

## Put the public first

If the Town of Apple Valley wants to make the Ranchos Water Company a public matter, they need to back that up in a big way. This would include involving citizens and putting things up for a vote when it comes to water projects (replacing water mains, determining how much to spend per year, new infrastructure for new housing, water storage, etc).

After the recession in 2007, I was really bent out of shape when I saw Highway 18 being torn apart and repaved every year (several years in a row) from Apple Valley Road to Central Road and the company doing the job was from down the hill. I realize it was a county project, of course, but plenty of local companies were starving for work at the time and the job went to companies that didn't need the work. It was our tax dollars and a job in our community and our local guys and community didn't benefit.

If Apple Valley takes over Ranchos, would they involve the county or otherwise contract out of our area to do the many jobs that need to be done? What are they going to do to Ranchos and its people, equipment, buildings, assets, and so forth? Are we walking into a big government monstrosity and outsourcing all the labor? I was pleased to see that Kelley's Underground was involved in the water main replacements in my area by Golden State Water Company (I'm in county territory). I hope Apple Valley does the same thing. Residents should require the town to keep tax dollars and rate dollars within our community at the very least.

— *Jamie Post, Apple Valley*

Letter to the Editor published in the Oct. 7, 2015 issue of *The Daily Press*