

Santa Cruz Water Consumers Are On Borrowed Time Basis

Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series which will appear in The Sentinel explaining Santa Cruz' need for a major water development, how it would be paid for and how well the Newell creek project meets our needs.

By John Wheeler

Santa Cruz again this summer defied chance and ended the city's peak water consumption season without draining supply to a point that demand had to be restricted.

Water rationing in Santa Cruz, which is situated on a river and within easy pipeline distance of several large streams, seems out of place.

But the facts are in sharp contrast, pointing up that had the winter of 1957-'58 been a dry one, the city could well have been some 300 million gallons of water short of actual demand.

For a total consumption of more than 2 billion gallons during the city water department's last reporting year, the deficit would have been about one-seventh of what we actually used.

The figures are compiled out of engineering data put together by the water department, its consulting engineers and the representatives of the county flood control and water conservation district advisory committee.

Commercial Jet Crosses US In 4 Hours And 43 Minutes

New York (AP).—A new commercial jet plane flashed across the United States Saturday in 4

hours and 43 minutes, clipping an hour and 27 minutes off the record set for transcontinental flights by an old-fashioned piston-driven plane.

"She handled real good," commented the pilot, Capt. Hamilton Smith, of Sea Cliff, N.Y., as he stepped from the shiny new American Airlines' Boeing 707.

The plane, the kind that has been cleared for transatlantic operations by Pan American Airlines, brought 39 passengers, mostly company representatives, and a crew of five. It left Los Angeles at 9:59 a.m., EDT and arrived here at 2:41 p.m.

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What they mean to the homeowner, businessman, and community leaders is that the city has reached, and in fact surpassed, its present water supply.

The community now must either find a new source, or give up its hopes for growth and the future by settling for the water rationing which must come.

The dry-year statistics for 1970 show a deficit of nearly 700 million gallons while by 1980 the city's water inventory would be more than one billion gallons below demand.

Should Santa Cruz permit the problem to go as far as the '60's of '70's, its residents would share the unhappy plight of many western areas where strict water rationing is enforced.

How would the rationing apply? Even in the early stages lawn watering is restricted to only one side of the street each day, car washing is abolished, etc.

More important to the community than lawns and flowers or the shine on the family car is its ability to grow. And growing means spreading the tax base with clean, light industries which will build plants, add payrolls and strengthen the community's whole economic structure.

Growing also includes adding new families to the community with new homes, new lawns, sinks, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers.

The pressure toward growth, if not actual boom, in Santa Cruz and the surrounding area is attested to on many sides. Population predictions say our present census will double to 50,000 by 1980. Realtors report sharply increased business with out-of-town companies and individuals interested in investing in property elsewhere who make their homes here.

The telephone company has reports showing the increasing number of commuters to the Santa Clara valley and elsewhere who make their homes here.

However, Santa Cruz already has lost one industry which required a guarantee of more water than the city could then insure.

When other industries and business groups make inquiries through the local chamber of commerce, high on the list of requested facts is water supply, treatment, availability.

Chamber President Ernie Dillon sums up the situation by saying: "Without new water the bloom will be off the

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