

RR SC - No Panic
Water Crisis

Big Basin Water Firm Seeking A Supplement

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Water continued to flow to around 360 customers of the Big Basin Water Company above Boulder Creek, with the hope expressed that a new supplemental source of water will soon buttress the company's dwindling reserves.

Big Basin Water Company owners Kermit McGranahan and Dr. Mahlon McPherson said Saturday that "an endeavor is being made to secure water from another system" that could be bumped up to Big Basin. The transfer could be accomplished through a tie-in the company maintains with the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District.

Contacted late Saturday evening, Supervisor Ed Borovatz, who has spearheaded the drive to keep Big Basin's customers supplied, said he knew of no agreement to supply Big Basin with water. He admitted that he last spoke with Dr. McPherson and McGranahan Friday afternoon.

"Still, I wouldn't want to see anyone wooed into a false sense of security," said Borovatz. "They are very low on water, and until the water company verifies with the county about a new supply, I have to assume they don't have one."

John Ford, a customer of Big Basin, was considerably more optimistic than Borovatz, however. He said Saturday, "We do have water in the lines. There

is no panic and no great difficulty, because people are working together."

Speaking for the Redwood Association, which represents 150 home and condominium owners in the Big Basin-Boulder Creek Country Club area, Ford said "It appears that solutions are on the horizon."

Ford specifically mentioned the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District as a potential supplier to Big Basin. "Our information as of this moment is that the Public Utilities Commission advised San Lorenzo that Big Basin does in fact have a rationing program in effect. That was the only condition San Lorenzo put on providing water. Now that's fulfilled, so there's no impediment to San Lorenzo making the water available."

McGranahan and Dr. McPherson would not state that they had made an agreement with any one supplier. "We're requested by the county to maintain not less than 150,000 gallons for fire protection. We're trying to maintain that, and currently we are," said McGranahan.

The company owners also revealed that they will introduce a strict rationing program for domestic water use to their customers in a meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the pool room of the Boulder Creek Country Club.

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Big Basin Company Is Seeking More Water

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the rationing plan Monday, the owners stated they will submit the plan for PUC ratification on the commission's Aug. 9 meeting. The PUC regulates Big Basin as a privately-owned utility, while San San Lorenzo Valley is a county water district.

"Our original rationing program was for no outside watering," said McPherson. "That went into effect on June 15, and notice was given to all customers. We now must go beyond that to rationing for domestic use."

Borovatz continues to main-

tain the earlier action was water conservation, not rationing. "That's not a rationing program by any stretch of the imagination," said Borovatz.

Borovatz also questioned the capability of the tie-in Big Basin has with San Lorenzo

Valley. "That transfers only 20 gallons per minute," said Borovatz, "which means the amount of water that can be transferred may be limited."

McGranahan and McPherson were adamant that with customers currently asked to the

use the least amount of water possible for domestic use, and the possibility of water aid, the crisis would be weathered. "We don't want to run out of water," said McPherson. "We want our customers to have it. There's a lot of things that could be done if we get a push behind it."