of spreading per year, a 10-acre basin should be adequate to target the infiltration volumes discussed above.”

“an order of magnitude cost of \$10M may be considered for the infiltration project. A more likely range would be \$4M– 8M”

2011 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition: Santa Maria Valley Management Area

<http://www.sccomplex.org/cases/noticelink.jsp?FormCaseId=VAE2661C98F&FormDocId=WDF517F237A2>

“Beyond components of the overall monitoring program, the most notable recommendation for additional investigation is that the City of Santa Maria continue with its efforts to secure additional SWP entitlement, certainly depending on consideration of future options for intrabasin water transfer with Nipomo Mesa but in a timely manner consistent with any progress as it occurs in its Water Sales Agreement with the Nipomo CSD. The recommended investigation would facilitate the City’s compliance with the provisions of the Stipulation regarding importation and use of SWP water in the SMVMA if the Water Sales Agreement becomes operational. Santa Maria should then complete its analysis of the availability of surplus water in the SMVMA (surplus to all the needs in the SMVMA), logically from the additional SWP entitlement, whereby some can be exported beyond the SMVMA. Coincident with the preceding, Santa Maria should also complete its analysis of the sources, pumping locations, and potential impacts of additional groundwater pumping, if any, that would be exported beyond the SMVMA”.

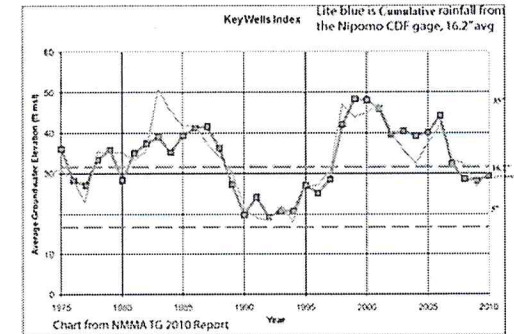
### NCS D Tax Assessment reported numbers with percentages:

	NCS D		G S W C		R W C		W M W C		Total	
Ballots In Favor	735	27.5%	170	21.3%	72	10.6%	521	75.7%	1,498	31.0%
Ballots Opposed	1,934	72.5%	628	78.7%	607	89.4%	167	24.3%	3,336	69.0%
Total Ballots	2,669		798		679		688		4,834	
Assessments \$ In Favor	\$3,390,185	40.5%	\$230,503	19.4%	\$138,071	11.5%	\$3,159,802	86.7%	\$6,918,562	48.0%
Assessments \$ Opposed	\$4,986,176	59.5%	\$960,242	80.6%	\$1,060,507	88.5%	\$486,498	13.3%	\$7,493,424	52.0%
Total Assessments	\$8,376,362		\$1,190,746		\$1,198,579		\$3,646,300		\$14,411,986	

In Nipomo there are two reports that claim to show the status of the groundwater basin under the Nipomo Mesa.

The Nipomo Mesa Management Area Technical Group (NMMA TG) reports shows the Key Well Index, which can be found at: [http://www.nonewwiptax.com/Technical\\_Groups/NMMA\\_TG\\_Reports/12\\_0502\\_NMMA\\_TG\\_2011\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nonewwiptax.com/Technical_Groups/NMMA_TG_Reports/12_0502_NMMA_TG_2011_Annual_Report.pdf)

The NMMA TG report has a chart which shows the average of 8 wells monitored by the county, for the spring, in a red line. Contrary to NCS D's claim that the water table has been dropping due to overpumping, based on only the last 10 years, of falling water tables, the 1975 to 2010 GWI closely followed cumulative rainfall at the CDF rain gage in Nipomo.



The NCS D Groundwater in Storage Index, (NCS D GWI) which can be found at: [http://www.nonewwiptax.com/2011\\_pdf/2011\\_Studies/2011\\_1214\\_NCS\\_D\\_Groundwater\\_in\\_Storage\\_Index\\_Fall\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nonewwiptax.com/2011_pdf/2011_Studies/2011_1214_NCS_D_Groundwater_in_Storage_Index_Fall_2011.pdf)

The NCS D GWI is a calculation of the water in storage, based on about 45 wells monitored by the county. The NCS D GWI shows a blue line that is the spring average storage, the fall reading is light blue. The GWI increased with the increase in rain fall of 2011. The NCS D GWI chart also includes the NMMA TG red line up to 2010 for comparison.

On 5/2/12, just a week before the end of voting period on the pipeline assessment, the NMMA TG report was released. It showed the Key Well Index falling, which is inconsistent with rainfall for 2011. See added red line. That inconsistency backed by a claim of "confidential" data, created a credibility problem for the Technical reports and prevents consensus in Nipomo. There are two problems:

First, because both are based on wells monitored by the county and claimed to be confidential. The reports and their charts can not be checked or verified. Second, the information is a year late; because the readings are taken in April for the spring lines are reported up to a year after that.

The people in Nipomo could have had the spring 2012 numbers for both the GWI and the Key Well Index if the county did not claim all the well levels were confidential.

San Luis Obispo County is the only county that has "confidential" monitoring well levels, Others such as Santa Barbara Counties make public record all the measurements even if they are taken on wells in SLO county.

San Luis Obispo County considers all well levels to be "confidential" because it has not segregated the ones that are actually requested be kept confidential by their owners. The County has not asked the well owners in Nipomo if they would be willing to allow the readings to be public record. But the County breaches "confidentially" over time and the releases the well levels that it claims can not be released.

In Nipomo, the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors should promote segregating the monitoring well data such that most readings can be released and sending a letter to each well that is monitored asking for permission to release the data.

- Wells on public land or owned by a public entity, should be public.
- Wells that are private that have responded with permission for the monitoring levels to be made public.
- Wells that the county does not know and will be sending a letter explaining the need for making them public record.
- Wells that have been verified with owner that they have requested the monitoring level be confidential.

Public Comment to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, 5/15/12, by John Snyder

From NCS D  
Fall GWI report for 2011

Spring and Fall  
Groundwater Index  
(GWI)

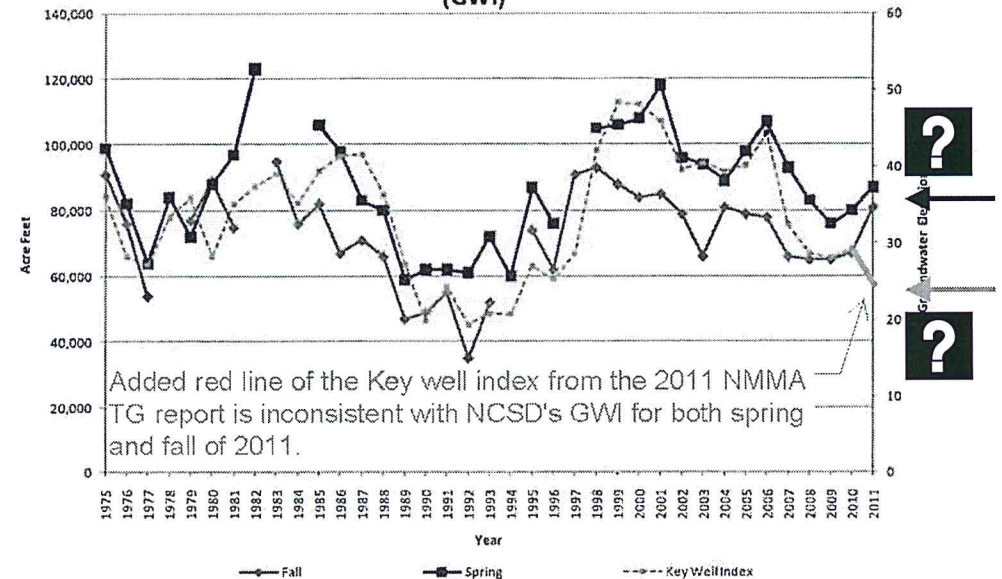


Figure 1: Groundwater Index from Spring 1975 to Fall 2011 and the Key Well Index computed from Spring 1975 to Spring 2010.