

11/10/82 *Shatner*

# Supervisors thank storm workers

SANTA CRUZ — More than 70 miles of streams have been cleared of log jams since last winter, greatly reducing the threat of flooding, according to County Environmental Coordinator Tom Burns.

"At this point in time, we feel very confident with the condition the county is in as it faces this winter's storms," Burns told county supervisors Tuesday.

First (Soquel-Live Oak) District Supervisor Dan Forbus expressed his satisfaction with the work done on Soquel Creek.

"I think Soquel will never be flooded like it was before . . . because of the amount of work done and what these people have accomplished," Forbus said.

Crews from the California Conservation Corps, the California Youth Authority and the county Public Works Department spent more than 53,000 man hours clearing about 5,000 cords of wood from streams, according to Board Chairwoman Robley Levy.

These hours do not include all the time spent by public works crews, nor do they include the hours spent by the Soil Conservation Service on several large stream clearance projects throughout the county.

Supervisors unanimously agreed to send letters of thanks to the California Conservation Corps and the California Youth Authority.

There are still a few places that remain to be cleared, but they are at headwaters where log jams don't pose any threat to populated areas, Dave Hope of the county Watershed Department told supervisors. Crews will work on these jams through the winter, Hope said.

The wood taken from streams was either milled, given away or burned, according to Levy.

Some 8,200 cubic yards of sediment was released downstream when this debris was cleared, Levy also said. This wood and debris piled up during last winter's

storms which caused flooding and extensive damage throughout the county.

"This work," Levy said, "was actually above and beyond the county's responsibility. The constitution doesn't require us to do it because the streams are private property. But because of the danger, we felt it had to be done."

Fifth (San Lorenzo Valley-Scotts Valley) District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara, whose district received extensive damage during last winter's storms, said the 53,000 man hours includes about 12,000 man hours by the Public Works Department, but the hours could be four times that amount since no accurate account of the hours spent was kept. About 1,000 man hours were contributed by the Watershed Department.

These hours represent "a considerable dollar expense" by the county, Cucchiara said.