

es Ahead

DISTRICT ENGINEERS URGE APPROVAL OF SAN LORENZO PROJECT

The ambitious flood control project of the San Lorenzo river and Branciforte creek within the Santa Cruz city limits came one more step closer to realization today, but a prodigious number of obstacles still lie in the path to materializing the job.

The South Pacific division and the San Francisco district of the U. S. engineers today announced that they have recommended authorization for construction of levees and flood walls, as well as channel improvements and related work on the San Lorenzo and Branciforte creek within the city of Santa Cruz.

The recommendations were made to board of engineers for rivers and harbors in Washington which will hold a hearing on it next month. Total first costs of the project as estimated two years ago are \$3,083,000, of which the federal cost is estimated at \$2,413,000, and the non-federal cost at \$670,000. Estimated cost of maintenance and operation of the improvements which would be borne by local interests—is \$12,300 annually, according to the engineers.

One of the major obstacles is the fact that rights-of-way must be provided without cost to the federal government. When the Pajaro valley flood control project was carried out, state aid was received for this, but there is no assurance at this time that state funds can be obtained here.

Even if approved by the engineer board in Washington, congress must approve it also, and above all, must appropriate the more than \$2 million of federal funds.

Aside from furnishing the right-of ways and easements, local interests would also be required to replace the existing vehicular bridges over Branciforte creek on Ocean street near Dakota street, and the foot bridges across the San Lorenzo at Short street, and across Branciforte creek at May avenue. The sewer crossing of the San Lorenzo at Laurel street extension would have to be lowered.

The ambitious project includes plans for construction of levees on the west side of the San Lorenzo from Beach street across the island and up to Riverside avenue; from the Short street foot bridge to Water street; and from Water street to the municipal water pumping plant. Other levies are planned on the east side of the San Lorenzo from Garfield street to Pryce street.

A concrete flood wall is planned on the east side of the San Lorenzo from Holland's motel to Barson street. A levee would continue from there to the Soquel avenue bridge. Another concrete flood wall is provided for the west side of the river from just below the sewer crossing to a point beyond Short street.

A concrete paved channel for Branciforte creek is contemplated from Riverside avenue to a point south of Reed way and Emeline street.

Colonel Paul D. Berrigan, South Pacific division engineer of the Corps of Engineers, said that any statements or facts concerning the proposed improvement projects may be presented to the board in Washington, 119 D street N. E., Washington, D. C., and should reach the board by June 12, 1953.

CHINESE ATTACK IN WEST

Seoul, Friday, May 29 (AP).—Chinese Reds sent 4500 troops into Western outposts near Panmunjom Thursday night after 6500 Communists seized five hills in central Korea.

In one of the biggest attacks of the year, the Reds struck behind thunderous artillery fire in the west, hitting outposts Vegas, Carson, Elko, East Berlin, Berlin and the Hook.

The Hook and Vegas, two of the most bitterly fought-over hills in the west, took the brunt of the Chinese attack and apparently held firm.

The Hook, one of the major positions guarding the invasion route to Seoul, was hit by three Red battalions, nearly 2000 men, in three assaults.

An officer at the front, where earlier attacks by the Reds had been reported stalled, said the skies over the Hook were lit continually by artillery barrages.

The attacks began about 8 p.m. Thursday. By midnight the Chinese had overrun one outpost position in front of the Hook.

The chief Red thrusts against the main positions were repulsed in fierce hand-to-hand fighting.

Allied soldiers on Vegas counter-attacked before midnight and fought with Chinese soldiers who had swarmed into the trenches on one finger of the hill.

Several Red troop concentrations north of the Hook were reported smashed.

The Chinese apparently were ready to throw even more men into the swaying struggle.

The situation at Carson, Elko, East Berlin and Berlin—a string of Hill positions near the Hook—was not clear. Earlier in the night a front line officer had reported "We are in control of the situation."

Heavy fighting also was in progress on the Central Front where early Thursday 6500 Chinese seized five outposts along a 20-mile sector and were battling South Koreans for four more. The South Koreans had beat the Reds back from five other outposts.

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