

Stormy weekend fills Loch Lomond

Area rainfall approaches normal

By JOHN ROBINSON

Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Heavy rains drenched the coastal mountains Sunday, filling Loch Lomond reservoir and sending a stream of water gushing over the spillgate for the first time this year.

"It started spilling over sometime during the night," said Loch Lomond park ranger Bill Wolcott. "I saw it at 7:30 a.m., and it was going over."

By afternoon, a wide stream of water 10 inches deep was cascading down the face of the dam — with more rain coming.

Sunday's downpours and occasional thunderstorms dropped 4.33 inches of rain in Boulder Creek by evening, with heavy rain lasting into the night.

In Santa Cruz, 1.15 inches fell by 4 p.m., bringing the season

total to 16.81 inches, nearing the season normal of 17.91 inches for the date.

Watsonville had 1.17 inches, for a season total of 17.31.

"It's not looking so bad now," said Ron MacDonald, a local weather observer. "You'd have to say this is normal."

Rains were heavy enough Sunday for the National Weather Service to issue flash-flood warnings for Santa Cruz and north Monterey counties. The warnings were lifted late Sunday.

According to forecasters, rain and showers should last through most of today until the skies begin to clear by late afternoon.

"Hopefully we'll be returning to better weather," said Rick Canepa, a meteorologist with

Please see RAIN — BACK PAGE