

Water ordinance will be adopted

Directors of the Soquel Creek County Water District Monday indicated they'll adopt an ordinance at their next meeting to limit new water connections and cut down on the use of water by current users.

The ordinance, rather than spelling out who will not be able to get water connections, tells who can get service. They fall into seven categories:

Category A City of Capitola

Applicants within the City of Capitola, as its boundaries exist on the date of the ordinance, who had an application on file with the city for proper improvements on Nov. 10, 1980 which results in a building permit being issued before Dec. 31, 1981.

Category B Paid connection fees

All applicants for water service who obtain a building permit by Dec. 31, 1981, owning property for which all storage and transmission fees have been paid and a water service line to the property existed as of Nov. 10, 1980, with the only item required for water service being a water meter.

Category C Visitor-serving/commercial enterprises

All applicants for water service for commercial, visitor-serving or other non-residential uses who had applications on file for property improvement with the appropriate governmental entity on Nov. 10, 1980, which results in a building permit being issued on or before Dec. 31, 1981.

Category D Existing inactive services

All services which were active at any time between formation of the District and Nov. 10, 1980, but which are presently inactive. An active service is one for which a billing account number had been assigned. Reactivation of an inactive service may only be to the same extent as the previous usage, but there must be a building permit issued by Dec. 31, 1981, if necessary for the land use intended.

Category E Contractual commitments

If the district has received or receives remuneration in the form of property or facilities which, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, outweighs the burden of any additional connection granted, the District may enter a contractual commitment for additional services.

Category F 1979 building permit allocation list

All applicants for water service on the 1979 building permit allocation list of the County of Santa Cruz as of Nov. 10, 1980, who, in fact, have a building permit issued on or before Dec. 31, 1981.

Category G Projects over 19 units

All applicants for water service for developments with 19 or more units in the County of Santa Cruz who have, prior to Nov. 10, 1980, approval of a tentative subdivision map and are

issued a building permit prior to Dec. 31, 1981, but only to the extent of building permits issued prior to that date.

The ordinance also provides that no existing waterservice can be enlarged to serve a greater demand than that existing on Nov. 10, and no application for water service will be accepted for existing structures receiving water from a source other than the water district.

Also, the ordinance allows the district to grant variances to any of its provisions if, in the opinion of the district directors, denial of a service affects the health, sanitation or fire protection of the applicant or public, or if it would impose a severe or undue hardship.

The ordinance also prohibits certain uses of water:

—The washing of sidewalks, driveways or other outdoor surfaces.

—Washing of the exterior of dwellings, trailers or mobile home buildings, structures, boats or vehicles with an open, flowing hose.

—The use of fire hydrant water for flushing sewer mains or construction purposes.

—The indiscriminate running of water or washing with water not otherwise prohibited above which is wasteful and without reasonable purpose.

—The watering of grass, lawns, ground-cover, shrubbery, open grounds, crops and trees, including agricultural irrigation, in a manner or to an extent which allows substantial amounts of excess water to run off the area being watered. Every water user is deemed to have under his control at all times his water distribution lines and facilities, and to know the manner and extent of his water use and excess run-off.

The penalty provided in the ordinance for violations of its provisions is disconnection of water service. Before the person's water is cut off, however, he will receive a written notice stating the time, place and general description of the violation, the time and date of a hearing, if requested by the alleged violator, and the method by which he may have his water turned on.

In other business, directors:

—Authorized an agreement with fish biologist D. W. Kelley to conduct a study and help design a fish ladder for the proposed diversion dam on Soquel Creek. The study will cost \$59,000.

—Authorized the expenditure of up to \$4,500 to Montgomery Engineers for a preliminary study on two sites being considered for the diversion dam.

—Approved the expenditure of \$1,600 as the district's share of the budget for the North County Water Management Conference Task Force.

—Approved the gift of a turkey to each of the district's employees.

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