

Coolidge's \$24,900,000 Flood Relief Bill Is Signed By Governor Knight

Governor Goodwin J. Knight yesterday signed Santa Cruz Assemblyman Glenn Coolidge's \$24,900,000 flood relief bill that provides outright cash grants and loans to help local governments repair the winter's flood ravages.

The measure provides \$14,500,000 in grants to cities and counties and backs this up with another \$10,400,000 held in readiness to lend to local agencies unable to put up necessary matching funds.

Santa Cruz county is in line for \$322,155 for repair of city and

county roads, streets, sewers, water works, and other public facilities.

Out of the county's share of the flood relief kitty will come funds for a new bridge at Soquel, Coolidge said. Now that the bill has become law he wants to see a new Soquel bridge started "immediately," Coolidge said.

Other immediate uses for the money are for repair of roads in the San Lorenzo valley, rebuilding of levees along the Pajaro river, and other pressing needs, Coolidge stated.

Special districts are eligible for the state aid and Coolidge said this applies to the Ben Lomond recreation district. The district's dam was damaged during the flood.

The amount of individual grants will depend upon the seriousness of damage, but no grant will be for more than 95 per cent of repair costs.

Federal emergency funds granted local governments for repairs to public facilities may be included in matching contributions, Coolidge said.

In its closing hours, the legislature refused passage to other major flood-aid bills. Among them were provisions for permitting cities and counties to return some of this year's taxes to individuals whose property was damaged.

Another would have reimbursed local governments for such refunds.

Other rejected bills would have provided state money to make up to cities and counties for lower tax revenues resulting from flood-caused drops in assessed valuation.

But despite these minor setbacks in the final laps, the 1956 special meeting of the legislature was a "banner session," Coolidge said.

Santa Cruz fared well at the hands of the solons. In addition to the \$322,000 in state grants, the legislature provided \$1 million to buy land for a San Lorenzo river flood control project, and slipped an extra \$45,000 into the beaches and parks budget for a new bridge at Big Basin Redwoods state park and channel-clearing at Henry Cowell Redwoods state park.

Coolidge himself had an extremely successful session spearheading relief activity and pushing other legislation in which he is interested. His name figured heavily in wire service dispatches out of Sacramento throughout the session.

He was a member of the Weinberger committee which held statewide hearings into state water administration problems. The legislature followed in the main the committee's recommendations when it created a state water agency in the session's final hours.

Coolidge co-authored the so-called Allen bill, a notable piece of legislation under which the state gets \$120 million of the impounded Long Beach tidelands oil royalties. The state will continue to receive tidelands revenue under the measure.

As the session drew to a close activity reached fever pitch in the capital. "It was rather wild up there the last four or five days," said Coolidge, who returned to Santa Cruz yesterday to catch up on his sleep.

Wild or not, it was "the most successful session we've had in a long time," Coolidge said. What pleased him most is that "We've got the money now to put the city and county back in shape."

Of the \$14,500,000 grant funds, battered Humboldt county will get the largest single gift—\$3,628,002. Sutter county, due for \$3,016,422, is in second spot.

Monterey county will get \$25,048 and Santa Clara county is eligible for \$262,041.

Deadline Nears For Registering

Potential voters in the June 5 primary have just three more days to register with the county clerk or a registration deputy in their area.

Clerk Tom Kelley will keep his office open until 9 p. m. tomorrow, Tuesday and Wednesday as a public service to late registrants and those who have changed address since the last election.

He prefers to have last minute registrants come to the court house office, but for those who are unable to do so a list of registration deputies follows:

Ray Abicht, city clerk, Capitola; Mrs. Hilda Beans, Davenport; Kathryn Claver, Ben Lomond; William Johnston, Freedom; W. E. Householder, Felton; C. Van Kaathoven, Aptos; Charles N. Wilson, Boulder Creek pharmacy.

Helen H. Hanna, Santa Cruz; Helen R. Bowen, Children's Shop, Soquel; Sunnys's Shop, 17th and Brommer, Live Oak; Earl A. LaPorte, Christine Tabacco, Florence M. Wood, Los Gatos; Arthur C. Coots, L. R. Johnson, J. E. Pendergast, John Antich and Walter McGrew, Watsonville.

Kelley expects the registration totals to run between 35-40,000. It will take approximately 38,000 registrants to equal the previous high for a primary election.

Hackbarth Not To Be Candidate

City Board of Education Member Dick Hackbarth yesterday announced he will not be a candidate to succeed himself as a member of the city school board in the coming election. His statement follows:

"I am taking this opportunity to inform The Sentinel-News and the general public of Santa Cruz that I will not be a candidate to succeed myself on the Santa Cruz city school board in the coming election.

"Last fall, when I accepted my appointment to the board of education, I stated that I would work for harmony on the board and for improvement of our educational program. I feel that progress has been made in both these phases and that a great deal of confidence has been restored by positive action.

"I am especially grateful to have served during a period when it was possible to effect many improvements throughout the educational program, including buildings, transportation, maintenance, curriculum, administration and athletics."

TOT KILLED BY TRAIN

Whittier (P).—A 2-year-old boy playing along the railroad tracks near his home was killed yesterday by a freight train. James E. Green had strayed a half block from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Green.

Index

Amusements	13
Classified Section	17-18-19-20
Comics	16
Editorial Features	21
Junior Editor	21
Radio, TV Programs	12
Santa Cruz Yesterdays	22
Club News	6-7-8
Ad	10-11
n	8
	20

4-8-56

Weather Report

Temperature for 24-hour period ended at 5 p.m. yesterday—Maximum 79, minimum 37.

Monterey Bay Area—Fair today and tomorrow; slightly warmer tomorrow.

SANTA CLARA

101st Year—No. 84



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Governor Signs Coolidge Flood Relief Bill

