

Water Experts Hit Youth Commission With Startling Data On Pollution

By WALLACE WOOD
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It was "tell it like it is" time Wednesday night, and a pair of water quality experts set members of the County Youth Commission back in their chairs with some startling statements on water pollution.

Ken Jones, executive officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Marvin Lindorf, head of an oceanographic firm doing a water study for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, appeared before the commission.

Some of their more startling statements;

The federal aid program actually slows down construction of new sewage treatment plants.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration was a "cowardly group" when dealing with Fort Ord's water-pollution outfall into Monterey Bay.

Gov. Ronald Reagan's administration in the first in years, if not decades, to give more than lip service to the battle against pollution.

Ecologists and biologists talk a lot about pollution problems, but don't help much in finding solutions.

It will be at least 10 years before plants can stop discharging sewage into Monterey bay, even if studies show the sewage is causing pollution problems.

San Lorenzo Valley and other areas may be better off recycling their waste waters rather than dumping it into the sea

through a sewer line.

The Youth Commission's natural resources committee had come loaded for bear, ready to force Jones and Lindorf to the wall on the issue of pollution in Monterey bay.

In a current surge of interest in pollution problems, the students have embarrassed some state officials in past meetings.

Instead, however, Jones and Lindorf took the offensive. They praised youth's interest and said that without public support, their fight against pollution would get nowhere.

"Without people like you, people like Supervisor Russ McCallie here (McCallie was sitting in the audience) could do nothing," Lindorf said.

Jones was particularly frank. He has "never seen a more cowardly group when it came to dealing with such military installations as Fort Ord" than the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration.

Fort Ord has asked Congress for money to build a new treatment system and sewage outfall, but it has been local pressure, not federal pressure, which did this, Jones said. "The military authorities acted after we placed a cease-and-desist order on them"

Federal grant programs actually stand in the way of quick action against pollution, Jones declared. "The worst polluters get the most money. So nothing is done about building new plants until the situation is intolerable."

Jones said there are virtually no federal funds for unsewered areas such as the San Lorenzo Valley, making it very hard for the valley to build its own system. He added it might be better for the valley not to build a sewage trunk line to the Santa Cruz treatment plant "because they are going to need that water up there."

Though he is not a "registered Republican," Jones praised the Reagan administration for showing a genuine interest in water quality. Previous administrations, he said, had a "don't bother me" attitude, but the new support has "given a tremendous boost to the men

in the field" trying to enforce pollution standards.

One of the key new tools given to the pollution control agencies is a new state law which allows the agencies to force action before pollution becomes a problem.

As it stands now, sewage treatment plants may be forced to start construction of advanced facilities before they reach capacity, Jones said. Previously, the state had to prove there was pollution before action could be taken.

Lindorf outlined plans for a Monterey Bay oceanographic study which will point the way for new sewage treatment systems. But he said treatment plants around the bay will be dumping sewage into the bay for at least 10 years because of the long development time of drawing up new plans and combining systems.

At the same time, Lindorf said the bay may not become more polluted because there will be efforts made to improve treatment in the meantime.

Both Jones and Lindorf said they expect agencies to plead for delays and inaction "until the study is complete." Jones said this is "an old trick."

Lindorf warned however, that "everything runs on money," and the commission should not expect major sewage plants to be built until the study shows where and when they should be built.

Nevertheless, committee chairman Lance King said that "when it comes to a question of money or pollution, you know where our choice is."

SMOG ALERT

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A smog alert has been continued through today by county health officer J. B. Askew, banning open burning in the San Diego County Air Pollution Control Basin.

FARM JOBS SETADY

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The number of workers on California farms was nearly the same during the last week in December as during the last week in November, the state Farm Labor

148—Lost

APPROX. Dec. 22, 2 Siamese cats, "Tiki" and "Tiki Tom," area 35th & 36th Ave. Please call 688-5844. 148-1-8-8

WILL THE person that found blue and white knitted scarf at roller rink New Year's Eve please return to rink or mail to: R. Cain, 214 King St., Apt. 1, Santa Cruz. 148-1-8-8

149—Found

FOUND:
Money, beach area
Call 335-4940
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FOUND: SIAMESE. Owner identify, pay for add. Phone 426-7358. 149-1-7-7

FOUND Siamese cat, W. Zoyante Rd. Identify, pay for ad. Phone 335-5180. 149-1-8-8

FOUND. German Shorthair. Spotted, 50 lbs. Owner identify, pay for ad. 423-8654 after 6. 149-1-8-10

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