

Flood Prev. + Control State Flood Control Group Okays San Lorenzo Project

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The California Flood Control conference today was scheduled to urge state water resources board backing of a \$50,000 request for planning of a San Lorenzo river flood control project.

CFCC put the project on its "recommended for approval" list in Sacramento yesterday after hearing the city's case presented by City Manager Robert Klein.

If approved by WRB, the request will be forwarded to Washington with a good chance for inclusion in 1956-57 federal flood control funds to be allotted at the next session of congress.

The \$50,000 price tag for planning expenses is the estimate of Reuben Johnson, chief planning engineer for the army engineers' San Francisco district. Johnson accompanied Klein to Sacramento yesterday.

CFCC approval is the first step on the road to obtaining additional outside aid above that normally supplied by the federal government to federally-approved flood control projects. Klein's Sacramento achievement is, therefore, an important victory for Santa Cruz.

But the city manager noted today that there are several "ifs" still to be overcome:

First, the city and the army ultimately must reach full agreement on the flood control and

river beautification plan recently submitted by City Planning Director Leon Rimov. The city's flood control and stream beautification commission has recommended that the army's own plan be by-passed because of expense and lack of beautification factors.

Then, the WRB today must concur with the CFCC finding of yesterday—that the San Lorenzo project merits state backing.

Finally, the city must win a share of flood control funds to be allocated by congress next year.

One big advantage in the city's favor is the fact that San Lorenzo river flood control has already been acknowledged by congress. The problem now, assuming WRB approval, will be to get the necessary money.

CFCC is a citizen's advisory group composed of political and engineering luminaries from all parts of the state. Its purpose is to channel and coordinate flood control aid requests; rather than have such requests pop up from miscellaneous sources without organized backing.

Provided the requisite approvals are obtained from all agencies along the line and the city does get its \$50,000 planning money, Santa Cruz will be able to go back to the WRB and ask for the estimated \$424,000 it will take to purchase rights-of-way for the project, Klein said.