

City Water Will Be Taken From Numerous Sources

Water will be taken from numerous sources from April to the end of the year to meet city water demands to the extent possible, Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director, told the water commission Monday.

But rigorous curbs on water use will be essential to make up some of the huge 2,832 acre-feet water deficit that is expected in the event no further rain falls this season.

Supplies will be drawn from

coastal streams, the river and wells to buttress the Loch Lomond supply, which is the city's only reservoir of raw water, Allen said.

In an estimate of water use and availability from April 1, when water curbs are expected to be imposed, Allen indicated that as much as 1,550 acre feet of water (an acre foot is about 324,000 gallons) can be taken from Loch Lomond to the end of the year.

But additionally, for the same April 1-Dec. 31 period, the city can draw, he estimates, 1,062 acre feet from the coastal streams, 2,991 acre feet from the river, 1,550 acre feet from wells and 128 acre feet from sources of reclamation.

The problem is that the amount of water that can be drawn safely and prudently from all sources each month just will not be equal to expected demand.

In terms of acre feet, Allen and his staff project that demands will exceed supply by 262 in May, 337 in June, 427 in July, 772 in August, 583 in September, 297 in October and 154 in November. Supply and demand are expected to be equal in December.

Naturally, any rain that falls will be a plus factor for the supply sources. But with the area in the second year of the worst drought of modern times,

Allen and his staff have to assume little more rain this season and to make their projections on the basis of the worst that can happen.

In urging that all exterior use of water on residential properties be curbed, beginning April 1, the commission took a major step toward lowering the expected demands Allen and his staff used in their projections.

The commissioners were told by Clay Nelson, the city customer service supervisor, that from 50 to 60 per cent of water use by residential customers involves watering of lawns, gardens, car washing, sidewalk hosing and the like. Then the commissioners were told by Allen that residential customers account for about 70 per cent of the total water consumption in the city.

The commissioners reasoned from all this that if they could eliminate exterior use of water there would be enormous savings daily. That is, the city could save perhaps 50 per cent of the water now being used by those who are accounting for about 70 per cent of the city's total water consumption.

Huge savings are expected to

come from limitation of golf courses to just hand-watering of greens.

And being readied are other curbs for commercial and industrial customers, for the city with its big park system, for the schools, for UCSC . . . all of these being major water consumers.

Commissioner Gretchen Goldstein pointed out that if the savings are effected, then it may be possible to take curbs off earlier this autumn or winter.

But to all the commissioners the big thing is that only by imposing curbs and by securing 100 per cent cooperation from the citizens can the city weather the water shortage looming just ahead.

In another important action, the commissioners recommended that the city discuss with the San Lorenzo Valley County Water District a procedure through which that district will not make a big draw upon Loch Lomond in any short period of time.

The district has a contract with the city through which it is assured 500 acre feet of water annually from Loch Lomond.

Commission Chairman Jim Hammond and Commissioner

Mel Calender stressed this water belongs to the SLV district by right of contract and that the city cannot deny supplies to the district up to the 500 acre-foot limitation in any calendar year.

However, if the heavy use of Loch Lomond comes up to expectations this spring and summer, the reservoir will be down to around 750 acre feet by the end of the year, assuming no rain. That would be a "minimum pool" and a disaster situation for San Lorenzo Valley as well as for everyone else on the system.

During discussion Monday, Hammond said several times that there is just so much water available and that when that is gone that's it, unless the drought breaks.

Nelson told the commissioners that last year the city water customers cooperated magnificently to conserve water and that with their aid the city system got through the peak season of use in rather good shape.

A major conservation program will be developed by the department to get the same kind of cooperation this year, but Allen said there will have to be more than voluntary conservation efforts if the second year of the drought is to be licked.

Hammond cautioned that in figuring out curbs for commercial and industrial enterprises the city not go so far as to create serious unemployment problems that would add to woes in the area.

The north coast farmers are being asked to cooperate in the period of shortage by bringing in their own draft of an ordinance to make at least some farming possible there this spring and summer. These farmers, who get their water from the city's coastal streams, have already been warned they face severely inadequate supplies at a time when they normally use heavy irrigation to fatten sprouts after the plants have been topped.

State High Court Ruling Will Not Affect SLV Bond Election

As the San Lorenzo Valley readies itself for a \$3.74 million bond issue election on Mar. 8, the school district has been informed that a recent State Supreme Court decision ruling the present system of school financing in unconstitutional does not pertain to bond elections.

A letter from the State Department of Education explains that in the Dec. 30, 1976, decision, "the court did not consider or discuss the present system for financing capital

district to react to the Supreme Court's latest decision by withdrawing bond issues or revenue limit increase elections from the ballot" for these reasons, the letter continued.

So, in San Lorenzo Valley, a citizen group known as SPACE (Space Problems Are Crowding Education) continues on its campaign to get the bond issue passed.

City Housing

SPACE Chairman George Usher reported that in a recent door-to-door check with about 400 Boulder Creek and Felton residents, about 80 per cent appeared in favor of the bond.

Besides the door-to-door campaign which will take place every Saturday until the election, SPACE also has launched a publicity campaign with bumper stickers iron-on patches and signs to go up on private property.

Although the SPACE

The bond calls for a new elementary school north of Boulder Creek, a new intermediate school, new elementary school classrooms to assure single sessions through the 1979-80 school year if growth does not exceed five per cent and new classrooms at SLV High School.

Pacific Elementary School District also is holding a \$345,633 bond election on Mar. 8, the Pajaro Valley School District is considering a tax

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