

Water Use Ordinance Repealed

3/29/78

The city's water conservation ordinance was repealed Tuesday by the Santa Cruz City Council.

Canceled were all restrictions on water use, in conformance with a recommendation by the city Water Commission and Morris Allen, Santa Cruz water director.

The action ended a strong conservation program that began in 1976 and which culminated with water rationing last summer.

Rationing ended on Nov. 8 last year, at which time the council adopted a conservation program to cut down certain water usages thought wasteful.

However, Allen told the council Tuesday that the city's 3½ mile-long Loch Lomond Reservoir is filled to capacity — 8,650 acre feet — that water is now spilling over the dam into Newell Creek.

"We do have enough water for projected uses for the next four years without any inflow into the reservoir," Allen stated.

Allen said the city normally utilizes about 25 percent of storage capacity in a year, and he added:

"We are entering the dry season in very good shape. The reservoir has spilled over only two or three times since it was constructed. We have had a tremendous inflow this year."

Council concerns that water may be wasted were answered this way by Allen: "If the population were wasteful we would have advance warning and could come back to the council."

Commission Chairman Arthur Hackwood told the council in a report: "All of our surface stream sources are flowing at predrought levels, and Loch Lomond is full and has been overflowing for a month and a half."

Hackwood said, further, that "although there no longer exists a reason for governmental control and regulation of water use, the commission feels very strongly that the outstanding voluntary water conservation program developed by the Water Department staff be continued to maintain public consciousness of water use."