

Soquel dam plans move ahead

By BOB SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Soquel Creek Water District officials are going ahead with plans to build a \$14 million diversion dam and water treatment-storage facility on Soquel Creek.

District directors tonight will be asked to approve two consulting contracts as part of the ongoing plan to pump winter storm water from Soquel Creek, store it and then, after treatment, pump it into the district's water distribution network.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel.

Studies completed in 1983 es-

timated the project's costs at \$9.5 million, but District General Manager Bob Johnson said the costs are now in the \$14 million range.

Directors are being asked to approve a contract with Montgomery Engineers for up to \$30,000 in consulting services on the design of the Soquel Creek diversion dam.

The dam would only be used during winter months when water flows in the creek are comparatively high. Water would be pumped from the creek and up a hill to a water storage reservoir that the district wants to build next to the Monterey Bay Heights subdivi-

sion on property now owned by the Chirco family. The reservoir would hold about 50 acre-feet of water.

Water would be filtered and otherwise treated before being pumped into the district's water

Smith said his wife, Deanna, will be "a vital part of what's going to happen." A pianist, she studied at Fresno State under Philip Lorenz, and holds a master's degree in performance. She's on the faculty at Bethany Bible College in Scotts Valley, but expects to spend more time at Green Valley starting in the summer.

distribution system.

District officials have said for

years that using water from Soquel Creek would lessen its reliance on the underground aquifers which now supply all of the district's water.

The district has hired an environmental consultant who is presently discussing with Army Corps of Engineer officials whether a federal Environmental Impact Statement or a state Environmental Impact Report should be prepared on the dam, which will be built just above Soquel Village near Bridge Street.

Montgomery Engineers, who completed the 1983 study, is supposed to provide information on the dam's design to the federal officials.



Kurt Ellison

The site of a future \$14 million diversion dam for Soquel Creek. Soquel Creek Water District officials

will discuss items related to the dam and a planned water treatment-storage facility tonight.