

RR - Calif & SC Water Crisis

10—Santa Cruz Sentinel Monday, July 19, 1976

City Water Crisis Is Easing

The vast majority of city water customers now have a great fighting chance to get through the summer without shortages if they will continue all their conservation efforts.

But coastal farmers are using far more water than is now being produced for irrigation purposes from coastal springs, and these could well have problems.

Water Director Morris Allen and Clay Nelson, head of the city's water conservation campaign, were scheduled to meet today at 10:30 a.m. with coastal farmers to detail the seriousness of their water situation to them.

But for the greater city service area Nelson had great news at a regular water commission meeting this morning at the city's parks and recreation headquarters.

Customers are now using an average of 1.2 million less gallons of water daily than they used at this time last year.

And they are really using 1.6 million

gallons per day less than the 14 million gallons per day which Allen has set as the maximum water to be used on average each day.

Back on June 1, when the city's conservation efforts were triggered by one of the worst droughts in modern times, it was estimated that if no more rain fell this season the city would be some 630 acre feet short in its available water supplies, or some 209,790,000 gallons.

But in June consumption was cut by 111 acre feet, or 36,963,000 gallons, and cutbacks since by major industrial users, golf courses, schools and others, along with residential consumers, have reduced the anticipated shortage to some 350 acre feet.

If the conservation efforts are continued for the rest of the summer period, Allen said, the city's customers will have a good chance to get through without a shortage.

But conservation is costing the city money, Allen noted, saying the system could run a deficit as high as \$100,000 on its operations because of a \$150,000 to \$200,000 possible drop in revenues.

Nelson told the commissioners that Pasatiempo Golf Course deserves to be commended for cutbacks ranging from 22 to 24 per cent, an effort that is allowing the fairways to dry out except in the middle.

About another heavy user Nelson said: "UCSC has been phenomenal. There has been a 38 per cent cutback in irrigation, which has resulted in a tremendous saving of water. I'm not talking about inside use now because the school isn't in regular session."

Nelson said the city schools have reduced their outside consumption by 35 per cent and are finding it is creating a good public image for them when the public sees the great lawns browning out. DeLaveaga is also cutting back but has not yet been as successful as Pasatiempo in this regard because of technical problems involving the relative differences in the placement of sprinklers.

"But DeLaveaga is working on this," Nelson said.

Allen reported that the city is producing some 5 million gallons per day from the river, 1.5 million gallons from the coastal springs, 3 million gallons

from wells, for a grand total production daily of 9.5 to 10 million gallons.

The difference between this production and actual consumption is made up by drawing from water stored in the Loch Lomond Reservoir.

"We have been trying to keep daily water consumption at or below 14 million gallons, and so far we have been able to do that," Allen said.

The report of the 1.2 million gallons per day cutback was made by Nelson. The report covered a comparison of water consumption for the June 16 - July 14 period last year and this year.

He pointed out that the cutback is especially noteworthy because of the average temperatures recorded for the periods.

Daily consumption in 1975 was 13.6 million gallons with the average temperature at 73 degrees.

This year for the same period the average consumption was 12.4 million gallons with an average temperature of 86 degrees.

Coastal consumption figures and temperatures were not included in the comparison, Nelson stressed.