

water supply

Diversion Dam Continues To Be Hot Point

By PAUL BEATTY
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When it comes to a choice of water for the fishes or water for the people, Supervisor Dan Forbus obviously believes his finless friends should be chosen.

Forbus took County Watershed Manager Ron Johansen to task Tuesday, stating, "From what I can determine, our watershed manager has issued a county policy, that if a choice is to be made between

water for people or water for fish, it would be water for fish."

Forbus said the alleged Johansen statement had been made to the press.

The watershed manager denied making the statement, telling the board, "I don't remember saying that; the press asked me, but I avoided the question."

At which opportunity, Chairman Gary Patton advised, "I learned soon after I became a supervisor, that what you read

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in the paper ain't always the way it happened."

Over Forbus' objection, the board did agree to send Johansen as the county's repre-

sentative to a Fish and Game Department hearing in Sacramento on April 22, set to determine if the City of Santa Cruz is taking too much water

from the San Lorenzo River through the new Felton Diversion Dam reservoir.

Pushing for the county to send Johansen, Supervisor Ed Borovatz pointed out that the county on March 16 adopted a resolution opposing and waiver of the minimum flow requirements imposed on the city.

The City of Santa Cruz has since denied that it applied for a waiver, but only asked what the process for such a waiver would be.

However, Borovatz said the county should have representation at the Sacramento meeting, as the city had been accused of allowing less than a 20 cubic-feet-per-second flow to go over the dam during days early in March.

Forbus, in a letter to the County Administrative Officer, challenged the monitoring of the San Lorenzo River by the county, stating, "He (Johansen) evidently didn't understand the conditions of the use permit and did not know the condition of the instrument (flow meter) in use."

Forbus questioned whether the flow meter had been too far downstream and therefore given a reading less than the reading monitored by the city.

Forbus also scored Borovatz for bringing the issue before the board "as an emergency item,"

and not giving the city and/or other agencies a chance to speak to the issues.

Forbus' argument that the city was not given a chance to address the issue, swayed the board to order that Johansen make his presentation to the board on April 20, before he took it to Sacramento.

Borovatz pleaded for cooperation between the city and the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District board so that the facts could be brought out. He suggested meetings between the two agencies.

It has not been the SLV water district, however, that has brought the complaint against the city; the complaint is being pressed by the Save San Lorenzo River Assn. and the State Fish and Game Department.

Forbus said he hoped that a spirit of cooperation could be established "and if that's the way it's going to be, then we'll not have this government criticism in the papers."

He said that Borovatz' bringing the matter suddenly to the board was not an instance of such cooperation.

Borovatz said that Forbus' letter was one of the reasons for the hurried presentation, and that also, he, Borovatz, was going to be absent from the board meeting next week.

Supervisors In Argument

No New Roads Budget For County

Presentation of the county's proposed \$3,055,000 road budget for 1976-77 - which includes no new roads - triggered some heated words between Supervisor Cecil Smith of Watsonville and Chairman Gary Patton at Tuesday's meeting of the county board.

Smith, at the height of the quick argument, pointed to the Amesti Road sewer project in the Watsonville area which now is tied into a proposed road project, and told Patton, "It passed on a 4-1 vote, and in spite of that fact, your aide is down there trying to torpedo the

30th Avenue and \$20,000 for railroad crossing signals at 38th and 47th Avenues.

Public Works Director Don Porath pointed out that all road improvement and maintenance money in the \$3,055,000 budget - only \$173,054 over last year's estimated expenditures of \$2,882,054 for roads - comes from gas tax revenues, with a minor amount funded by other state-federal monies.

"It is not taken from property taxes," Porath said.

Following the meeting, Supervisor Ed Borovatz, San

Lorenzo Valley-Scotts Valley representative, complained, "For the second year in a row, there is no money in that budget for fifth district projects."

A number of fifth district projects are on a project list that carries the tag-line "no funding available."

These projects include \$500,000 to improve Mt. Hermon Road from Conference Drive to Scotts Valley, \$180,000 to improve Graham Hill Road from Highway 9 to Mt. Hermon Road and \$350,000 to rebuild the

small bridge on San Lorenzo Way, just north of Felton and off Highway 9.

It also includes overlay projects for Lompico Road, Bonny Doon Road and Felton-Empire Road among other county overlay projects.

Approval of the recommended projects list and budget will come during hearings of the board in June and at that time, supervisors could begin the trade-off battles to bring projects to their home districts, a concern that Borovatz expressed.