

Is Water Rationing In SLV At An End?

8/23/76

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Sentinel Staff Writer

Temporary suspension of water rationing in San Lorenzo Valley County Water District will be considered tonight at a 7:30 meeting of district directors in the Boulder Creek water office.

With water reportedly "com-

ing out of our ears" following the rains of last week, the directors will consider a proposal by Director Ken Voak to:

1. Allow the use of sprinklers for yard watering between the hours of 8 to 11 a.m. and 8 to 11 p.m.

u.2. Allow the construction of new homes on parcels for which water meters have been

purchased but on which construction was not allowed, due to the summer water shortage and the terms of conservation ordinances 15 and 17.

Voak told the Sentinel today: "We still have a water shortage in the valley, as pointed out by ex-manager Bill Winner at the district meeting Aug. 9.

"With a major fire in these mountains, even strict rationing may not prevent homes from being without water.

"The important point, I believe, is that with the conservation ordinance that has been in effect since March and with the temporary bandaids that have been applied to the district pipes and tanks, we have made it through the worst part of the summer without any major problems.

"The recent rains, while not causing any substantial run-offs, have greatly reduced the fire danger in our mountains.

"And in response to the conservation ordinance people planted smaller gardens this year, are being more careful with the water they do use, have even installed water saving devices in their homes.

"The days are growing noticeably shorter, reducing evaporation. Water consumption started to decline prior to the recent rains.

"Because the summer has been abnormally cool and wet and because our tanks are at least temporarily overflowing, I plan to make a motion tonight to:

"1. Suspend Section 4a of the ordinance, which prohibits the use of water from hydrants for any purpose, including, but not limited to, construction purposes and fire drills, except for fire protection and safety.

"2. Modify Section 4b of the ordinance to include the words: 'Sprinklers may be used for yard watering between 8 to 11 a.m. and 8 to 11 p.m.' At other times, yard watering by handheld hose or container will still be required.

"3. Suspend Section 4f of the ordinance, which prohibits use of water in evaporation coolers.

"4. Suspend Section 5 of the ordinance, which prohibits the increase in consumption of water upon property in excess of the use or activity existing at the effective date of Ordinance 15."

Voak said that if his proposal is approved by the directors, all other sections of the ordinance not suspended or modified would remain intact. Still prohibited, he stressed, would be waste of water, construction of new swimming pools, draining

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and refilling an existing pool, using a hose to wash off sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts and other nongrowing surfaces, sprinkling of structures for cooling purposes, washing of motor vehicles, trailer or boats by means of a hose. Additionally, all restricts on commercial enterprises would remain in effect.

"The district water system is still extremely fragile," Voak said. "And if it appears that the proposed relaxations of the ordinance are again causing an undue strain on the system and our supply, I would expect the original restrictions to be immediately reimposed."

Scientist Warns Against Estrogens

CHICAGO (AP) — A scientist has warned against the routine prescription of estrogens, saying that women treated with the sex hormone are risking uterine cancer to about the same degree as pack-a-day cigarette smokers risk lung cancer.

In the Aug. 23 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, Dr. Carol M. Proudfit notes that a number of studies in recent years have found increased incidence of cancer in the endometrium, the lining of the uterus, and have associated it with estrogens.

Dr. Proudfit, senior scientist in the AMA's department of drugs, acknowledged that not all studies have agreed.

She concludes that "the esti-

mated risk of endometrial cancer associated with estrogen treatment is similar to a pack-a-day smoker's chance of acquiring lung cancer."

One study estimated that the risk is up to 7.6 times higher for women treated with estrogens, and the risk increased with length of time on the medication.

The use of estrogens to treat menopausal problems first became popular in the early 1960s. Estrogen is the female sex hormone and its natural secretion declines with menopause.

The New England Journal of Medicine last week reported on a survey that concluded that

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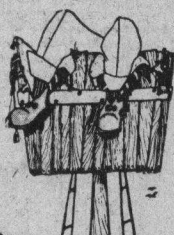


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