

^{water supply} MORE SITES OF SUPPLY STUDIED 3-23- 52

By Leon Rowland

Recommendations for a larger number of possible sites for water development, and possibility of smaller dams and reservoirs suited to the county's financial resources can be expected in the report of the State Division of Water Resources of Santa Cruz county.

This was revealed in a conference by Herbert A. Howlett, associate hydraulic engineer, from Sacramento, and two other state employes, with Weston L. Webber, city water superintendent.

As to when the long delayed report can be expected their best word was "in about a month," according to Webber.

Supplemental surveys in the last six months, particularly along the coastal streams north of Santa Cruz, have enabled the state's engineers to consider recommending three possible dam sites on Scotts creek. Cost estimates for them, varying according to sites, run from a little less than \$1,000,000 to nearly \$6,000,000.

The largest would impound sufficient water that a pipe line could carry it down the coast and through Santa Cruz to serve Soquel and Aptos.

Webber, commenting on the figures, said that none of the cost estimates include a treatment plant, which, for a major development might run as high as \$1,000,000.

The three state engineers in Santa Cruz last week emphasized that what figures they did reveal to Webber are preliminary and subject to revision before the report is in final form.

The cost estimate on the site at Jameson creek has advanced until it was conceded it could no longer be considered feasible for a large dam which would serve Santa Cruz city, although a smaller one might be feasible to impound water which would augment the supply for the San Lorenzo valley. The smaller dam would require less, if any, rerouting of the state highway.

The proposed dam high on Zayante creek, one of the possible developments mentioned in the first preliminary report of nearly a year ago, is still considered favorably for Santa Cruz. Water impounded there would come down the San Lorenzo river channel to be pumped out here.

For the people of the mid-county area, whose need for water is greatest, the new report will consider a dam on the upper Soquel creek where, according to supplemental surveys, a firm yield of 2000 acre feet might be expected. Its cost will probably be estimated at a little more than \$1,000,000.

Needs of the Pajaro valley will be observed with a recommendation for a dam on the Pajaro river in Chittenden pass, with an impounding dam to hold back winter runoff.