

Newell Creek Dam

7-18-58

Water Commission Withholds Approval On Compromise Plan

City water commissioners yesterday edited a proposed state fish and game compromise on Newell creek dam waters and warily passed the results on to the city attorney for legal opinion.

The commission refused to make any recommendations to the city council on the document until the new version of the contract is prepared and submitted to the state agency. City Attorney John Barber also will be asked to determine exactly what the city must agree to under state law.

The fish and game department has filed a protest to the Santa Cruz county flood control and water conservation district request for Newell creek waters. The request, which was made to the state water rights board, must be approved before the \$5 million water development project on Newell creek can become a reality.

The fish and game department has indicated it will withdraw its protest if the city will agree to release about 730 cubic acres of water per year for fishing and allow the maximum possible recreation on the reservoir under state and local health laws.

The compromise proposal earlier was accepted by the county water commission pending the approval of the city. The county is acting as principal for the project for the city, upper San Lorenzo valley water district and possibly Scotts Valley area which may be partners in the venture which is expected to yield 4000 acre feet of water yearly.

The generally-worded provisions of the contract submitted by the state stipulated minimum facilities would include permitting row boats on the reservoir, docking facilities, auto parking area and toilets and other necessary sanitary facilities.

The agreement does not spell out who shall determine the adequacy or limits of the facilities. Also, the city has no idea of what the cost of setting up the recreational area would be.

Water Department Director Weston Webber said the city would be able to charge for the services at the dam or could lease them through a concession contract which could pay the cost of the recreation improvements.

Water Commission Chairman Fred Morris asked, "Are we signing a blank check if we approve

this contract. We may be obliged to put in some very expensive improvements under these terms."

The contract, in discussing the minimum facilities, used the term "shall provide." In the edited version of the contract, the clause remained.

Webber cautioned the commission that should a compromise fail with the fish and game department, "then we'll be right back where we were and we may not have a water project."

Should the compromise collapse and the fish and game department stand by its protest, it is assumed that a lengthy process of settling the dispute could carry the city well past the proposed November election date for revenue bonds to pay for the project.

A state department of public health bulletin presented to the commission by Webber indicated recreational uses the department finds compatible with water supplies includes fishing, boating, picnicking, hiking and the like.

Survey Being Made Of UC Campus Sites

Berkeley (AP). — A survey organization is studying possible campus sites for the University of California, a university spokesman announced today.

Two areas are being surveyed. One is the south central coast area, embracing San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

The other is the Southern California metropolitan section of southeast Los Angeles and Orange counties.

"Until the field studies and comparable data are available the regents' special committee on new campus sites will defer its inspection of the areas," Philip L. Boyd, chairman of the committee, announced.

"It is anticipated that the metropolitan area survey will be available and proposed sites carefully considered in September, and the committee's recommendations presented to the regents shortly thereafter."

Boyd said the central coast area survey was expected to be completed in October.

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