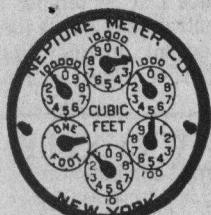


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Sentinel

4/10/77

Water
Meter



City Water Customers Use Less Than Expected

City of Santa Cruz water system customers used in March about 100 million gallons of water less than they had been expected to use, according to Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director.

Allen commented: "March was the first month of our 1977 rationing program, and it appears that our customers are helping us to make the rationing program work. We are very pleased with the cooperation we have gotten so far."

Last week, up to 8 a.m. Friday, consumption was approximately 44 million gallons throughout the system, substantially under the 55 million gallons the department estimates its customers will use at this time of year.

The consumption was only a million-gallon increase over that of the previous week, reported Traci Bliss, the city's water conservation coordinator.

"The fact that the tremendous influx of Easter Week visitors increased local consumption so little shows that visitors are being educated to conserve water," Bliss said.

Bliss reported also that some 15.7 million gallons of water flowed into the Loch Lomond Reservoir during the week ending Friday morning. "Based on consumption figures at certain times of year that is equivalent to two or three days' water supply."

The supply came from the water diversion station in Felton that uses a rubber dam to impound water for pumping from the San Lorenzo River to the reservoir.

FELTON

Citizens Utilities Co., which supplies the Felton area, pumped about 1,869,800 gallons last week, reported Jim McCloud, system manager.

"Things here are in good shape. We're getting a little damp weather today, and that's a help. No problems."

SLV WATER DISTRICT

A San Lorenzo Valley County Water District spokesman reported "we are using streams and wells and are having no problems at all."

SOQUEL WATER DISTRICT

The Soquel County Water District pumped 18.9 million gallons last week, about 500,000 gallons less than the same week a year ago, according to Dick Case.

"We still have some water conservation kits available at the office for \$3 each," Case said . . . that is, the toilet tank dams, showerhead restrictors and tablets for testing the toilet to see if it is leaking.

Last Monday the district directors paid tribute to their customers for "an outstanding job of water conservation."

SCOTTS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Customers of the Scotts Valley County Water District used about 350,000 gallons per day last week, according to Jim Bierlein, operations engineer.

Bierlein said that the district tanks "are up to snuff" and that "the wells are holding up fine."

Bierlein noted the district is getting "tremendous cooperation from the customers we serve, and it's really a fine help."

CENTRAL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

The district pumped 1,274,100 gallons last week, compared with 1,807,200 gallons a year ago.

According to a report prepared by District Manager George Silva, the district has used 733,100 gallons less this year than it did last year by this time, even though the district now serves 50 more customers.

The district's wells are in excellent shape.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CENTER

All the foregoing good news ought not to incline anyone to relax conservation efforts, for last week the California Drought Information Center forecast "a worsening drought situation."

The showers before last Wednesday did little to help in the forests, according to the state Department of Forestry.

The state-run center said in a weekly bulletin that water levels in key Central Valley reservoirs are lower than at a corresponding date in 1924, the driest year on record until the current year.

State parks in southern California, at Mount Diablo in the San Francisco Bay Area and at upper parts of Mount Tamalpais north of San Francisco will be shut down if temperatures and humidity reach certain levels in those areas, because of fire danger.

And a Public Utilities Commission study indicated that tank cars can carry some water on rail lines to communities in emergency situations but cannot meet all the needs of the emergency.