

Water Crisis SC Water Rationing Plan Approved

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Sentinel Staff Writer

Stiff water rationing came to the City of Santa Cruz Tuesday night following adoption of an emergency water conservation ordinance by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The law, which allocates an average of 80 gallons per day per resident, became effective immediately after its unanimous adoption before a big audience in the city hall council chambers.

For all other categories of users, the ration is 70 per cent of the water they consumed in 1975. If there are some who used no water that year, an allocation will be figured out for them on an individual basis.

The rationing program was recommended by Jim Hammond, chairman of the city water commission, and adopted by the council in the form it was proposed. It applies to non-city customers of the SC water system, as well as Santa Cruz residents.

However, the council voted not to increase water rates at this time, so that previous talk of allowing 25 gallons per day (gpd) at one rate and other gallonage at another rate has been dropped for the present.

The final plan adopted is that forged at a special water commission meeting last Friday.

It is stressed that under the sliding scale of allocations adopted, a person living alone in a single-family, duplex or triplex dwelling will get more than 80 gpd, while members of large households will average less per day as individuals although their households will get far more water than that occupied by a single person. This arrangement is to insure meeting the basic household needs of all residents.

Allocations for residents of single-family, duplex and triplex households have been set as follows:

Single person - 900 cubic feet bimonthly, or 112 gpd.
Two persons - 1,500 cubic feet bimonthly or 187 gpd total.
Three persons - 2,000 cubic feet bimonthly or 250

l. Four persons - 2,400 cubic feet bimonthly or total. For each person over four in the household 600 cubic feet bimonthly, or 50 gpd each.

The rationing law places all apartments, motels, mini-homes and mobile home parks (except where there are separate meters) in the commercial category.

And these, like all commercial, industrial and institutional users, schools, parks, golf courses and the like, are allocated 70 per cent of the amount of water consumed in 1975.

There are serious penalties for violating the rationing ordinance: \$25 per 100 cubic feet of water in excess of use allowed, \$100 per day for violating prohibitions against some water use, and possible disconnection.

The rationing system will be based upon data given to the water department on the number of permanent residents of a household. If someone fibs to get more water, a disconnection can result.

A permanent resident was defined as a person living at least 75 per cent of the time in the household during the April to November period this year.

A variance procedure has been developed to get more water to those who really need it for health, economic or other sound reasons. Requests must go to Morris Allen, the Santa Cruz water director.

Prohibited by the ordinance are washing of boats, sidewalks, filling station aprons or any other outdoor surface, initial filling of swimming pools. A complete list of prohibitions may be obtained from the water department.

The ordinance will be reviewed in four months to determine how it is working.

Several in the audience wanted even stiffer rationing, claiming Loch Lomond will be reduced to a "minimum pool" by the allocations allowed if there is another dry year.

Weather

Continued Fair And
Cool Through Thursday;
Gusty Northwesterly Winds
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