

REPORT BY STATE WILL COME SOON

By Leon Rowland 3-9-55

The long delayed report on the state's survey of water resources of Santa Cruz county will change the picture from that presented in the preliminary data given the county a year ago, according to word received through the Associated Press in Sacramento.

The feasibility of bringing a water supply from Scotts creek, up the coast, to Santa Cruz will be emphasized, it is said.

Watsonville and the Pajaro valley may have their need for water met by a dam in the Pajaro river at Chittenden which would divert water into a storage reservoir.

The proposed dam at the mouth of Jamison creek, on Boulder Creek west of the town of that name, which was at first declared most feasible of the county's potential water supplies, will be found too expensive for the development originally mapped by the state's engineers, it is understood.

The cost of rerouting more than a mile of state highway, at a higher level, and cost of land for a reservoir at the Jamison site, would run much higher than the preliminary estimate, according to word from Sacramento.

The new outlook will leave open for the San Lorenzo valley a course already considered by the directors of the San Lorenzo Valley County Water district, the construction of a smaller dam and impounding only water needed to augment the valley supply.

The valley directors, who at first agreed to investigate the possibility of joining Santa Cruz in the Jamison development, recently advanced the belief that a smaller dam and reservoir for their own needs would cost less than the valley's share of a major project shared with Santa Cruz.

These new aspects of the state board of water resources' findings on water sources for Santa Cruz county will point the way for a Santa Cruz city supply augmented by Scotts creek; for the San Lorenzo valley from a Jamison creek dam; and for the Pajaro valley from the Pajaro river.

The central part of the county will be left with the problem of damming the Soquel river, a project on which the state's preliminary survey put an estimated cost of more than \$6,000,000.

Such a cost will be out of proportion to the financial ability of the mid-county area, it was pointed out yesterday by H. N. Ormsbee, of Capitola, chairman of the county water conservation committee, which was instrumental in procuring the state's survey here.

The Associated Press reported from Sacramento that it was unable to obtain from John M. Haley, supervising hydraulic engineer for the state division of water resources, any estimate as to when the report can be expected other than it will be "in the near future."

The agreement between this county and the state division nearly four years ago called for the survey being made "with the objective of completion by July 1, 1950."

The water resources board submitted a preliminary report nearly a year ago, with notation that it was confidential and not for publication. The supplemental survey on the coast streams, including Scotts creek, was made at the request of City Manager Neal D. Smith, who declined to put a stamp of approval on the report until it was included.

water supply

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