

Modern Living, Population Are Causing Greater Use Of Water

'Solid' Water Is Costly To Make 10-29-58

(Editor's Note: This is the last of a series discussing the city's present water problems and the proposed solution of the Newell Creek dam project.)

By John Wheeler

Recently a national magazine presented an article on the water problems of the U. S. and illustrating the article was a map which showed the great American desert and its fringes.

Santa Cruz, for all its winter rains, touched the fringe.

In the desert areas, man and his cities live by their wits in face of an ever lowering water table.

On the fringe, cities and their inhabitants are more fortunate since planning and prompt action can permit the water problem to remain in the background and in perspective.

Not only do the burgeoning communities demand more water by the very fact of their increasing population, but each person continually increases the amount of water used for daily needs.

Fifty years ago, Santa Cruz probably would not have needed a bond issue to secure added water even if the population were the same as it is today.

But 50 years ago there were no automatic dishwashers, clothes washers, car washing businesses and the proportion of homes having indoor plumbing was decidedly in the minority.

As a modern, growing community, Santa Cruz has come to the point where to meet its water needs, it will have to construct a large storage facility to trap the winter's excesses for use in the dusty-dry days of late summer and early fall.

As it was earlier shown, except for heavy rains during last winter, Santa Cruz could well have been thrown on water rationing as the flow of the river and streams already tied into the city's mains showed this summer.

At one point the city pumping plant on River street was operating 24 hours per day and was able only just to maintain the level of the Bay street reservoir.

If the issue passes in Tuesday's election, construction on the project can begin next spring. Although it would be three years before a rain-filled reservoir will turn its first waters into a pipeline which will bring the water to a new city treatment plant and on into distribution mains.

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Darold Young muscled a 300-pound block of ice into line at the Union Ice company plant. Young, of 433 Cayuga street, said it takes 100 gallons of water to make the 40-gallon blocks. The remaining 60 gallons is

used in processing and lost. The company uses an average of 66,000 gallons of water per month in the operations and easily qualifies as a "large volume user." Under the new water rate schedule, some bulk

rate users have had their water bills increased as much as 100 per cent. To the average domestic user, the increased bill will be 62 per cent and amount to less than many families spend per day on bread.

Water Supply