

Sentinel 1/15/82

Water Emergency In SLV

Due to low water supply, San Lorenzo Valley Water District directors Thursday night unanimously declared an emergency and asked customers to voluntarily conserve.

Water District Manager Ed Steffani explained that the district hasn't restored all its sources of supply that were damaged in last week's storm.

Even though a large pump has been installed on Foreman Creek to pump water from this source into the Big Con Reservoir, a large number of breaks and leaks in water pipes means that the district is losing much of this water before it reaches the reservoir, Steffani said.

"We haven't restored our largest Quail well that got covered by a mudslide and pushed horizontally," Steffani explained. "It will take a week or so to restore this well that was producing 240 gallons per minute of water."

"We have yet to restore our Peavine Creek and Clear Creek supplies," he added. "I think we will have the Peavine Creek supply restored today and we expect the Clear Creek supply to be back on in little better than a week."

The pump that was installed on Foreman Creek is producing more water than the Quail well, Clear Creek and Peavine Creek sources combined, Steffani noted.

"But due to the leaks and breaks in the system, we are basically keeping the bottoms of our reservoirs wet," he said. "All we can do is to ask people to cut back as much as possible."

After the Jan. 4 storm, about 3,000 customers, or half of the district's north system customers, were out of water.

The district has been able to restore connections to a

point where only about 40 services are out of water, Steffani said.

Many of the connections are temporary and the district crews are going to have to eventually put in permanent connections, he pointed out.

In another storm-related matter, Steffani informed directors they are going to have to re-assess the proposal for new waste disposal methods for the Valley.

Before the storm, the district was in the process of designing large wastewater seepage pits for the Bear Creek Estates subdivision in Boulder Creek and was looking at some sort of land disposal for wastewater as part of its valleywide sanitation study.

"It (the board) needs to rethink the whole wastewater disposal plan due to the large number of slides that were caused by topsoil saturation," Steffani said.

"From what we've seen, seepage pits and community leach fields are not good because they saturate the soil," he explained.

Steffani suggested to the board that it look into disposing treated wastewater into streams, instead of letting it soak into the ground.

The Central Coast Division of the Regional Water Quality Control Board prohibits stream disposal in this area, Steffani noted, but he's hoping the agency will grant the district an exception.

SLV Property Owners

Thursday's scheduled meeting of the San Lorenzo Valley Property Owners was canceled and the group will meet next for its installation dinner on Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boulder Creek Fire Hall.



Pete Amos/Sentinel

Storm damaged seawall next to Venetian Court.

Capitola Permit Procedures Streamlined By City Council

By KEITH MURAOKA

Sentinel Staff Writer

Building permit procedures in Capitola were streamlined Thursday night so they take about two days instead of two months as the City Council passed an emergency ordinance to allow residents to immediately repair storm-damaged property.

Much of the damage was reported by Riverview Drive residents who said retaining walls adjacent to Soquel Creek were destroyed. Many store owners in Capitola Village also suffered flooding.

The city's most noticeable damage was to the Stockton Avenue Bridge, which is expected to be re-opened late today (See story on Page 37).

City Manager Steve Burrell told councilmembers that repairs are taking place "fairly rapidly." The one exception is to Capitola Beach, which virtually has been wiped away. The city will wait for normal tide changes for that situation to be corrected.

The 30-foot section of cement seawall that separated next to the creek at the Venetian Court Hotel is the responsibility of that homeowners association, added Burrell.

"The city has no liability," he said. "It failed right where the wall had been cracked. We don't feel the undercutting of the bridge (Stockton Avenue) had anything to do with the seawall."

Councilmembers, meanwhile, were pleased with the emergency permit procedures developed by staff.

"I feel very good that the people of Capitola can get repairs done more quickly than any other place in the county," said Councilman Bob Garcia, who termed the streamlining of the process as "very extraordinary."

Essentially, residents suffering storm damage and who want to rebuild may apply for an exemption. After verification

from the Planning Department, the city will be responsible for additional clearances from the California Coastal Commission and the state Department of Fish and Game.

Burrell estimated the timeline as being about two days. Both the Coastal Commission and Fish and Game, he said, have agreed to go along with approvals made by the city.

This so-called "fast track" procedure covers the replacement of existing conforming structures, decks and docks.

Riverview Drive residents Owen Jones lost a retaining wall and C.W. Behnke lost a wall and his deck.

"Time is of the essence," said Jones. "We're now 10 days closer to the next storm. We can't wait for everyone to decide what to do."

Jones reportedly didn't wait as city building officials placed a stop-work order on his on-going repair Thursday morning.

Both Jones and Behnke are expected to be covered under the emergency ordinance allowing exemptions.

The ordinance is in effect immediately. Under a suggestion by Councilman Ron Graves, applications for exemptions under the ordinance must be made within 90 days.

The ordinance also includes clauses for repairs that include expansion, as well as repairs of non-conforming structures.

If expansion is involved, applicants must follow normal planning procedures. Non-conforming structures must be brought into conformance with existing codes in order to be rebuilt.

In related storm matters, Graves asked staff to look into the possibility of requiring anchors to mobile homes that have to be replaced in the future. He noted that much damage occurred in the city when mobile homes were moved by flood waters.